

Ministers:
the congregation

Kenny Chumbley
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Sunday:
8:00 AM: WGCY
9:00 AM: Worship

Wednesday:
7:00 PM: Bible Study

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Christ.com](http://gibsoncitychurchofChrist.com)

This Past Week:
Worship—40
Wednesday—9
Contribution—\$1700

For meditation:
Proverbs 31.14–15
What characterizes
a good wife in
regard to the scope
of her family economics
and her working hours?

Radio program:
WGCY FM, 106.3
Sundays at 8 AM

The conversion of Philip Mauro

In the early part of the twentieth century, Philip Mauro (1859–1952) was a famous patent attorney licensed to argue cases before the US Supreme Court. His briefs were noted as “models of accuracy, conciseness, and literary finish.” In the latter half of his life, Mauro wrote religious books (I have about thirty of them), but at the height of his legal expertise, he was a “thoroughgoing rationalist,” who had drifted “away from *all* spiritual matters . . . into utter indifference . . . and an entire absorption in . . . temporalities and worldliness.” “There was no aspiration in my soul beyond the gratification of self,” he wrote.

One evening in 1903, Mauro headed for a Broadway theatre in New York City. While waiting to buy a ticket, he heard the faint sound of singing. Leaving the ticket line, he followed the sound and ended up at a prayer meeting in a building bearing the sign “Gospel Tabernacle.” The singing was poor, the people around him were not in his social strata, and the entire service was “decidedly dull.”

As he was leaving, however, “several persons greeted [him] with a pleasant word and a shake of the hand, and one inquired about [his] spiritual state.” The only impression he carried from the prayer meeting was the friendliness shown him. Except for this, he would have never gone back. But he was made to “feel at home,” and that became the hinge on which his life would turn.

Let me encourage every member of this church to speak to every visitor at our services. What is said from the pulpit will likely be forgotten before our visitors get out the door, but your smile, your handshake, your friendliness will communicate love, and that just might cause them to come back.

kenny

Gibson City church of Christ

Highway 47 South, Gibson City, IL

Eugenics, 3

Unlike Margaret Sanger, Adolph Hitler did more than lobby for eugenics—he made it Germany’s official policy. To breed a superior race, Hitler believed inferior individuals should be eliminated. Those he deemed inferior included Jews, Slavs (he ordered 30 million Slavs be exterminated during the Russian campaign), gypsies, the insane, etc. On the very day Germany started WW II by invading Poland, Hitler “ordered the murder of the incurably ill in German hospitals” (Johnson, *Modern Times*, 362), an order that was duly carried out by German doctors. (I’ll eventually come back to this to show how the American medical establishment assists in killing “incurably ill” individuals who, nowadays, are mainly Baby Boomers suffering from some form of dementia.)

When the truth about the Nazi atrocities came out after WW II, and “eugenics” became a synonym for genocide, Margaret Sanger quickly distanced herself from the word and began emphasizing birth control as a feminist issue.

You almost never hear the word eugenics today, but the mindset behind it is still with us and is euphemistically referred to as “medical aid in dying (MAID),” “physician-assisted death,” or “physician-aid in dying.” The eugenics mindset has not gone away; all of the original arguments in favor of selective breeding and producing a superior race have now become the arguments advocating abortion/killing the young and euthanasia/killing the old.

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Sermon: Philippians 3.1–3

The Joy Giver, the Joy Taker

15 September 2024

The Great Commission

The last words of Jesus in the Gospel of Mark are known as *the Great Commission*. It falls into three parts: the *commission* given the apostles (16.15), the *conditions* for becoming a disciple (16.16), and the *confirmation* of the gospel (16.17–18, 20). Here are some thoughts about the conditions Christ stated for salvation, “He who believes and is baptized will be saved.”

CONDITIONS

Christ says sinners must do two things to be saved from their sins. We’ve looked at the condition of belief and the condition of baptism. Before moving on, I want to say something about the purpose of baptism.

CHRISTIAN BAPTISM IS FOR FORGIVENESS OF SINS

The stated purpose of baptism according to the New Testament is the forgiveness of sins. If I were to ask which of the following formulas correctly reflects Christ’s statement in Mark 16.16,

BELIEF = SALVATION + BAPTISM

BAPTISM = SALVATION + BELIEF

BELIEF + BAPTISM = SALVATION

I’m confident you would select the last one. The first option reflects the typical “faith only” view of baptism; baptism is something done after you’ve been saved from your sins by faith in Jesus Christ. The second option is the Catholic view; children, who are born in sin, are saved from the state of damnation after being “baptized” as an infant. Then, years later, when they’re old enough to understand, they become a believer in Christ.

But anyone with a smattering of critical thinking can see Jesus said neither of these. Baptism doesn’t come *after* salvation by faith alone, nor does salvation come at the point of baptism but before believing. Salvation comes when one believes and is baptized because of their faith in Christ.

Wrote Ed Wharton, “Any theology of baptism that places the alien sinner in Christ and saved prior to baptism does not represent God’s revelation of the subject . . . Nowhere does the New Testament say that baptism is an outward picture that the Holy Spirit has already baptized us into Christ. Scripture is not correctly represented when it is taught that baptism is an outward expression of an inward grace that God has already saved us by faith alone” (*Freed for Freedom, Studies in Galatians*, 121).

kenny

The King James Bible, 1

I grew up on the King James Bible. Today, when I recall a verse in my mind, it’s the King James’ language I remember. I agree unreservedly with F. William Farber who wrote:

[The KJV language] lives on the ear like a music that can never be forgotten, like the sound of church bells, which the convert hardly knows how he can forego. Its felicities often seem to be almost things rather than mere words. It is part of the national mind and the anchor of national seriousness. The memory of the dead passes into it. The potent traditions of childhood are stereotyped in its verses. The power of all the griefs and trials of a man is hidden beneath its words. It is the representative of his best moments; and all that there has been about him of soft, and gentle, and pure, and penitent, and good speaks to him forever out of his English Bible.

Even the scholarly atheist H. L. Mencken admitted:

It is the most beautiful of all the translations of the Bible; indeed, it is probably the most beautiful piece of writing in all the literature of the world. Many attempts have been made to purge it of its errors and obscurities. An English Revised Version was published in 1885 and an American Revised Version in 1901, and since then many learned but misguided men have sought to produce translations that should be mathematically accurate, and in the plain speech of everyday. But the Authorized Version has never yielded to any of them, for it is palpably and overwhelmingly better than they ... Its English is extraordinarily simple, pure, eloquent, and lovely. It is a mine of lordly and incomparable poetry, at once the most stirring and the most touching ever heard of.

Over the next few weeks, I’d like to tell some of the backstory behind the incomparable King James Bible.

kenny

News about us

- Do not stop praying for Jerry, Dave and Donna, Kellee and the McGuires, Nancy & Jenny, Lena, and everyone else.
- A going-away luncheon is being planned next Sunday after services for Kent and Kim. Check with Lisa for details.