

## JESUS & SIMPLICITY

Bill Hall

Jesus Christ had a deep appreciation for simple things. His teaching was profound, but always simple. He reached the hearts of His hearers, not with high-sounding philosophical jargon, but with illustrations and “to the point” teaching. He could see in a farmer sowing his seed, or a lily showing forth its beauty, or a shepherd leaving his flock to seek one lost sheep, or a loving father welcoming a wayward son, a lesson that could teach some spiritual truth.

His apostles were chosen from the humble class. He could appreciate people, not for what they possessed, but for what they were; and, in some cases, not for what they were, but for what they could become. He recognized true quality, and true quality is often found in the simple and humble.

The worship He ordained is simple in nature. *“Now on the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul... spoke to them...”* (Acts 20:7). Even the poorest can worship, for all that is required of a material nature is a little bread and fruit of the vine. Those of little talent can worship, for God is listening in view of the heart rather than the beauty of the voice.

He authorized a simple organization for His church, with each congregation appointing its own bishops and deacons (Philippians 1:1). There are no denominational associations, conferences, or synods. There are no inter-church organizations or societies. Yet, through the simple organization given the church by the Lord, the world of the first century was thoroughly evangelized and the needy among them provided for. The Lord knew that success in His work would not be brought about through complexity of organization, but through dedication, faith, and commitment on the part of His followers. We make a terrible mistake when we try to substitute the former for the latter.

Why this simplicity? *“That no flesh should glory in His presence”* (1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 1:29). The complex systems which men devise tend to bring glory to themselves rather than to God.

To return to the simplicity which our Lord ordained might not be impressive to the worldly-minded, but, then, Jesus Himself is not very impressive to the worldly-minded. Besides, our purpose is not to impress the worldly-minded, but to please God and bow in

– Continued on page 3 –

## KICKING THE TIRES

Greg Gwin

Can you imagine buying a used car sight unseen? No way! Before you invest your hard earned money you want to check it out. You’ll want to take a test drive, look under the hood, scrutinize the maintenance record, and talk to the former owner. No one is going to trick you. No sir!! You simply wouldn’t buy a used car without “kicking the tires” first.

Now, let us ask you about something much more important than cars. Let us inquire about your religion. How did you reach the decision about where you worship? What standard did you use to decide which religious organization you would be a part of? If we could get everyone to be honest about it, we’d find that many have made this important choice without nearly as much investigation as they would put into buying a used car. And that’s really a shame.

With your eternal soul at stake, you desperately need to make sure that the religious group you are part of is faithfully and accurately following God’s word. Do they use the Bible as their sole authority? Will all of their practices stand up to a thorough investigation? Does everything still look good, even after you’ve “kicked the tires?”

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– Continued from page 2 –

submission to His will. Let us do away with our super projects and complex systems. Let us learn to appreciate simple teaching and simple ways. Above all, let us learn to appreciate Bible teaching and Bible ways.

Someone has said: “How foolish we are to think that God will be impressed with our voices when we sing; after all, He hears the angels sing! How foolish to think He will be impressed with our cathedrals; remember, He made the Grand Canyon!” What He is seeking for is a heart that is pure, loving, and obedient to His will. And that’s simple.”

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“The reason facts don’t change most people’s opinions is because most people don’t use facts to form their opinions. They use their opinions to form their ‘facts.’”

– Neil Strauss

**"WHAT MUST I DO  
TO BE SAVED?"**

ACTS 16:30

**LEARN THE GOSPEL**

John 6:45; Romans 10:17

**BELIEVE IN CHRIST**

Hebrews 11:6; John 3:16

**CONFESS CHRIST**

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

**REPENT OF SIN**

Acts 3:19; 17:30

**BE BAPTIZED INTO CHRIST**

Mark 16:16; Romans 6:3-6

**REMAIN STEADFAST**

1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:58; Revelation 2:10

**"THE ASSEMBLING OF  
OURSELVES TOGETHER"**

HEBREWS 10:24-25

**SUNDAY**

Worship @ 10:00 a.m.

Studies @ 11:45 a.m.

**WEDNESDAY**

Studies & Worship @ 7:00 p.m.

75 Sherrod Boulevard  
Belén, New Mexico

Seekers Welcome.  
Members Expected.

**"IF A MAN IS OVERTAKEN IN  
ANY TRESPASS...  
RESTORE SUCH A ONE"**

GALATIANS 6:1

**CONFESS TRESPASSES**

James 5:16; 1<sup>st</sup> John 1:9

**REPENT OF SIN**

Acts 8:22

**PRAY FOR FORGIVENESS**

Acts 8:22

**REMAIN STEADFAST**

1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:58; Revelation 2:10

**"A WORD FITLY SPOKEN IS  
LIKE APPLES OF GOLD IN  
SETTINGS OF SILVER"**

PROVERBS 25:11

"Tolerance is the virtue of a man  
without convictions."

– G. K. Chesteron

**"WHOLE COUNSEL"**

ACTS 20:27

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**YOU DON'T HAVE TO SAY "YES" TO EVERYBODY**

Andy Sochor, adapted

The enemies of the Jews tried to discourage them from rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem, yet they failed. So, when the walls were finished and only the gates needed to be completed, they tried another tactic.

A message was sent to Nehemiah: *"Come, let us meet together at Cherphirim in the plain of Ono"* (Nehemiah 6:2). Nehemiah knew that nothing good would come from this meeting – *"they were planning to harm me"* (2). Besides, the meeting itself would hinder the work he was committed to. So, he declined their invitation: *"I am doing a great work and I cannot come down. Why should the work stop while I leave it and come down to you?"* (3).

We receive many demands on our time. They are not always from those who have ill will for us like Nehemiah's enemies, but they can pile up and threaten to keep us from accomplishing what we should.

Christians should be sacrificial and have a desire to help others, but we must also be good stewards of our time (Ephesians 5:16) and not neglect what we ought to be doing that will help us do the best we can in honoring the Lord through our efforts.

You don't need to say "yes" to everybody. Time is limited and we cannot please everybody. Let us not allow ourselves to be hindered by those who will distract us – intentionally or not – from doing what we need to be doing.

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