

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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THE WORLD'S BEST COMMENTARY

Larry R. Ping II

Do you have a preferred commentary? One to which you most frequently turn? One which you might elevate over all others? It should be remembered, books known as commentaries are simply a collection of “comments” made about a certain book of the Bible by uninspired men.

The single, absolute best commentary you or I will ever hold in our hands is the Bible itself. Surely, you have heard, “Let the Bible be its own best commentary!” Such is absolutely true. One statement the Bible employs is, “*which is called.*” This statement is one which indicates a “Divine” commentary is about to follow. Consider some of these examples in God’s Word.

1) “...WHICH IS CALLED CHRIST” (Matt. 27:17). There is no need to read a man-made volume to determine who Jesus is. The Bible does more than a sufficient job! Pilate said, “*Whom will ye that I release unto you? Barabbas, or Jesus which is called Christ?*” This comment about Jesus helps us see the fact He is the “anointed One,” or the “Messiah.”

2) “...WHICH IS CALLED THE PASSOVER” (Lk. 22:1). It is not uncommon for the Bible to refer to the same place, person, or event by different names. Such is the case here, when the inspired physician refers to the Passover holiday as the “*the feast of unleavened bread.*” Luke’s intended audience most likely would have been unfamiliar with this term, hence he commented on it for their benefit.

3) “...WHICH IS CALLED CALVARY” (Lk. 23:33). This was the place of crucifixion, the place where Romans would carry out capital punishment. The tax-collector records this same event by saying, “*And when they were come unto a place called Golgotha, that is to say, a place of a skull*” (Matt. 27:33).

4) “...WHICH IS CALLED STRAIGHT” (Acts 9:11). This was part of the instructions given to Saul as he came to Damascus after having met the Lord. This Divine comment directed Saul to the main “east-west” thoroughfare in the city. It was said to have been a “wide and splendid street...a hundred

feet wide, with colonnades separating the two footways on the side from the central road, and adorned with a triumphal arch.” If so inclined, one today can still trace the steps of this persecutor-turned-Christian!

5) “...WHICH IS CALLED THE SANCTUARY” (Heb. 9:2). The author of Hebrews is making reference to the tabernacle of old. In full it says, “*For there was a tabernacle made; the first, wherein was the candlestick, and the table, and the shewbread; which is called the sanctuary. And after the second veil, the tabernacle which is called the Holiest of all*” (Heb. 9:2-3). It is reported, “*But into the second went the high priest alone once every year, not without blood, which he offered for himself, and for the errors of the people*” (Heb. 9:7). The tabernacle, like the Lord’s church, was and should be “*according to the pattern*” (Heb. 8:5).

Let us be sure we make our plea to the Word of God, and It alone. It is there we find the truth (I Pet. 4:11; Jn. 17:17)!

THE ALL-POWERFUL GOSPEL

Larry R. Ping II

Paul penned, “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek” (Rom. 1:16). Similarly, James wrote, “Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls” (Jam. 1:21). The words “power” and “able” in these verses carry with them the idea of “force” and “ability. That is, the Gospel is so full of force and power, it has the ability to change one’s life and eternal course. Have you considered the power and ability of God’s Word?

1) GOD’S WORD CHANGED THOSE WHO CRUCIFIED CHRIST. Near the end of Peter’s great Pentecost sermon, he remarked, “Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ. Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles,

Men and brethren, what shall we do” (Acts 2:36-37)? If God’s Word can change those who were responsible for crucifying Christ, it can change you, can it not?

2) GOD’S WORD CHANGED A SORCERER. As Philip came to Samaria, he encountered “*Simon, which beforetime in the same city used sorcery, and bewitched the people of Samaria, giving out that himself was some great one*” (Acts 8:9). Yet, later it is written, “*Simon himself believed also: and when he was baptized*” (Acts 8:13). If God’s Word can change a sorcerer, it can change you, can it not?

3) GOD’S WORD CHANGED A GOVERNMENT WORKER. Philip was instructed to go and join himself to the “*man of Ethiopia, an eunuch of great authority under Candace queen of the Ethiopians, who had the charge of all her treasure*” (Acts 8:27). After having been taught “*Jesus*” (Acts 8:35), the eunuch confessed “*I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God*” (Acts 8:37), Philip

baptized him (Acts 8:38-39) and he went on his way rejoicing. If God’s Word can change a government worker, it can change you, can it not?

4) GOD’S WORD CHANGED A PERSECUTOR. Saul was “*breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord*” (Acts 9:1). Nevertheless, he, after hearing the Gospel through Ananias, was baptized (Acts 22:16). If God’s Word can change a persecutor, it can change you, can it not?

5) GOD’S WORD CHANGED A MILITARY MAN. Acts 10 records the conversion of Cornelius, “*a centurion of the band called the Italian band.*” Peter preached to Cornelius and his family and “*commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord*” (Acts 10:48). If God’s Word can change a military man, it can change you, can it not?

May we let God’s Word do its powerful and able work, and stay out of its way!

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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