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depends on adherence to the words Christ spoke! This is not complicated.

If the words Jesus spoke were only applicable for a few short years before becoming permanently obsolete, then there would be little reason to preserve them. Yet, He told His apostles, *“The Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you”* (John 14:26). It just wouldn’t make sense for the Holy Spirit to remind the apostles of what Jesus said if what Jesus said was irrelevant by the time they got the reminder! Christ’s assertion that *“My words will by no means pass away”* (Luke 21:33) must mean something!

There is a passage the false teachers think fits their theory, but they have it backward. *“For where there is a testament, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator. For a testament is in force after men are dead, since it has no power at all while the testator lives”* (Hebrews 9:16-17). True, the testament is only in force following the death of the testator, but, always and everywhere, the testator composes the words of his last will and testament while he is alive, not afterward! The will that becomes effective when he dies was put into words while he was living! And so it is with Christ Jesus. The New Testament includes, and has as its basis, the words Jesus spoke while He was living on earth. It is those words which went into force upon His death.

Jesus plainly asserted: *“He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him—the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day”* (John 12:48). It is a simple fact that the Lord’s spoken words are the standard by which every soul will be held accountable in the final judgment, especially those who reject those words.

Until that last day, the upright must be discerning. *“If anyone teaches otherwise and does not consent to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which accords with godliness, he is proud, knowing nothing, but is obsessed with disputes and arguments over words, from which come envy, strife, reviling, evil suspicions, useless wranglings of men of corrupt minds and destitute of the truth, who suppose that godliness is a means of gain. From such withdraw yourself.”* (1st Timothy 6:3-5). Faithful disciples must terminate fellowship with those who do not consent to *“the words of our Lord Jesus Christ.”* To argue that the Savior’s words are not relevant to the present is intolerable error.

SHAME ON HERODIAS’ DAUGHTER

Russ Bowman

“But when Herod’s birthday was celebrated, the daughter of Herodias danced before them and pleased Herod. Therefore he promised with an oath to give her whatever she might ask” (Matthew 14:6-7).

John the Baptist was killed due in great part to Herod’s lust. And Herod’s lust was enflamed in great part by the dancing of the daughter of Herodias. It’s difficult to see this story otherwise.

More and more, I see followers of Jesus involved in such activities, or allowing, and even encouraging or facilitating, such in their children. The physical body is attractive to the opposite sex. Movement in the physical body can and often does enhance said attraction. There is absolutely no denying such. You would think in a culture that’s so obsessed with nudity and sex that Christians would be especially conscious of any behavior that encourages lasciviousness.

But it’s commonplace to see those who profess godliness wearing very revealing clothing – i.e. short shorts and skirts, cropped tops, low cut blouses, clingy, sheer, or tight shirts, dresses, and athletic gear – and wearing such shamelessly, almost defiantly, with the idea that anyone who might object is an archaic prude, then taking their flaunted sexuality to the dance floor so that they might display themselves in the most sensual of ways. It happens regularly, it happens extensively, and we’re often scared to address it because of the brazen ridicule that’s directed at anyone who would decry such carnality.

I’m saying it. Think what you will. Shame on Herodias’ daughter. Shame on Herod. Shame on us. Holiness demands more than such animal behavior.

“It’s not when God agrees with us that our faith and allegiance are tested. It’s when He disagrees with us. It’s when His will puts our will in its place. We tend to find what we are looking for, and if we are looking for a god who thinks just like us, then what we have simply found is a deified version of self masquerading as the true and living God. It is idolatry at its core. But the true God won’t have that. Putting our will in competition with His is always going to be a losing scenario for us. At the point of decision, we will choose self and find reasons to despise God, or we will choose God and humble ourselves under His mighty hand.”

– Doy Moyer

**"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

1st 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; 1st John 1:9

REPENT OF SIN

Acts 8:22

PRAY FOR FORGIVENESS

Acts 8:22

REMAIN STEADFAST

1st Corinthians 15:58; Revelation 2:10

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

PROVERBS 25:11

"I think a mature Christian is someone who is very difficult to offend."

– Dallas Willard

"WHOLE COUNSEL"

ACTS 20:27

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"THE LAW AND THE PROPHETS WERE UNTIL JOHN"

Bryan Matthew Dockens

In a vain attempt to evade accountability to the commands of the Lord Jesus, certain false teachers have arisen to declare the words of Christ belong not to the New Testament, but to the Old. The gist of the argument is that because the Law of Christ did not go into effect until His death (Hebrews 9:16-17), then none of what he spoke during His earthly life fits in the present covenant. Rather, they assert, His words met their end when the Law of Moses was terminated at the cross (Colossians 2:14); thus, the utterances of Jesus would have been applicable only for the estimated three and a half years of His ministry.

Jesus Himself explained, *"The law and the prophets were until John. Since that time the kingdom of God has been preached, and everyone is pressing into it"* (Luke 16:16). The beginning of the ministry of John, who came bearing witness to Christ (John 1:6-8), established a transitional period during which the former covenant was still in force, but the present covenant was being proclaimed in order to prepare people to enter it.

The book of Mark is introduced as *"The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God"* (Mark 1:1). From there, the preaching of John is mentioned and then so is the preaching of Jesus. Therefore, what John and Jesus said belong to the gospel, which is *"the power of God to salvation"* (Romans 1:16). Unsurprisingly, salvation in Christ – Continued on page 2 –

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