

Ministers:
the congregation

Kenny Chumbley
217.493.8905

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

Wednesday:
7:00 PM: Bible Study

[gibsoncitychurchof
Christ.com](http://gibsoncitychurchofchrist.com)

This Past Week:
Worship—29
Wednesday—10
Contribution—\$900

For meditation:
Proverbs 31.12–13
A wife who is a true helpmeet to her husband “does him good and not evil.” In v 13, what is the first good thing mentioned that she does for him?

Radio program:
WGCY FM, 106.3
Sundays at 8 AM

What will life be like in Heaven? 5

I understand the Bible to teach that heaven will be a *continuation* of the life we now have, but in a glorified way. Most everyone believes this about the body (1 Cor. 15.35ff). Edersheim wrote, “With what body shall we rise? Like or unlike the past? Assuredly, most like” (*Life and Times* . . . , II, 635). I agree.

A long list of scriptural considerations could be listed to support my proposition about heaven. I’ll mention just a couple.

In John 11.11, Christ said to His disciples, “Our friend Lazarus sleeps.” When Christ said this, Lazarus was, in fact, dead (11.14). Friendship is one of the great blessings of this life, and apparently, Christ believed it is something that can/will exist beyond this life. Friendship, of course, is but another word for love. Love never ends (1 Cor. 13.13), and it seems love expressed as friendship will continue into the next world.

Then there are parables like the parable of the talents (Matt. 25.14–30), wherein a master entrusted money to three servants (“Do business till I come,” Lk. 19.13). When the master returned, he found that two of the servants had increased their talents. And how were they rewarded? By being exempted from work and responsibility? Retired with a pension? No, their responsibility was increased (“I will make you ruler over many things” (Matt. 25.21). It’s hard for me to see in language like this an eternity of inactivity or of doing little more than floating on a cloud and singing praises all day long. An infinite God can make life—the one, sure continuum (John 11.25–26)—eternally exciting (Eph.2.7). I see heaven as a place where *all* good things (worship, work, friendship, food, etc.) are wrapped up in one great adventure after another.

kenny

Gibson City church of Christ

Highway 47 South, Gibson City, IL

Eugenics, 2

Margaret Sanger, the founder of Planned Parenthood, hailed today as a defender of woman’s rights, was more than any other person responsible for the widespread, passive acceptance of birth control. It is commonly thought she was motivated by “sexual freedom” for women. Her writings, however, indicate that her main motivation had to do with eugenics—“controlled breeding to improve the quality of the race.” Writing in the *Birth Control Review*, which she founded and edited, she said, “More children for the fit, less for the unfit” (qtd. by Mary Senander, “Eugenics part of Sanger legacy,” *Minneapolis Star Tribune*, 10.14.1993). By “fit,” she meant the elite, the smart, and the white—people like herself. By “unfit,” she meant the physically handicapped, the mentally retarded, and “Hebrews, Slavs, Catholics, and Negroes.”

In the November 1921 issue of the *Review*, Sanger suggested parents should have to “apply for babies as immigrants have to apply for visas.” By 1925 she was setting up birth control clinics in neighborhoods populated by Latins, Slavs, and Hebrews, groups she targeted for birth control. By October 1926, Sanger was calling for compulsory sterilization of groups she deemed stupid and immoral. By 1932, twenty-seven states had compulsory sterilization laws.

Sanger wasn’t the only advocate of radical eugenic policies; there was another who was better known than she. His name was Adolph Hitler.

more to come . . .

kenny

Sermon:

Berlin speaking

8 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 to do two things to be saved from their sins. Last week, we looked at the condition of belief; now, we look at the condition of baptism.

Christian baptism is an immersion in water. The word *baptism* doesn’t translate the Gr. *baptizō*, it transliterates it. A translation would be something like: plunge, dip, immerse. The Greeks had a word for *sprinkling* (*rantizō*) and *pouring* (*ekcheō*), but the action Christ commanded involves an overwhelming in water (Acts 8.36,38). J. W. Shepherd’s book *Handbook on Baptism*, in discussing the *action* of baptism, cites the testimony of thirty-three Gr. lexicographers, twenty-one encyclopedias, twenty-six church historians, eighteen church fathers, and sixty-three theologians who all agree that Christian baptism is an immersion in water. (Martin Luther said that to be baptized was to be totally immersed.) To believe baptism is anything other than immersion is to set yourself against the overwhelming majority of scholarship on the meaning of the word.

Symbolism is involved in baptism; Romans 6.3–4 makes that clear. The eminent scholar, H. P. Liddon wrote this about the symbolism of baptism as found in Romans 6: “The Baptism of Adults by immersion is present to the Apostle’s mind. The (i) descent into the water . . . and (ii) the rising from it . . . were the two striking features of the rite, corresponding to (1) the Death, and (2) the Resurrection, of Christ; and so to (1) ‘Death unto sin,’ and (2) ‘New Birth unto righteousness.’ Between the two comes the moment during which the penitent . . . is beneath the water” (qtd. by Bales, *Romans*). Baptism symbolizes the death and resurrection of Christ, but it is also an action involving the immersion of a penitent believer (Acts 2.38). Christ made it a condition of salvation. If you wish to be saved, you need to obey Christ when He said: belief + baptism = salvation.

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A trip to Mt. Sinai, 9

The reason for these articles on St. Catherine’s Monastery at Mt. Sinai is because of something that occurred there in 1859, seventy-some years before H. V. Morton’s visit in the 1930s.

Constantine Tischendorf (1815–1874) was a German Biblical scholar who spent a great part of his life looking for old Biblical manuscripts. In 1844, he visited St. Catherine’s. He wrote, “I perceived in the middle of the great hall a large and wide basket, full of old parchments; and the librarian informed me that two heaps of papers like this, mouldered [decayed] by reason of age, had been already committed to the flames. What was my surprise to find among this heap of documents a considerable number of sheets of a copy of the Old Testament in Greek, which seemed to me to be one of the most ancient I had ever seen.”

The monks allowed Tischendorf to take forty-five sheets of this manuscript with him. Fifteen years later he returned to the monastery under the patronage of the czar of Russia. On this second visit, he was shown a bulky roll of parchment leaves, which included among other manuscripts of lesser importance, the Codex now known as the Sinaitic. “I knew,” exclaimed Tischendorf, “that I held in my hands the most precious Biblical treasure in existence.”

A *codex* is an ancient manuscript bound on one end like a modern book. The manuscript given Tischendorf dated to the fourth century AD. It and the Codex Vaticanus (so-called because it resides in the Vatican in Rome) are considered the two most venerable manuscripts in existence.

When H. V. Morton visited the monastery, the monks told him Tischendorf was supposed to copy the manuscript they gave him and return it to them. Tischendorf never returned it, and the monks consider the Codex Sinaiticus to have been stolen from them. Sinaiticus now resides in the Rare Books Room of the British Library in London, where I have seen it. Other manuscripts in the monastery are now kept under lock and key.

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News about us

- Constant prayer is needed for Kellee and Jerry.
- The Nettles are in Indiana today for a wedding.
- My brother Berlin is speaking this morning.