

MISSING PARTS

Chadwick Brewer

“And God said to Noah, ‘I have determined to make an end of all flesh, for the earth is filled with violence through them. Behold, I will destroy them with the earth. Make yourself an ark of gopher wood. Make rooms in the ark, and cover it inside and out with pitch’” (Genesis 6:13-14).

When God gave the design for the ark to Noah, He was very specific. The building materials, the height, the length, the breadth, the number of decks, and the number of doors and windows were all clearly outlined for Noah. Yet, among all the details and plans that were given to Noah, two parts of the boat are conspicuously missing: the sail and the rudder.

Imagine going into a rough sea without any way of meeting the waves head-on. Imagine not just a rough sea, but a torrential storm so powerful that it wipes out life from the earth. And in that storm, the ark that Noah made, according to God’s design, had no sail or rudder to keep it pointed the right way. The direction of the ark and the protection of the people onboard were left to God.

We pray to God for guidance and protection, yet often we feel determined to be the ones who protect ourselves and guide our own lives. Would you climb in an ark and allow God to carry and direct the boat as He saw fit? Will you allow God to direct you wherever He leads? Will you walk by faith and not by sight?

CALLING OUT SINNERS

Bryan Matthew Dockens

It bothers some hearers when preachers specifically rebuke the errors of certain religious groups like Catholics, Mormons, Jehovah’s Witnesses, Seventh-Day Adventists, Calvary Chapel, and the like. It appears, in their estimation, to lack grace or love. Nevertheless, there was no one more loving or kind than Jesus Christ (John 15:13), and it was He who said, *“Take heed and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and the Sadducees”* (Matthew 16:6). Seven times in a row, He said, *“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!”* (23:13, 14, 15, 23, 25, 27, 29). Twice He said, *“I hate” “the doctrine of the Nicolaitans”* (Revelation 2:6, 15). The love needed by people deceived in religious falsehood is a love that warns them of their sin.

DOCTORS, PREACHERS, AND OTHER SPECIALISTS

Robert Perkins

I finished a book recently that describes why doctors think the way they do. One of the things illustrated was that general practitioners had a tendency to accept whatever diagnosis what a specialist makes because they are board certified specialists – experts, if you will. The problem is that specialists tend to be wrong 20% of the time.

I think a similar problem can exist among preachers, teachers, and Christians in general. We have a tendency to accept the teachings of our own heroes of faith as being infallible: perhaps a preacher whose tutelage we grew up under or a noted gospel meeting preacher or maybe a preacher who wrote a book. Going back further – maybe someone who taught during the so called “issues” of the 1950s or even someone who taught during the restoration movement, etc.

In a medical condition, a wrong diagnosis can lead to a lifetime of the wrong medications, continued poor health, and maybe even death.

What if our great heroes of faith were wrong 20% of the time? How would that affect our spiritual health?

Study God’s word continuously. Pray to God for spiritual enlightenment. Don’t be afraid to listen to opposing views and don’t be afraid to change your mind.

Listen to your doctor, but don’t be afraid to get a second, third or however many opinions you might need for your physical health and remember that your spiritual health is much more important than your physical health.

CHURCH IS RETREAT

Bryan Matthew Dockens

It baffles me that churches organize “retreats.” Beloved, church is retreat! We step away from work or school or other hectic things to meditate on God’s word and sing His praises. We crawl out of lonesome places to warmly embrace those of like precious faith, to give and to receive encouragement. We set aside TVs, tablets, and phones to commune with the body and the blood of the Lord. Every first day of the week, we get a fresh opportunity to straighten out our attitudes and adjust our focus. If we need a trip to the mountains for this, we’re missing the point of Sunday.

**"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

"Not understanding the reason
for something God says does not
mean there is not one."

– Tommy Peeler

"WHOLE COUNSEL"

ACTS 20:27

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 37

SEPTEMBER 15TH, 2024

THE SENSE OF THE PASSION

Bryan Matthew Dockens

The lingering scent still reached His nose.
Mary anointed His head and His toes.
The costly fragrance wasted, objected her foes;
But Christ said remember her where the gospel goes.

He heard soldiers say: Let's cast lots for His clothes.
He heard mockers say: eLiJaH cAn ReLiEvE hIm Of WoEs.
He heard priests and elders: Only weakness this shows.
Yet He heard one thief saying: No sin this Man knows!

He saw the crowd coming with swords to oppose.
He saw Peter in the courtyard, denying that He knows.
He saw hours of darkness, a sign of sorrows.
Yet He saw His mother and John, so a family He bestows.

He felt on His face their strikes and their blows.
He felt on His head the thorny crown they bestowed.
He felt on His back His insides exposed.
He felt in His hands and feet the nail-driven holes.

He tasted gall in the sour wine as it flows,
But declined the dullness that follows.
He waited until death brought its throes,
Then took one small sip as His mortal life closed.

RIO GRANDE VALLEY CHURCH OF CHRIST

505-864-0282

rgvcoc@gmail.com

Box 989, Belén, NM 87002

www.RGVChurchOfChrist.org

75 Sherrod Boulevard

Facebook.com/RGVChurchOfChrist