

“What Must I Do To Be Saved?”

Acts 16:30

Learn The Gospel

John 6:45; Romans 10:17; James 1:22-25

Believe On GOD In CHRIST

Hebrews 11:6; John 3:16; James 2:14-26

Confess CHRIST

Romans 10:9-10; Matthew 10:32-33; 7:21

Repent Of Sin

Acts 3:19; Matthew 3:8

Be Baptized Into CHRIST

Mark 16:16; Romans 6:3-6; 1st Peter 3:21

“Let The Word... Dwell In You Richly”

Colossians 3:16

Continuing the theme of proper child development, our new memory assignment is: *“And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord”* (Ephesians 6:4).

Memorize these words and put them into practice.

“Sound Doctrine”

Titus 2:1

ARE YOU SLEEPWALKING?

Kevin Tanksley

This past year I experienced something that I had only heard about from others or had seen on TV. At that time I was working over 70 hours per week. During a Graveyard shift of my second job I was so tired that I caught myself sleepwalking. It caught me by surprise and was quite scary once I realized what had just happened. I had actually dozed off while I was walking. I had walked about fifteen feet, and had no memory of the past few seconds of my life.

In preparing this article this event came to mind and I began to think about how it applies to our lives as Christians. Every so often we need to ask ourselves, am I sleepwalking? We all can relate to falling asleep due to fatigue. Whether it was during school, work, while watching TV, or maybe more dangerously while driving. In the New Testament we can read about Eutychus being overcome by sleep and falling out of a third floor window (Acts 20:9-12). We can also read about the apostles falling asleep when they should have been watching and praying as Jesus had instructed them (Matthew 26:36-47). We need to check ourselves to make sure we aren't sleepwalking through our spiritual responsibilities. When we sleep we may sometimes say or do things that we aren't aware of. As Christians we must be fully aware and conscience of the things going on around us. Are we going through the motions of being a Christian by worshiping without thought or purpose? Are we missing opportunities

-- Continued on page 3 --

“The Assembling Of Ourselves Together”

Hebrews 10:24-25

Sunday

10:15 am.....Worship

Las Vegas Library

833 Las Vegas Boulevard North

Monday

7:00 pm.....Ladies' Study

Cory Barajas residence

Wednesday

7:00 pm.....Various Studies

Jerry & Beverly Dockens residence

“Give Attention To Reading”

1st Timothy 4:13

Sunday.....Isaiah 36-38

Monday.....Isaiah 39-41

Tuesday.....Isaiah 42-44

Wednesday.....Isaiah 45-47

Thursday.....Isaiah 48-50

Friday.....Isaiah 51-53

Saturday.....Isaiah 54-56

Vegas Valley Church Of CHRIST

Romans 16:16

(702) 374-9799

www.vvcoc.info

P.O. Box 750152, Las Vegas, Nevada 89136-0152

ENVIRONMENTALISM

Bryan Matthew Dockens

Environmentalism is contrary to the will of God.

Environmentalism is idolatrous. The unrighteous include those who *“worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator”* (Romans 1:25). The Creator is God, as we are informed by the very first verse in all of scripture: *“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth”* (Genesis 1:1). This He did through Jesus Christ (Ephesians 3:9; Colossians 1:16). To call the earth our “mother” and to suggest that “she” is somehow worthy of our respect elevates the creation over the Creator. *“Does not the potter have power over the clay”* (Romans 9:21; cf. Isaiah 29:16)?

Environmentalism is disobedient. At the beginning of history it is written, *“Then God said, ‘Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.’ So God created man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. Then God blessed them, and God said to them, ‘Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth’”* (Genesis 1:26-28). The word “dominion” suggests that mankind should have control over the earth and its contents; it is a Hebrew word frequently used in the old testament to speak of the reign of a king. The word “subdue” is destructive by definition, meaning to subjugate or violate; it is used in reference to enslavement and even rape. Mankind has received from the Almighty a command to conquer and consume the earth. Environmentalism seeks to thwart this command.

Environmentalism is futile. The mantra of environmentalism is “Save the earth!” However, the earth cannot be saved. In fact, it is doomed to destruction. We are told, *“the heavens and the earth which now exist are... reserved for fire until the day of judgment”* (2nd Peter 3:7). On that day, we know *“the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the*

-- Continued on page 3 --

-- Continued from page 2 --

works that are in it will be burned up” (2nd Peter 3:10). The very purpose of environmentalism is a wasted effort because *“heaven and earth will pass away”* (Matthew 24:35; Mark 13:31).

Environmentalism is misdirected. Instead of saving a condemned planet, environmentalists should be concerned with the salvation of souls. The apostle Paul affirmed that *“the gospel of Christ... is the power of God unto salvation for everyone who believes”* (Romans 1:16). Jesus said, *“Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned”* (Mark 16:15-16). This is the only kind of saving with which we are concerned.

-- Continued from page 1 --

that are all around us to spread the gospel or to help fellow Christians?

We all know the dangers that can come from falling asleep at the wheel of a car or how people may have been injured due to sleepwalking. Let us not put our souls in spiritual danger by sleeping spiritually. *“And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy. But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts”* (Romans 13:11-14).

“Every Part Does Its Share”

Ephesians 4:16

We gratefully acknowledge the diligence of our brother **Kevin Tanksley** in writing the lead article in this edition of *“Sound Doctrine”* and commend him for his good work. We happily anticipate other members of the Vegas Valley Church Of CHRIST contributing articles for publication at the end of each month.