

The Vincennes Voice

“...The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight...” (Matt. 3:3)

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GLADLY RECEIVING HIS WORD

Larry R. Ping II

Luke writes of those who “gladly received his word” in Acts 2:41. What did these folks do as they gladly received the Word? Study this brief article and prepare to receive the Word in the same way they did. Those who gladly received the Word...

1) WERE BAPTIZED. In fact, about 3000 of them were immersed in the water (Acts 2:41). These are the same people who had their hearts “pricked” and proceeded to ask, “Men and brethren, what shall we do” (Acts 2:37)? They were commanded to “Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost” (Acts 2:38). And after hearing other words of exhortation, they gladly received the word and were baptized. What about you? Have you gladly received the Word? Have you been baptized? If not, why not?

2) CONTINUED STEADFASTLY IN THE APOSTLES’ DOCTRINE. That is, they were consistent in practicing those things they had been Divinely taught. They did not go about “to establish their own righteousness” (Rom. 10:3).

They did not handle “the word of God deceitfully” (II Cor. 4:2). They were not “tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men” (Eph. 4:14). They refused to be spoiled “through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ” (Col. 2:8). They simply held firm in what they knew to be the truth. What about you? Have you remained steadfast and unwavering in God’s Word? If not, why not?

3) CONTINUED IN THE APOSTLES’ FELLOWSHIP.

The idea of fellowship in Acts 2:42 is that of worship. When God’s people join together in worship, they unite in fellowship. Acts 2:42 refers to the “breaking of bread” (the Lord’s Supper) and “prayers,” both of which are channels through which we worship God. Those who gladly receive God’s Word do not forsake “the assembling of ourselves together” (Heb. 10:25). They remain unwavering in worshipping God “in spirit” and “in truth” (Jn. 4:24). They are not the sort who are hit-and-miss at studies and services. They can be faithfully and truly counted

upon to be there, to be enthusiastic, and to be involved. What about you? Are you steadfast in worshipping God? Can you be relied upon? If not, why not?

4) CONTINUED DAILY WITH ONE ACCORD. It is reported, “And all that believed were together, and had all things common; And sold their possessions and goods, and parted them to all men, as every man had need. And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart” (Acts 2:44-46). Notice the words of unity in this passage. Words like “together,” “common,” “all,” “gladness” and “singleness.” These early Christians created the blueprint for all believers to follow who endeavor “to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace” (Eph. 4:3). People of God know and understand the passionate words of the Psalmist, “Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity” (Psa. 133:1). What about you? Are you working with the Lord’s people in such a way which brings about unity and peace? If not, why not?

YES, IT REALLY MATTERS!

Larry R. Ping II

In the current religious climate, many truly believe it does not matter what they teach or practice. These same folks do not subscribe to the same ideology when it come to selecting doctors, dentists, builders, or any other important need in their life. Ask the following individuals if it really matters how one behaves or how one teaches.

1) DID IT REALLY MATTER IF ADAM AND EVE ATE A PIECE OF THE FORBIDDEN FRUIT? Both the first man and woman were aware of the Lord's words, "*Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die*" (Gen. 2:16-17). Yet, we learn "*when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat*" (Gen. 3:6). Later, God "*drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life*" (Gen. 3:24). I ask, did it really matter to Adam and Eve? Yes!

2) DID IT REALLY MATTER IF NADAB AND ABIHU OFFERED STRANGE FIRE? The Sons of the High Priest "*took either of them his censer, and put fire therein, and put incense thereon, and offered strange fire before the LORD, which he commanded them not. And there went out fire from the LORD, and devoured them, and they died before the LORD*" (Lev. 10:1-2). I ask, did it really matter if these men used foreign, unauthorized fire? Yes!

3) DID IT REALLY MATTER IF UZZAH TOUCHED THE ARK OF THE COVENANT? God's people were warned not to "*touch any holy thing, lest they die*" (Num. 4:15). Among these items was the ark of the covenant. The Bible records, "*And when they came to Nachon's threshingfloor, Uzzah put forth his hand to the ark of God, and took hold of it; for the oxen shook it. And the anger of the LORD was kindled against Uzzah; and God smote him there for his error; and there he died by the ark of God*" (II Sam. 6:6-7). I ask, did it really matter if Uzzah touched the not-to-be-touhed-ark? Yes!

4) DID IT REALLY MATTER IF ANANAS AND

SAPPHIRA LIED? These two individuals "*kept back part of the price, his wife also being privy to it, and brought a certain part, and laid it at the apostles' feet*" (Acts 5:2). Peter asked them, "*why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Ghost, and to keep back part of the price of the land*" (Acts 5:3)? Not long after, "*Ananias...fell down, and gave up the ghost: and great fear came on all them that heard these things*" (Acts 5:5). Three hours later, Sapphira "*fell...down straightway at his feet, and yielded up the ghost: and the young men came in, and found her dead, and, carrying her forth, buried her by her husband*" (Acts 5:10). I ask, did it really matter to Ananias and Sapphira? Yes!

5) IT REALLY MATTERS TO YOU AND ME. We are not at liberty to pick-and-choose what we teach and what we practice. It matters! Recall, "*And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him*" (Col. 3:17). When we are tempted to do and say things which are not authorized, or to leave undone those things which should be done, let us recall the individuals in this brief essay. It mattered to them, and it matters to us!

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MEETING TIMES (EST)

SUNDAY

Bible Study – 10:00 am

Worship – 11:00 am & 3:00 pm

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study – 7:00 pm