

*Summer Bible Series: God's Family  
July 21-25 (Mon-Fri); 7:00 PM*

Monday: Godly Spouses  
Tuesday: Godly Parents  
Wednesday: Godly Children  
Thursday: Godly Siblings  
Friday: God's Spiritual Family

Editor's Note: Our *Arkansas Weekly* article invites readers to our Summer Bible Series. We will also have an advertisement in *The Batesville Guard*. Make use of these and the flyers. One person in the community saw our signboard out front and plans to attend, so let's do our job of letting people know what we are offering and then be content that the decision is theirs.

Simple opportunities to teach the lost and assist each other.

Please check the lists of various assignments and work needing volunteers.

Our fall gospel meeting is September 9-14 (Tuesday-Sunday).

Pray for: Janice White, The Ledgerwoods, Novela Puckett, Samuel Southall, others with ongoing trials, our brethren who are travelling, and new Christians among us.

*We assemble each Sunday at 10AM, 10:45AM, 5PM & Wednesday at 7PM*

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Evangelist:  
David Halbrook 569-4491

NOTES from Bible class or sermon:

# The Exhorter

Acts 11:23 *Exhorted them all... cleave unto the Lord*

Church of Christ--Quail Valley

July 20, 2014

[WWW.QVCOC.COM](http://WWW.QVCOC.COM)

## *Would You Be Embarrassed?*

*Phillip Stuckey*

None of us likes the idea of being embarrassed. Many of us remember our days in school and the memories of awkward occasions where we were humiliated or embarrassed before our peers or family. Who among us likes that feeling? Today, we often take pains to make sure we don't do something that would embarrass ourselves in all manner of situations be it work, home, or wherever we might find ourselves. While it is good sense to take such care in regard to temporal things, shouldn't we be just as diligent about spiritual things? Are we making sure we have no reason to be embarrassed spiritually?

### **Would you be embarrassed if it were known what you were really thinking?**

The thoughts and intents of our hearts reveal who we really are. Jesus said, "But those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and they defile the man" (Matt. 15:18). This is where sin emanates from (Prov. 23:7). Make sure you're thinking on the right things (Phil. 4:8).

**Would you be embarrassed if it were known what you say about others?** Words have power and we must be careful what we say (James 1:19). Gossip, backbiting, and such are not to be named among God's people (1 Pet. 2:1). We can do good or evil with our words (James 3:9). Make sure you're speaking things that are right and good (Matt. 7:12; Eph. 4:29).

### **Would you be embarrassed if it were known what goes on at your home?**

Sometimes people have a double-life when it comes to their home. They have a persona in public, but it is a completely different picture in private. Parents are to be honored and obeyed by children and the father must set the proper example before his children and family, particularly in regard to spiritual matters (Eph. 6:1-4). The husband is to love and appreciate his wife, the wife is to love, appreciate, and submit

to her husband (Eph. 5:22-25). Make sure your home is the kind of place God would have it to be.

**Would you be embarrassed if it were known what you know of the Bible?**

There was a time when God said His people were destroyed for a lack of knowledge (Hosea 4:6) and there was a time when there was a famine for the word of God (Amos 8:11). Do you know the word of God? Do you know the wonderful story of redemption? Do you have hope of salvation and heaven? If so, can you give an answer for the hope that lies within you (1 Pet. 3:15)? Some have been in the kingdom a long time, but have little knowledge (1 Cor. 15:34). Make sure you study diligently so that you may know what the will of the Lord is (2 Tim. 2:15; Eph. 5:17).

**Would you be embarrassed if it were known what percentage you give?** Paul told the brethren in Corinth and Galatia to give as they had been prospered (1 Cor. 16:1-2). He even wrote that it should be done cheerfully (2 Cor. 9:7). Are we laying up for ourselves treasures in heaven or treasures on earth (Matt. 6:19-20)? Make sure your giving is with heaven in view (Matt. 6:33).

**Would you be embarrassed when you must meet Christ?** Don't be deceived, He is surely coming (Acts 17:31; 2 Cor. 5:10). No one knows the day or the hour and so the Lord said we should always be ready (Matt. 24:42-45). Make sure you're prepared (Matt. 25:11-13). Let us labor for the Master daily so we are not spiritually embarrassed.

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## *Can We KNOW We Are Right?*

*Stan Cox*

We live in a postmodern age, one that has rejected the idea of absolute and verifiable truth. In the minds of many, the only intolerable contention is that we may know truth. Is this right? Is it possible to know (be certain) that we are right? The answer is most certainly yes!

To be clear, we are not maintaining that we have obtained perfect and complete knowledge of God's word. The process of maturity is an ongoing one. However, an answer to this question will give us confidence as we seek to defend the truth against the various errors we confront. If we are given the charge to "*contend earnestly for the faith once for all delivered to the saints*" (Jude 3), it logically follows that said faith is verifiable and knowable.

The Bible certainly affirms this truth. Samuel claimed to know the truth, and to have the ability to declare it correctly to the people of Israel. He said, "*Moreover, as for me, far be it from me that I should sin against the Lord in ceasing to pray for you; but I will teach you the good and the right way. Only fear the Lord, and serve Him in*

*truth with all your heart; for consider what great things He has done for you. But if you still do wickedly, you shall be swept away, both you and your king*" (1 Samuel 12:23-25). Notice the warning concerning those who learned the truth, and disobeyed it: "*you shall be swept away.*"

The above text also gives us some idea of how we can know that we know that we are right. **First**, there must be a fear of the Lord. All of the apostasies of history came about either because men did not understand, or did not respect the authority of God. A fear of the Lord will cause a man to submit to His teaching, His will, His statutes. "*Fear God and keep His commandments, For this is man's all*" (Ecclesiastes 12:13). **Second**, we are to "*serve Him in truth with all our heart.*" True devotion to God and His word is necessary for us to know the right way. As the writer of the book of Proverbs exhorts, "*Buy the truth, and do not sell it, also wisdom and instruction and understanding*" (Proverbs 23:23). Often religious people profess their love for God's word until that word conflicts with their own prejudices or beliefs. While they profess a love, they "*sell*" the truth when it no longer suits them. Instead, we must be willing to go wherever the truth takes us, subjugating our own will to His.

The only way we can **know** we are right is by testing ourselves by the sole standard, the word of God. Rather than relying upon our own feelings, opinions or traditions, we must trust in His revealed will. We should have the same view of God's word as that expressed by the Psalmist, "*Therefore all Your precepts concerning all things I consider to be right; I hate every false way*" (Psalm 119:128). In the same Psalm he wrote, "*The entirety of Your word is truth, and every one of Your righteous judgments endures forever*" (vs. 160).

So long as we test all doctrines and practices against that word, we will remain true to Him. It is when we ignore, corrupt or refuse God's word that we begin to do wrong. Paul wrote, "*Test all things; hold fast what is good. Abstain from every form of evil*" (1 Thessalonians 5:21-22). To abstain from evil and hold fast what is good, it is necessary to "*Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth*" (2 Timothy 2:15). To embrace God's word as authoritative is the key.

We can **know** God's plan for our salvation because God has revealed it to us. We can **know** which church is the right church because God described it in detail. We can **know** the right way to worship Him because He has shown us what is true worship. We can **know** what is sin, and what is righteousness because of the principles and statements contained in His will for us.

*“And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him”* (Colossians 3:17). Yes, we can **know** we are right!  
[<http://soundteaching.org/2014/05/30/can-we-know-we-are-right/>]