

The Oak Grove Oracle

(Family News & Views of the Oak Grove Church of Christ)

Meeting Weekly At Our Building Located At:

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(Guest Editorial)

A Truth That In Essence Gives Light

(**Editor's Note:** This summer, **August 5-8**, brother **Mike Price**, from Bogalusa, LA, will be visiting with us to preach in our annual **Gospel Meeting**, on Sun. - Wed., of that week. The theme for this Gospel endeavor will be: **What Jesus Taught**. To begin building interest in this special spiritual effort, we will start having some guest editorials from the pen (keyboard) of brother **Price** in the **Oracle** in the weeks and months ahead. Brother **Price's** first love is sharing the Gospel of Christ with lost souls. He is well known in the southeastern United States for his personal evangelism seminars, and has personally led many people to a daily walk with the Lord Jesus, even as he has helped many brethren to be better equipped as soul-winners for Jesus. He is also highly qualified to help people with marriage and family relationships, as he is a licensed marriage and family therapist, with a PhD in counseling and family therapy. This will be a great opportunity for us to reach out to our friends with the precious Gospel of Jesus. Get excited about this effort, and start praying now for the friends you want to reach out to with a helping spiritual hand during our meeting.)

Today the notion is that truth is really only many truths according to different opinions and they are the same in value. If this is the case what are we left with? We are left with something like different views of an elephant, but we who are voicing the views are blind analysts touching the elephant at different places and are left with these questions to answer. Is the truth of the trunk superior to the truth of the tusk? Would the ears define the elephant more so than its feet or tail? How would we know how to put him together correctly without being able to see a whole elephant because we are blind? What would be the standard for us to go by?

Are we void of common truths of standards that are always present or should we seek beliefs around which we can find consensus if not unanimity and that only come out of our blind impressions and opinions? Of course lets not pay attention to the one unavoidable truth, those who are trying to figure out and define the elephant are blind, so how can there be a consensus when they only have part of something and that part is left up to blind impressions, feelings, notions and opinions? Being blind we wouldn't know how to put the elephant together correctly much less envision him as an actual whole elephant, as we would always be void of the whole truth about the elephant.

Therefore without a standard and only our notions and opinions along with how we feel or want to feel about things, how do we define God and what his will is? Do we do this from all the little parts of our feelings, desires and personal preferences? Do we do this with pointing to our experiences that cannot be completely proven to be from God except that we want them to be from God?

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A Truth that... Gives Light

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Without God we will never get it right! We will only run around blind with a tusk, or an ear, or a trunk or a tail and never be able to put it all together without God's written word. His word is not defined by our experiences! His word is defined by who he is and what he said. When we yield to his word and conform to it, then and only then will our experiences be defined correctly. Our experiences do not define God! Jesus has defined God, not us!

Again Jesus spoke to them, saying, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life" (John 8:12).

Jesus said, "Man shall not live by bread alone but by every word that comes out of the mouth of God" (Matthew 4:4). "If you had known me, you would have known my Father also. From now on you do know him and have seen him" (John 14:7).

NOTE: There is a standard, a truth that in essence gives light to what is true and gives value to anything that is true. God allows the blind to see as God sheds light on truth through his word.

God—his way is perfect; the word of the Lord proves true; he is a shield for all those who take refuge in him (2 Samuel 22:31).

And we also thank God constantly for this, that when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men but as what it really is, the word of God, which is at work in you believers (1 Thessalonians 2:13).

I write to you, fathers, because you know him who is from the beginning. I write to you, young men, because you are strong, and the word of God abides in you, and you have overcome the evil one. (1 John 2:14)

Know this, my beloved brothers: let every person be quick to hear, slow to speak, slow to anger; for the anger of man does not produce the righteousness of God. Therefore put away all filthiness and rampant wickedness and receive with meekness the implanted word, which is able to save your souls.

But be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like. But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing (James 1:19-25).

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