

Words of *Truth & Reason*

FEBRUARY 2011 – VOL. 1, NO. 2
CHURCH OF CHRIST—QUAIL VALLEY

THE TWO COVENANTS

Have you ever made a covenant with someone? In the past, God made a covenant with the nation of Israel. The Bible calls that the “first covenant.” Do you know about the “second covenant”?

A covenant is a binding agreement (such as marriage). Hebrews 8:7 speaks of two covenants. The first covenant was between God and Israel, given when He led them out of Egypt (Heb. 8:9). You can read about this covenant in Exodus 19-23. The Ten Commandments were a part of this covenant. This first (old) covenant is now obsolete because there is a new covenant (Heb. 8:13).

Jesus speaks of this new covenant in Matthew 26:28, *“For this is My blood of the new covenant...”*

Jesus taught us how to enter, and remain faithful to, this covenant with God: *“He who believes and is baptized will be saved,”* *“...observe all things that I have commanded you”* (Mark 16:16; Matthew 28:20).

If the 10 Commandments are your guide, you are keeping the wrong covenant. If you worship God by burning incense, playing music, or following an earthly priesthood then your worship comes from the old covenant. Instead, you should follow the gospel of Jesus Christ—God’s new covenant for all the world!

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JESUS THE BARTENDER, A WASHINGTON PASTOR SAYS

“Pastor” Ryan Meeks (Eastlake Community Church; Bothell, WA) affirmed this in his sermon preceding the church’s football party. Mr. Meeks claimed that Jesus miraculously turned water into alcohol in John 2: “Here’s the son of God playing open bartender at a weeklong party.” Later, the congregation practiced what their pastor preached, as Redhook Ale and beer bottles were a part of the football festivities. (“Prayer, then pigskin pain,” *Seattle Times*, Jan. 17, 2011)

1. *Jesus did not make intoxicating drinks.* The word “wine” in the Bible can mean juice or alcoholic drink (Isaiah 65:8 versus Proverbs 20:1). Jesus made 120 gallons of wine in John 2—clearly this was not alcohol, unless Jesus helped people get drunk!? Mr. Meeks has slandered the Savior.

2. *Recreation & the local church* Did the church in Scripture ever host an Olympic Party? No, even though sports were very popular back then too. God equipped the church with spiritual teachers for spiritual work, not coaches for recreation (Ephesians 4:11; 1 Timothy 3:15). The family should “provide for” recreation (1 Timothy 5:8). Man has added this work to the local church without God’s approval.

MARK 16:16 ANSWERS

RELIGIOUS ERROR

Today, in response to the question “What must I do to be saved?,” man gives answers that are VERY different than Jesus’ words--

- "He who believes and is baptized will be saved" (*Jesus, Mark 16:16a*)
- He who believes and is baptized will not be saved or lost (*Atheist*)
- I cannot be sure if he who believes and is baptized will be saved (*Agnostic*)
- He who believes and is baptized will be condemned (*Muslim*)
- He who does not believe and is not baptized will be saved (*Universalist*)
- The infant who is baptized is saved and should later believe (*Catholic*)
- He who believes is saved and might later be baptized (*most denominations*)

Mark 16:16 is not the only passage that teaches about faith and baptism, but it illustrates how faith and baptism work together.

As you can see, many people today believe that sin is no big problem. Many believe that Jesus cannot save anyone while others believe that Jesus automatically saves everyone. Thus, religious confusion exists today. Confusion and division is deepened by the idea of salvation by faith alone. Jesus never taught that. Study this subject, and let us hear your comments!

**"For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul?
(Matthew 16:26)**

You are invited to:
Sunday AM
Bible classes: 10:00AM
Sunday AM Worship:
10:45AM
Sunday PM Worship:
5:00 PM
Wednesday Bible
Classes & Worship:
7:00 PM

CHANGE YOU CAN BELIEVE IN!

One of the breeds shown in the Westminster Dog Show, was a breed developed in the 1900s! New breeds of dog may be developed but a dog is still a dog! Sadly, not everyone understands that--

Brian Hare, an assistant professor at Duke University, “suspects that the evolutionary pressures that turned suspicious wolves into outgoing dogs were similar to the ones that turned combative apes into cooperative humans.” (*Time*, September 21, 2009) WAIT ONE SECOND!! Did he really compare the “evolution” from wolves to dogs with the “evolution” from apes to humans?! If that is a fair comparison, then why haven’t the same evolutionary pressures caused dogs to develop new languages, civilized societies, ... or their own brand of dog food?!

The Bible says that God made cattle, creeping things, and beasts “according to its kind” in one day (Genesis 1:24-25). Since then, animals have developed differences in demeanor or the size and length of teeth or hair, but do you believe that changes over time resulted in fish becoming wolves or apes becoming human?! Scientific fact and the Bible always agree. Theories prove nothing.

While we sadly expect this from places like Duke, some churches are no different. The head of the US Episcopal churches said, “I firmly believe that evolution ought to be taught in the schools” (*Time* July 17, 2006). Evidence proves that you should believe the Bible. Contact us for more information.

Questions from this month’s articles:

1. According to Hebrews 8:13, God made the first covenant _____.
2. In John 2, did Jesus make the type of wine that is a mocker, which leads men astray (Proverbs 20:1)?
3. Based on Jesus’ words in Mark 16:16, who will be saved?
4. God made all animals according to _____, therefore evolution is a false theory.

* Mail your answers to church of Christ—Quail Valley 4104 East Harrison St, Batesville, AR 72501

* Email your answers to **TruthAndReason@suddenlink.net**

* Do you have other Bible questions we can help you with? Write or call us (870 793-6700; 569-4491)