



Articles and Sermons :: Desert Island Theology

Desert Island Theology, on: 2012/8/23 11:46

(I read the thread on miracles ceasing and thought I would post this short blog I wrote)

I think Christianity, to a great degree, could be revolutionized if believers had what I term “Desert Island Theology. What do I mean by “Desert Island Theology”? What I’m not talking about is a theology that is learned at a bible school, through Christian radio, through dead saints from past era’s, or even from modern preachers. This is what I mean by Desert Island Theology. Imagine if you were stranded on a desert island. You have no knowledge of anything Christian. You have no knowledge of what a church “service” should look like, you have no knowledge about how a Christian looks in behavior or what a Christian believes, etc. Your memory has essentially been erased of everything it knows to be Christian both in teaching and practice. You are stranded on this desert island and you have nothing but your food, water, and your bible – the Word of God. If you were to read your bible, having no prior perspective to taint your understanding, do you think you would see things differently? I’m almost certain that you would.

Could you read the bible and come up with the modern worship service and leadership structure, just by reading the scriptures? Could it be possible?

Could you say that gifts of the Spirit have passed away and are not longer in operation? Would that be possible by only looking at scriptures?

Could you say that women are to preach and teach men in the assembly and have authority over them? Remember, you have no denominational or current cultural influence. You only have God’s word.

Could you find tithing taught in the New Testament, after the crucifixion where the law was nailed to the cross?

I could go on and on... .

I can only imagine how many wonderful truths and practices would be “re-discovered” if more people had some Desert Island Theology. The great thing is, you don’t have to go to a desert island to think this way. It should be, and can be, your common practice when reading the word of God. Simply throw out any preconceived ideas you have about a biblical subject, anything you’ve read about it, or what you’ve seen practiced, and start reading the word of God with a clean slate in your mind. You will be surprised at how many issues are cleared up when you can really look at the word of God alone and see what it says, without any other doctrinal influences.

This is one of the practices the Lord taught me when I came out of the institutional church that I was born again at. Of course, prior to coming out of the church the Lord had showed me many truths that put me at odds with that church. But after I came out, I had to essentially unlearn what I had learned and re-read the scriptures as if I had no knowledge on any biblical subject. What an eye-opening and blessed experience it was and continues to be.

So today I’m promoting Desert Island Theology. Not that it needs to be your only method of theology, but it certainly should be your primary one. As I said above, I’m sure there would be a revolution of sorts in Christianity if people approached God’s word this way and believed it for what it simply says.

If you have never approached God’s word this way, then I encourage you to do so starting today. I know that you’ll be blessed by what you discover.

<http://preachingjesus.wordpress.com/2012/08/23/desert-island-theology/>

Re: Desert Island Theology, on: 2012/8/23 12:10

Scott you have articulated what I have been thinking about. But for desert island theology to work one would have to leave organized Christianity behind. Not a problem since I am PNG in most established churches around here.

I like this new Desert Island Theology. Except I would probably call it Bear Cave Theology. But I love it.

Bearmaster.

Re: , on: 2012/8/23 14:21

I envy the persecuted believers in restricted nations in that they have the simplicity of Christ and his word. They have the Holy Spirit to teach them. If they see something taught in the word. They readily believe it. They are not distracted or weighed down with the complexities of religious culture.

I am reminded of a statement Bunyon made. When he said pray and read and read and pray. For a little from God is better than a whole lot from men. Meaning pray and read your Bible. God will teach you from his word. The only theological library Bunyon ever had was his Bible. His teacher was the Holy Spirit. Spurgeon said were Bunyon cut. He would bleed scripture. Yet he probably had a grasp of theology better than most. He certainly communicated it to the common man.

I had often dreamed of another movement of God. One rooted in Christ and the New Testament. What would happen if a group of believers read only the New Testament. Or listened to it. No preconceived notions. Just read or listened to the word. And come together to share what they learned. I think you would have something of a first century church. This is already happening in third world countries. God grant that it would happen here.

From the bear cave.

Re: - posted by PaulWest (), on: 2012/8/23 15:10

This has the potential to be a really beneficial thread.

A few years ago, I was mulling over these very thoughts. In particular, the whole ordeal on tithing and Sabbath observance and whether they were still legally binding on Christians. So many believers go back and forth over these things; so many persuasive tomes have been written, theological swords crossed and brotherly fellowships compromised over these two intransigent tenets. Someone has to be wrong. They are either binding, or the Christian is free from the penalty of non-observance.

I thought of primitive missionaries presenting the New Testament to some aboriginal tribe in some far, occluded corner of the world. I envisioned a tribesman reading the New Testament for the first time from Matthew to Revelation in his own native language. And after reading it, other than receiving the obvious message of the cross, coming away with a compulsion to systematically tithe a percentage of his food or income or keep a certain day of the week. I saw this not only highly unlikely, but even in-congruent with the teachings of Paul.

From a New Testament "Desert Island" mindset, that is.

Brother Paul

Re: Desert Island Theology - posted by PQ (), on: 2012/8/23 15:21

I like the Desert Island Theology; with the Holy Spirit present it is indeed beautiful.

Yet, I wonder what if it is a woman on that island.

pq*

Re: , on: 2012/8/23 15:52

Upon his servants both men and women the Spirit is poured out. Also there is neither male nor female. All are one in Christ Jesus. Something tells me the woman would be more free with the word of Christ on a desert island. Than say in the established church.

Just my thoughts.

Bear.

Re: Desert Island Theology, on: 2012/8/24 4:28

1Ti 5:17,18 Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine. For the scripture saith, Thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn. And the labourer is worthy of his reward.

Re: the Truth as it is in Jesus - posted by savannah, on: 2012/8/24 8:06

1Ti 5:17,18 Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine. For the scripture saith, Thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn. And the labourer is worthy of his reward.

1 Timothy 5:17 The well-leading elders of double honour let them be counted worthy, especially those labouring in word and teaching

The above verse addresses men in the local assembly within the community. These would be stationary and not mobile as those spoken of in Luke 10:7 who were "sent ones" on a mission of evangelism.

On 1 Timothy 5:17 R.C.H. Lenski adds these insightful comments:

It is generally assumed that the elders were paid for their services in the apostolic churches. We are convinced that this assumption is not tenable. The probability is that none of them were paid. The elders of the synagogues were not paid or salaried. Each synagogue had a number of elders, too many to have a payroll that would be large enough to support them. The apostolic congregations imitated the synagogue in this respect. Our passage speaks of "twofold honor," not of twofold financial pay or salary. Paul's two quotations support the injunction relating to according due honor to diligent elders; such honor is to be their reward just as the ox treading out grain is accorded the privilege of eating as he tramped along, just as the worker is accorded his pay. The tertium of the analogy lies in the worthiness and not in the identity of what the three are worthy of: the elders worthy of what naturally should go with their office--honor; the ox worthy of what naturally goes with the task for which he is employed--wisps of grain; the workman worthy of what naturally goes with his work--pay for his work.

George Mueller refused to accept a salary for his preaching.

Why? In his own words:

“The whole system tends to the bondage of the servant of Christ. One must be unusually faithful and intrepid if he feels no temptation to keep back or in some degree modify his message in order to please men, when he remembers that the very parties, most open to rebuke and most liable to offence, are perhaps the main contributors toward his salary.” ~ George Mueller ~

Again, in Luke 10:7 the instructions to the seventy "sent ones" was to be on the move and receive the hospitality given to them during their stay in a given city. They were not remaining in that place but were evangelists on the move proclaiming the Gospel.

We see in another place where elders were appointed in every city or assembly.

Titus 1:4,5 to Titus, a true child according to our common faith: Grace, mercy, peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ our Savior. For this cause I left you in Crete, that you might set in order the things lacking and appoint elders in every city, as I ordered you.

We've strayed very far from the Truth as it is in Jesus, which we read about in our Bible and the first century family of God who were called Christians.

Resumes and job descriptions with a salary connected were unknown for pastors (synonyms - elder, bishop) for centuries. But Rome and Constantine stepped in and muddied those waters too. And as I stated above, we've strayed very far from the Truth as it is in Jesus, which we read about in our Bible and the first century family of God who were called Christians.

I agree with Paul W. that this is a potentially good thread.

Re: , on: 2012/8/24 9:15

Scott has done a service to bring this thread to the forum. The question whether one can learn from Jesus and him alone may be put to the test and quite soon. A few in this forum have been saying that persecution will soon come to N. America. Actually it is already here in a small measure. With persecution will arise an apostate church. This church will be the evangelical 501c3 structure. As traditional pastors give way to political correctness the remnant will be driven out.

Away from the traditional teaching venues the remnant may have only their New Testament and the Spirit of God to teach them. Whether the believer is alone or perhaps blessed with one or two others. Desert island theology may be more near than we realize.

Just some thoughts from the bear cave.

Re: - posted by MaryJane, on: 2012/8/24 9:16

I thought of primitive missionaries presenting the New Testament to some aboriginal tribe in some far, occluded corner of the world. I envisioned a tribesman reading the New Testament for the first time from Matthew to Revelation in his own native language. And after reading it, other than receiving the obvious message of the cross, coming away with a compulsion to systematically tithe a percentage of his food or income or keep a certain day of the week. I saw this not only highly unlikely, but even incongruent with the teachings of Paul.

From a New Testament "Desert Island" mindset, that is.

Brother Paul

Love how you painted that picture for us. I believe that you are right in your conclusion and I have seen the same things on a personal level.

As I have read the Bible and sought hard after the LORD on the matter of giving I have seen that it's not by compulsion of the law that giving comes from, but rather by the leading of the LORD. I am learning what it means to be a cheerful giver, to share what I have with others whether it be monies, food, clothes, even time. I want to be a giver and put others before self. As I read through the New Testament from the "Desert Island" mindset I come away with being a servant and a joyful giver. First a servant unto the LORD JESUS and then to one another. Giving joyfully to others has taught me so much, there is no "have to" involved. There is no compulsion by law, there is only the sweet calling of my LORD and a desire to respond to HIS leading. It has also taught me not to hold onto anything here in this world, no treasures to store up because they all pass away but the things of HIS KINGDOM they are for ever.

You know when I was young my family was really poor, we had no money coming in on a regular basis because my dad would not work and my mother struggled to feed 7 children as best she could. The interesting thing about those times

was that I can remember getting up in the mornings and the cupboards were empty. There was no food, as I ate the last of the oatmeal mom had stretched to feed us all, I remember feeling hungry and wondering would there be anything for dinner or breakfast the next day. The amazing thing was that because of the heart and generosity of others seeking to serve the LORD there always was. People from the church would bring food over in boxes for us. Now all these years later I don't really remember the kinds of foods that were in those boxes but I vividly remember the hearts of those who brought the food, they loved the LORD and wanted to give to help others. JESUS had given them the desire to be servants and cheerful givers and I was blessed as a small child because of it :)

God Bless
maryjane

Re: , on: 2012/8/24 9:54

I have experienced the reality of what effect Desert Island Theology has on your spiritual understanding and consequently, your spiritual life. When I first got born again, I was locked in a cell for months just fasting, praying, and eating God's Word most all day, day after day. I was shocked that I had gone to church for 23 years of my life, Christian school as a young elementary school boy, etc., and this God, His Word, and His Gospel seemed so different than my experience as a culturally religious church-goer all my life up to that point.

I was "put away" for almost 2 years with God, His Word, and His Spirit. When I came out of that place, I joined a "church" that I sensed the Spirit of God doing a work in at the time. I did notice though, that there were many things subtracted from God's Word in the reality of the fellowship, and many things added. Then, I went to Bible college. I spent 2 years earning a Bachelors degree in Biblical Studies, but slowly and unknowingly accepted several things that seemed to ignore plainly declared scriptures, in the experience of the NT. Women like Beth Moore teaching over men in the assembly (Paul specifically forbids this more than once in scripture), John Garlock's "Keys to better preaching" which took polls that said people can only listen engagingly (to God's Word, no less) for a max of 15 minutes, Rick Warren's Purpose Driven Church (God gave His true church a purpose already in scripture and it wasn't to see how many tithes you get in one building), no real true Body fellowship with the probability of NT Body Fellowship as laid out in I Corinthians where prophets contribute in the assembly, and the gifts were given place to contribute through the Body (just one man in total control preaching message after message to a building full of listeners), etc., etc., etc.

It really fogged up the spiritual lens for a few years. I always got a check in my Spirit about all these things (cause I knew God's Word and had His Spirit), but I just figured I must not be as mature and understanding as these people (after all, they were quick to let you know they were from a long line of "pastors" generation after generation - though not many fit true descriptions as NT biblical "shepherds", but rather, Lorded it over the flock). Then, the Lord laid His hand upon me at 4:30 a.m. One morning with fire and opened my eyes. I saw it for what it was - "a system of man's traditions which sought to nullify the Word of God".

So, what did I have to do about it? First, I had to go back to the "Desert Island Theology" and re-learn what the Lord had taught me in the beginning, and then I had to unlearn all the non-Biblical religion of men's traditions I had picked up along the way (like letting Jesus wash my feet again. My head and whole Body was already cleaned by Him, but my feet had picked up some of this world's mess along the walk).

It made me stand out like a sore thumb in the "Nicolaitin System". Not because I wanted to stand out and "make some show of myself" either. I didn't have to. The Sword of the Lord made a division between me and the system and the intent of my heart (to follow the Lord with a pure heart according to His Word and His clearly laid out pattern for the NT Church) was made clearly apart from the intent of the system (to keep the show going, to keep the tithe dollars rolling in, and to keep everyone "under control" happy to be part of the Babylonian Nicolaitin system that the Holy Spirit had already placed over the doorpost in the Spirit, "Ichabod", for the Glory of God had already departed).

I had to go back to the Desert Island of God's Word and unlearn and relearn according not to what man says, but what the Lord says. I am still doing that in measure today. In a New Covenant, NT pattern of Elder-Led Body Fellowship which must have as its goal to praise, Worship, Honor, and preach Christ and be led by the Spirit of God and honor the Word of God and its decrees as the light unto our path.

The American remnant Bride must do this. We must just throw out all our preconceived notions, our religious background, our cultural influence, and just go back to the simplicity and power of the pattern laid out in God's Word for how the NT Body should operate and function, what our daily life and actions should look like, and what the true purpose of our life remaining on this earth shall be.

In China, there are 2 different "churches": the official state church which leaves out much of scripture, takes its orders from the govt., and fills dead pews with dead people to hear dead teachings each week. Then, there is an underground church. She has endured much tribulation and trial. She answers to no one but Jesus. She loves the Lord with all her heart, mind, soul, and strength. And she knows, there is nothing more precious than the Holy Spirit of God in her midst, and the full counsel of the Word of God as her guide. She lives on a desert island, and that desert island is the same one that God ordained for His Bride through the ages over 2,000 years ago.

Would you believe that the same separation is already making manifest in hearts in America today? The decisions to stay in Babylon or stand on the desert island with God, His Spirit, and His Word are already being made today in hearts and minds of those who profess Christ. The day that's coming will show clearly where we each really stand, in Babylon with the masses, or on a desert island with God. Better consider these things now. What is your lense for understanding/obedience to God's Word? Your experience/religious background/the theology of your denomination/cultural influence, etc? Or is it simply standing on an island with the Word of God and the Spirit of God listening/obeying only Him by His Word/Spirit? The father seeks those who will worship Him in Spirit and in Truth, not in word and works only.

This is a much needed word for the Body of Christ in America today!

Re: , on: 2012/8/24 10:17

Jeff you share an edifying testimony. It is possible for one to be shut away with Christ and his word and learn from the Spirit. You have already done this as our persecuted brothers and sisters have. But I fear for many in the established church the shock will be too great to leave the established system.

I remember when I began my walk with Christ the admonition was to be in an established church. You had to sit under men who expounded the word. If you were not in a church then you could fall into error.

Now I see the opposite to be true. It is becoming apparent that error and political correctness is coming into the structured church. In some ways one may be far better off alone with God and his word than sitting under established preaching. Particularly as error creeps more and more into the church.

Even into those gospel fellowships that Greg is encouraging. There will be a continual reliance on the Spirit and his word. I might add that this will not sit well with the structured church. Those who seek for God and him alone will be declared as heretics. They will be persecuted.

But those who find delight in Jesus will value nothing less than Christ himself. And all things will be counted as loss for the surpassing greatness of knowing him.

Just some thoughts from the bear den.

Re: Rest - posted by Jeremy221, on: 2012/8/24 11:32

I've spent a lot of time developing this Desert Island theology and gaining insight from the Spirit but I think there is a need for balance here. God created His church as a body for some very real, practical reasons for which Desert Theology is not the Way. The Lord brought me into an extended period of Desert Theology but when He chose to bring me out, I resisted, thinking that I didn't need other people to understand the Word. The core issue was not whether the theology was straight from the Mouth of God but that I was humble and listening to every way He would teach me.

Re: Desert Island Theology - posted by lylewise, on: 2012/8/24 11:55

Dessert in the Desert to quote the doughnut man. Some may reel from the thought of this separation because they see it as separation from the body, In the Great Command, we are called first to Christ and second to our brethren. A church (body of believers) would do well to teach this for to reverse the order produces an atmosphere ripe for the traditions of man and a sundry of distractions.

I thought this thread would see many descent from such a proposition (the desert) because past threads have been so body oriented. This in NO WAY robs from the body of Christ for it is "The body of Christ" but what our sole (or should I say soul) commune with the Lord brings to the body cannot be appraised for its value. The workings of The Holy Spirit are repressed when He is not sought first and if He is placed second, should there be any surprise of the result?

A very encouraging thread.

Re: - posted by MaryJane, on: 2012/8/24 12:15

by Jeremy221 on 2012/8/24 5:32:50

I've spent a lot of time developing this Desert Island theology and gaining insight from the Spirit but I think there is a need for balance here.

Jeremy I do also see the need for balance. While I believe GOD desires for us to have time alone away with HIM there is an absolute need for the body to come together as well :)

I think GOD intended for us to have both, time with HIM and then to take those things HE has taught us and share and learn from each other so the body will be encouraged in HIM.

God bless
mj

Re: Desert Island Theology, on: 2012/8/24 12:28

I prefer to receive what I read from the Desert Island and not from Commentaries. When I downloaded e-sword, I was only interested in word-studies and cross-referencing.

And those few men that actually do "labor in The WORD" are few and far between. Exegetical teaching and the such is a rare find. Endlessly we need to hear another's man opinion of what The Word is saying or one that quotes from others. That's sad to me and if I learn the Desert Island style and prefer that method - I'd see the these verses merely say what they say.

1Ti 5:17,18 Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honour, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine. For the scripture saith, Thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn. And, The labourer is worthy of his reward. And that Luke 10:7 cross-references in where it agrees with " for the labourer is worthy of his hire". The traveling men that "labour in the word" - or Missionaries.

I can't help but notice in the last 10 yrs or so how the majority can only quote from others, or teach/preach in their own words - thus adding and subtracting from HIS WORD the more that they go on.

That's not Desert Island Theology - it's man putting themselves Above The Word.

The same men that the others quote - 'Sold' their commentaries or books.

Re: , on: 2012/8/24 12:38

"I've spent a lot of time developing this Desert Island theology and gaining insight from the Spirit but I think there is a need for balance here. God created His church as a body for some very real, practical reasons for which Desert Theology is not the Way."

Hi Jeremy,

I think you make a good point, and it's one that I definitely agree with. I tried to make that clear in my post when I wrote:

"Not that it needs to be your only method of theology, but it certainly should be your primary one."

I myself and currently reading a theological book right now called "Looking Unto Jesus" by Issac Ambrose. It's 700 pages written on the verse from Hebrews 12:2. I've also gained quite a lot of insight in my Christian life from teachers in the body of Christ and other believers. It's definitely important that we learn from other believers. It's a method that God has

s ordained for us to grown and learn.

However, my post was more to address the need for people to search the scriptures themselves, and not simply just accept everything they are taught. Ultimately we will all be accountable to God's word and not what other men have taught us. It is often because believers blindly accept certain teachings - either from their denomination or pastor, without really searching the scriptures, that they find themselves in all sorts of error; like the ones I mentioned my original post.

For the vast majority of professing Christians today, it probably would be beneficial for them to take a break from there "Church" for a month or two and do nothing but read and re-read the scriptures. I can remember a time right after I was converted that I turned of the TV for 40 days. I spent that time reading God's word instead. After 40 days I turned the TV back on, and my eyes were "opened". Having been removed from the TV for a season, allowed me to more clearly see all the filth on it when I turned it back on. Needless to say, the TV went out to the dumpster.

Many believers get born again, and probably through sincere trust, they just accept what they are being taught. They are never taught to be Bereans. Sometimes they need to put what they've been taught aside and search the scriptures so they can see things in clear light. That is what I'm advocating.

But for most people, to have this type of mindset, what I termed Desert Island Theology, you don't have to leave or remove yourself from fellowship. It's just a way of thinking and learning from God, testing everything against God's word, and learning from Him as you search the scriptures. I myself am involved in a local fellowship and wouldn't want to be apart from it. I love my brother and sisters in Christ, and learn quite a bit from them. And it's definitely the will of God for believers to fellowship with other believers and learn from them.

Hope that clarifies a bit.

God bless....

IN Christ,

Sean

Re: - posted by Jeremy221, on: 2012/8/24 12:45

It's not safe to judge others according to the flesh. Just because someone is in a "church" has no bearing on their obedience to the Spirit. I have known those whose work stood up to the lies, exposing deception and lukewarmness among the "faithful." Ezra 8-10 makes it clear that those who are called out need those with understanding to open the Scriptures and shed light on the marriages they have entered but which could result in them being cut off in the end, ridding themselves not only of the wives but the ungodly seed as well.

Quote:

-----Ezra 9:11-13 (KJV)

Which thou hast commanded by thy servants the prophets, saying, The land, unto which ye go to possess it, is an unclean land with the filthiness of the people of the lands, with their abominations, which have filled it from one end to another with their uncleanness. Now therefore give not your daughters unto their sons, neither take their daughters unto your sons, nor seek their peace or their wealth for ever: that ye may be strong, and eat the good of the land, and leave it for an inheritance to your children for ever. And after all that is come upon us for our evil deeds, and for our great trespass, seeing that thou our God hast punished us less than our iniquities deserve, and hast given us such deliverance as this;

We need to watch lest we seek the peace and wealth of the peoples of the land because it will not only lead to destruction but cause us to be weak. We need to be alert to hear His voice through any vessel He chooses. We can only come to earn the fulness of the love of Christ in the Body.

Re: , on: 2012/8/24 13:55

Under the Old Covenant one needed the priest to expound the law to them. But in the New Covenant the Holy Spirit testifies of Jesus Christ through the scriptures. He is the one who brings the word to light into our hearts and minds.

Am I correct in my understanding of this?

Asked from the bear cave.

Re: - posted by ccchhrrriiiss (), on: 2012/8/24 14:03

I appreciate the thoughts raised by this thread. I also agree with what Annie is saying here.

After I came to Christ, I quickly questioned almost everything I had ever been taught, told or had seen. This included many of what has been suggested as the "fundamental" doctrines of the faith. This might have been because -- even as a teenager -- I was quite agnostic shortly before I came to the Lord. I didn't have any Christian books, commentaries, or theological maps to tell me what I should believe. Even since then, I still shy away from books on doctrine. If I do read a book on theology, it is with a very healthy dose of sincere skepticism.

I was acutely aware of how flawed each and every person can be. In addition, I was very strongly aware of my own relationship with the Lord...and that I know the same God that those "famous" or "renowned" men claim. I was criticized by people that I knew because of this perspective. This attitude was reinforced when I met Leonard Ravenhill.

When I met with Brother Ravenhill in his home shortly before he died, he told me that the church is in the condition that it is in because the church has been doing what it has always been doing. He strongly encouraged me to TEST EVERYTHING that I had ever seen, read and heard. And, of course, that we should hold fast to what is good...and dismiss or reject what is not.

When I read what Paul West wrote in this thread, I was reminded of the time that Paul visited the "council" in Jerusalem. While some believers were instructing the Gentiles to be circumcised and obey the Law of Moses, Paul told the apostles and other believers all that the Lord had done among the Gentile believers.

The result?

The apostles didn't create a long list of fundamentals or a lengthy "We Believe" list. They didn't create a list of requirements for believers desiring to engage in working for the Lord. In fact, they did quite the opposite.

Peter stood up and spoke about how the Law was an unbearable "yoke." Likewise, James said that the Church should not "trouble" (or "make it difficult") for Gentile believers who have turned to Christ.

The body of believers decided to endorse Paul and Barnabas and send two prophets with them. As for "obedience," they felt only the need to encourage that those new Gentile believers should avoid food sacrificed to idols, blood, strangulated meat and sexual immorality. These things were quite reprehensible throughout the pagan Roman world at the time and could possibly diminish the "light" of believers. However, even these things were later explained in the Epistles.

If you notice, there was no mention of tithing. There was no mention of views on eschatology. There was no admonition about "proper" versions of the books of the Bible. There was no mention of music. There is no mention of baptism (or which specific words are a requirement when dunking the believer).

It is possible that the apostles and other believers felt that, if a person truly comes to Christ, the Holy Spirit would lead such believers into all truth without necessitating such explicit and binding instruction from men (including men who claim to have received their convictions from the Lord). Of course, the fact that believers risked their lives by publicly confessing Christ might have weeded out most of the "pretenders" of the day.

Today, most churches have a list of doctrines that differentiate them from churches down the street. Many have become "indoctrination centers" where they (more or less) instruct individuals in the doctrinal peculiarities that they feel God has not only revealed in those congregations. Those doctrines then become binding for anyone who wishes to do anything other than sit in the pews or chairs.

I believe that the Lord will pour out His Spirit in these last days. I believe that a truly God-inspired revival will come. However, I often wonder if people will accept it. What if it means the end of denominations? What if it means that the structure of our "services" is thrown out the door? What if it means that Baptists will stop being Baptists and Mennonites will stop being Mennonites and Pentecostals will stop being Pentecostals? What if, once again, we are simply "Christians?" What if the Church suddenly refuses to allow the doctrines and traditions of men to impede their fellowship with other believers who know the Lord?

Of course, we might not have much say in this matter. If persecution comes, we may rely on whatever encouragement and fellowship that we can find. Denominational, sectarian and "I'm-right-you're-wrong-so-listen-to-me" walls might come crumbling down when those believers we might currently reject share jail cells or go into hiding with us.

A few years ago, I began researching and compiling a book on various church traditions. It is still unfinished. It is tentatively called TRADITIONS OF MEN. Through this book, I was attempting to find and expose the roots to many of the traditions that believers adhere to. I was making a strong effort to cite the origin for each and every tradition as we try to determine what is inspired by the Word and what was handed down from men.

Over time, I was surprised at just how much of our Christian traditions was rooted in a non-Scriptural foundation. If, as the original poster suggested, that we were able to forget all of the "Church" things that we have learned on a desert island with only the Word of God as our guide, I suspect that our churches and layout might look very different than what we have grown so accustomed to.

Scott, thanks for provoking this discussion!

Re: , on: 2012/8/24 14:41

I know in some traditions some would reason being in church instills sitting under the systematic teaching of the word. As expounded by the teaching pastor. But this sounds very much like the Old Covenant synagogue or temple.

Is this the New Covenant church Jesus envisioned? Col.3:16 says we are to have the word of Christ dwell richly within us teaching and admonishing one another. Not left in the hands of one man. This would imply somewhere along the journey believers are to be in their word and prayer before God and learning from him. And then coming to share in the body of believers.

It would seem the New Testament orientation is the believers come and share what God has given them in their alone time with him. Not so much to get a message from the chief teaching pastor of the church.

Just my thoughts.

Bearmasterter.

Re: , on: 2012/8/24 14:51

It just dawn on me there is the balance. That one should be before God reading and praying. Seeking truth from Jesus. But then come in a corporate context to share what God has revealed to them.

Bearmaster.

Re: , on: 2012/8/24 15:04

Bear, I think you're right and as long as I've been a member here, I've posted my favorite verses ... Joh 16:13,14 Howbeit when He, the Spirit of truth, is come, He will guide you into all truth: for He shall not speak of Himself; but whatsoever He shall hear, that shall He speak: and He will shew you things to come. He shall glorify Me: for He shall receive of Mine, and shall shew it unto you.

When we stand before GOD -- we won't be able to blame some pastor or teacher for what we believed that was Biblically wrong.

But by the same token, we're back to those verses that the other thread dealt with and the verses posted and not posted about "elders, etc".

My daughter found a Church where she was living and when she described to me what their "Bible Studies" consisted of - I nearly dropped.

I 'think' it was the Alpha method, where all they did is ask each person "What does this verse say to you?" and it was a free-for-all on interpretations that were left to stand, with no concrete meaning given for what the verses were saying, contextually or otherwise.

So, here we are back to these verses and the others from Timothy 1 & 2 and Titus, etc. ...

Eph 4:11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;
Eph 4:12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:
Eph 4:13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:
Eph 4:14 That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;
Eph 4:15 But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:
Eph 4:16 From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.

Also, I wish that Chris had the time to write that book that he's thought of writing as long as it's free :).

LORD Bless!

Re: - posted by ginnyrose (), on: 2012/8/24 15:38

QUOTE:

"Eph 4:11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;
Eph 4:12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:
Eph 4:13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:
Eph 4:14 That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;
Eph 4:15 But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:
Eph 4:16 From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love."

COMMENT:

Unless one sees this operational in a body of believers one can easily expect to see an independent spirit rise up and overwhelm a person. This spirit will not accept or consider what any message of edification another may have to share. It will disregard any confrontation of sin because they consider themselves more spiritual than another. In other words, a prideful spirit is controlling a person.

The NT teaches us plainly that we are a body, all with differing functions that must work together for the common good. This is the essence of 1 Corinthians. So then, if you are stranded on an island and have the NT you will be desiring a find other Believers to fellowship with.

Re: Desert Island Theology - posted by proudpapa, on: 2012/8/24 15:48

Excellent Thread.

I Find that what sscott7 has described here is very much the Theology that Jesus taught.

The Religious Jews of Jesus day claimed to believe The scripture but Jesus time and time again revealed to them that they truly did not have Faith in the Scripture but rather in their religious traditions they were blind to the truth, Just like us today they had examined and argued and wrote commentary on every single verse of scripture, they had personally m

emorized countless amount of scripture, Yet because of there preconcieved understandings, doctrines, theolgys, their pr etalmud they where completely blind to the truth. They would have and trully did argue with God himself on the true mea ning of scripture.

Jesus did not teach the nature of scripture as what the Jews of His day understand it nor as Christianity teaches it today. He taught a nature of scripture that could only be understood as a supernatural inspiration, Jesus clearly made a theolog ical point based on the inspiration of the jott and tittle down to the very verb tense of a word that was in the copies of cop ies that was available in His day In which was about 1500 years after the original writings, That makes no logical since t o the Naturalistic mind, Yet That is the nature of scripture that scripture teaches of its self. It goes much further into the s upernatural realm than what men like B.B.W. could ever comprehend.

What we need to relize is that our reality as understood by our experience and our understanding is a mere delusion. An d what God says is Absolute! If we trully believed the nature of Scripture as scripture clearly teaches of its self, we woul d never rely on a Paraphrased or a thought for thought version for by doing so we succumb to the philosophy that only t he basic tenents or thoughts of the Faith (what ever that is?) Has been perserved or inspired and thus we are trapped in the traditions the doctrines and the theolgys of Christendom.

So it would seem that the first step in this Desert Island Theology is to believe in such a Sovereign God that He would b e able to provide the common plow boy with a supernatural and totally trustworthy Text, that it completely defies all the L aws of the naturalistic realm. Thus throwing off the Majority of the Worldly wise.

I will add one last very important point the Letter without the Spirit is dead. It takes the Spirit of God to illuminate the Lett er.

Savannah wisely made reference to George Mueller, I find it fascinating that George Muellers first step of Faith was to th row out the Commentary and to trust God for interpretation of Scripture.

I applaud so many of the post written so far on this thread

Re: , on: 2012/8/24 17:16

Sometime ago I read about a young woman in Iran who converted to Christ. She was from a Moslem background. The only Christian in her village. All she had was access to the internet. She had converted to Christ through one of the Chr istian Farsi web sites that broadcast into Iran. All she could do was download the Farsi New Testament into her comput er

What chance does this sister have of sustaining her walk with Christ. I would say with that New Testament and the Spiri t of God teaching her. She will be used mightily in her village and Iran. For truly she is on a desert island.

Dear God may this precious sister grow in your word and be a faithful witness of Jesus in Iran.

Bearmaster.

Re: , on: 2012/8/25 0:03

There's a lot of good insight from the comments on this thread. Also, I just want to reiterate that the purpose of my post was not to encourage people to abandon fellowship and become an island unto themselves. It was to encourage peopl e to diligently search the word of God for truth, and not simply just accept what they've been taught. If believers really di d hold the word of God as the authority that it is, it really would clear up a lot of the unbiblical practices and traditions tha t we see in Christianity today.

Re: Desert Island Theology - posted by narrowpath, on: 2012/8/25 8:34

It is very naive to think that given the chance of a new start for the church we would get it right. God has already used hi s choicest men in the past, the most holy and devout men who walked on earth in their time only to see that after their d eparture men would all to quickly turn to sin, folly and dead religion.

Desert Island theology is exactly what God did in Noahs time. God chose Noah to give all life on earth a fresh start. Noa h was one of the most holy men ever lived before Christ apart from John the Baptist and Daniel and Job. The desert Island was mount Ararat where the ark came to rest.

We must understand that the true church always existed along man-made religion. The two are always in tension and thi

s tension is God's ordained way. Only through this tension can the true church be kept pure, otherwise she quickly gets corrupted. In fact many noble and pure movements of the past faded away after a generation or two and turned into dead religion. Now in the last of the last days we have a much greater cloud of witnesses and 2 millenia of church history to glean wisdom from.

The true church will draw men out of false religion and has to suffer greatly for this. God has his own way to keep us pure through suffering and chastisement.

Re: Scott, on: 2012/8/25 9:11

And those that search out the truth in that desert island will leave the established, structured church. For surely they will hear him who says come out from them and be separate.

He that has an ear. Let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.

Bearmaster.

Re: the faith of George Mueller - posted by savannah, on: 2012/8/25 9:15

proudpapa wrote,

"Savannah wisely made reference to George Mueller, I find it fascinating that George Muellers first step of Faith was to throw out the Commentary and to trust God for interpretation of Scripture."

George Mueller, along with many others such as William Carey and David Brainerd, are so inspirational that they're worth quoting.

George Mueller at the age of 25 wrote,

"In the course of time I came to this country, and it pleased God then to show to me the doctrines of grace in a way in which I had not seen them before. At first I hated them, If this were true I could do nothing at all in the conversion of sinners, as all would depend upon God and the working of His Spirit. But when it pleased God to reveal these truths to me, and my heart was brought to such a state that I could say, "I am not only content simply to be a hammer, an axe, or a saw, in God's hands; but I shall count it an honor to be taken up and used by Him in any way; and if sinners are converted through my instrumentality, from my inmost soul I will give Him all the glory; the Lord gave me to see fruit; the Lord gave me to see fruit in abundance; sinners were converted by scores; and ever since God has used me in one way or other in His service."

His testimony of how he came to believe the truth of God's Sovereignty follows,

"Being made willing to have no glory of my own in the conversion of sinners, but to consider myself merely as an instrument; and being made willing to receive what the Scriptures said; I went to the Word, reading the New Testament from the beginning, with a particular reference to these truths. To my great astonishment I found that the passages which speak decidedly for election and persevering grace, were about four times as many as those which speak apparently against these truths; and even those few, shortly after, when I had examined and understood them, served to confirm me in the above doctrines. As to the effect which my belief in these doctrines had on me, I am constrained to state, for God's glory, that though I am still exceedingly weak, and by no means so dead to the lusts of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, as I might and as I ought to be, yet, by the grace of God, I have walked more closely with Him since that period. My life has not been so variable, and I may say that I have lived much more for God than before. Thus, I say, the electing love of God in Christ (when I have been able to realize it) has often been the means of producing holiness, instead of leading me into sin."

Yes! He (George) did it. Did what you ask? The very thing that you commend him for above. The very thing this thread is about. The very thing you and I and all ought to do. This is what you commend him for above when you stated, "I find it fascinating that George Muellers first step of Faith was to throw out the Commentary and to trust God for interpretation of Scripture."

And to quote George once more,

"...being made willing to receive what the Scriptures said; I went to the Word, reading the New Testament from the beginning..."

Soli Deo Gloria

Sola Gratia
Sola Fide
Solus Christus
Sola Scriptura

Re: - posted by roadsign (), on: 2012/8/25 10:28

Quote:

----- And those that search out the truth in that desert island will leave the established, structured church.

In any claim there is always the danger of falling over the other edge. And this is a good example. Even in the names we draw – the great saints of the past – we can fail to acknowledge the tremendous influences in their lives – their families, "established" churches, pastors, and the vast amount of reading they did. Take Oswald Chambers, Spurgeon, and Hudson Taylor for example. These were not desert island theologians! They were shaped through the influence of many people whom God used in their lives. Spurgeon had thousands of books – and he read them all.

Of course, we won't know that if we are desert island theologians because we won't see a need to examine their stories.

If you wish to be a "pure" desert island theologian – which Bible will you use? Or will you write your own translation? Remember, our bibles today are the product of much work by theologians in the past – and present - the work of Greek scholars and language translators all striving to provide us a clear text. (the more reliable translations are formed through team work)

Consider the apostle Paul. He had his desert experience, but he did not go into the desert as a blank slate or come out that way. He was shaped by his past. Yes, through Christ he did reinterpret his past, but he did not ditch it. He referred to the privileges of his past as "rubbish" – IN COMPARISON to Christ. God didn't ditch it though. Paul's past training and the skills were used by God in writing his epistles. Jesus's disciples were not called to that because they did not have that capacity. That's why Paul (a Pharisee!!) was chosen to provide the bulk of the theological content of the NT.

Oh yes, there are those who found Christ in the desert. But they don't stay there. They need the Body! There are also many self acclaimed desert theologians who have gone off the rails in their creative theological conclusions. These are the ones who write a book and you see no references whatsoever, or they are poorly used. These "experts" see no need to build on the work already done – or even allow their work to be judged in the Body. And they can't see how they, in fact, have been shaped by influences in their lives - culture, family, religious affiliation, etc.

While there is a need to trust Christ alone, Christ does indeed use others, and we are to submit. We cannot simply wipe off 2000 years of church history and think we can do it better on our own.

Desert theology can be a way of insulating ourselves from the reproofs of the Body. ... After all, if you heard it from Christ himself (you think) you can't be wrong, can you?

And you will not be inclined to express gratitude and humility for what God has done and is doing through others. Let us be mindful of the danger of pride being the motive for "desert" theology.

Diane

Re: , on: 2012/8/25 13:04

Diane,

You missed the intent of the article entirely. Though Sean tried to qualify it by adding that he was not speaking of being free from a Body, you didn't seem to truly hear it. His intent in this article isn't the "lone ranger" of pride who doesn't need the Body. I know this not only to be "in theory" on "Internet forum threads of quick ideas", but real life, as I am in true NT fellowship (not "Internet fellowship", but the kind laid out in the NT) with him. We are all accountable to one another, we judge/test things and sharpen each other, we use our gifts to deify the Body as a whole, etc., so if you think pride is the motivation for what he is speaking, in love sister, you have not discerned accurately.

The point is God gave us "all we need to live Godly lives in Christ Jesus" by His Spirit and through His Word. In fact, Desert Island Theology proves my very point & yours whether you see it or not: if you read I Corinthians, you see a NT, New Covenant pattern for what real Body Fellowship, the assembly of the brethren, the ministry of the Holy Spirit & His gifts in our midst, the true offices of the 5-fold ministry should look like, etc. So, no one is advocating "lone ranger" Christianity, but a dedication not to except traditions of men in lieu of God's Word.

I love Charles Spurgeon's writings, Oswald Cjammers, Andrew Murray, William Gurnall, AW Tozer, Leonard Ravenhill, David Wilkerson, Art Katz, etc., but they are not ultimately my example to follow. Christ is. None of these men were perfect. Only God & His Word are flawless. They were great men of God who were made in His image, who were transformed into Christ's image, who became more like themselves & more like Christ, etc. But Diane, you know what happens when you make a copy of a copy, right? It gets more distorted, no matter how "great" the copy before was.

The Giants of the faith, many in Glory will be people you have never heard of. Not teachers/preachers in affluent societies whose worst persecution was mental and a little financial. Many will be unknown poor, cast out of society, hungry, battered, torn, & beaten saints who never stood in a pulpit and preached to masses, but who gave their whole heart/lives to Jesus and exuding the fragrance of Christ and hid in caves, lost family members, gave themselves to Christ even unto death (re-read Hebrews 11). Those saints didn't cry out in their prison cells for the writings of men like Spurgeon, Whitfield, Wesley, etc. great as those men may have been. But they just wanted a Bible, & His Spirit, & possibly some fellowship with other believers, & the chance to share the Gospel if God ordained.

And frankly, it's not pride to say that I don't care if the church has had this "super-pastor" who controls everything in every "service", & tithing buckets have been passed around and OT passages from Malachi have been mis-preached out of context for 1,500 years, & theologians have written entire libraries of how the gifts passed away with the first generation church. I don't care at all what 2,000 years may have/haven't produced. That may sound proud to you, but I'd you know my heart, and the heart of others in this hour, you'd know it's actually a humble hunger before God that says "God, just take us back to your Word by the Spirit, free us from the traditions of men some before us drank in rather in ignorance or not, and make us into what pleases you Lord!"

True, there are proud, bitter, arrogant, critical ones who have a different heart than that, but let's not throw out the baby with the bath-water. Let's throw out the unbiblical mess we have picked up over the generations and fix our eyes upon Jesus together with His Spirit to lead, guide, & teach us according to His Word, which is a light into our feet and a light in to our path. Our feet are dirty walking through this world and need Christ to wash them. We are a generation I believe about to see trials and tribulations of overwhelming proportions, but only a Bride TOTALLY dependent upon the Lord's leading will not only survive, but thrive, though it be through hardship and pain.

He's coming back for a spotless Bride dressed in white. He's not coming back for a harlot or a church following traditions of men (good men or not). It's only ones with this "Desert Island Theology" mindset in the last few years (which the Spirit of God has given/awakened) who started questioning things like:

- 1.) tithing (as opposed to NT giving freely and cheerfully as each one purposes in his heart).
- 2.) like women teaching and having authority over men (which Paul specifically forbids in several places and even makes the statement that "anyone who claims to be a prophet or any such thing should acknowledge that what he speaks is from God and not from man. But if he chooses to be ignorant, let Him be ignorant").
- 3.) and questioned the whole way we assemble/fellowship since the reformation (in the catholic image no doubt) with everyone in theater style listening to one man preach with no prophetic input/sharing, with no gifts manifesting (unless that one man has them) and the great disconnect between what we have done for centuries and what Paul lays out in the Corinthian letters and other places.
- 4.) and on, and on, and on.

Where did these crazy "Desert Island Theologians" get these wacky ideas that go against centuries of church history/traditions? From the Word of God! Just like before Christ's first coming, a remnant of true seekers knew, something is incomplete in our current synagauge experience. Christ came and wrecked their traditions and showed them the meaning of the scriptures they had always had.

Again, He is coming again soon and seeks to have a Body Who hears only Him, who follows Him, who loves Him, Who loves His Word, and who wants Jesus to be glorified beyond all else. And ditching men's traditions, nationalistic pride, rights to our own lives, and suffering greatly for His Glory will be understood because they know from His Word there's a cross to bear and we must stay dependent upon Him always. We are always blind to things and unless God opens our eyes

es by His Word/Spirit, we will never see? Are we willing to see How "off" we have been about so many things for so long, & yet think it nothing to cast them off, repent, & let God fully have His way in our midst?

Re: - posted by savannah, on: 2012/8/28 7:49

There may be ten thousand Churches, but there is only one Christ. Nor can all those Churches supply the place of our one, blessed all-sufficient Savior. A man may be saved without the Church, but he cannot be saved without Christ. A man may be in the Church and not be saved; but he cannot be in Christ without salvation. Sinners sometimes become members of the Church; but only saints are members of Christ. A person may live in the Church for years, with the old heart of carnality and selfishness; but "if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature".

The requirements of the Church are often wrong and ruinous; but the claims of Christ are always reasonable and right. The Church may become a sink of pollution; but Christ is ever the perfection of purity. The Church may be rent with divisions; but Jesus Christ is not divided. The Church may become terribly entangled in mysticism and error; but Christ is always the embodiment of light and truth. The Church may change her name and her nature; but Christ is "the same yesterday, today, and forever". The Church may be a crutch to walk with, but she is a poor Christ to trust in for salvation and eternal life.

Vast multitudes cling to some Church establishment as a drowning man would cling to a life-boat. They bow obsequiously to her priestly and official mandates, and imagine that the blind servility which they tender to the Church will be accounted acceptable service offered to Christ. The simplicity of the Gospel is lost in the imposing forms and glittering accompaniments of modern churchism. Splendid church edifices attract the eye. Splendid music charms the ear. Splendid prayers are addressed to the CONGREGATION. Splendid sermons please the fancy, and leave deluded sinners to slumber on. Church rivalry has achieved a glorious success, if success thundering organs, ostentatious dressing, theatrical singing, pointless praying, rhetorical preaching, careless hearing, and unscriptural practicing!

Much of the current worship is done by proxy. Lazy religionists surrender their sacred rights to others. They take it for granted that the preacher is on the right track, and readily swallow whatever may be doled out from the pulpit, without using their own brains in searching for the hidden treasures of truth. Thus religious ideas are transmitted from generation to generation, until tradition exerts a more powerful influence than the Bible in molding the sentiments of men.

There comes to be a fashionable faith, as well as a fashionable dress. To embrace a certain stereotyped circle of doctrinal views entitles a man to the claim of "orthodoxy"; but let him not venture one step out of the beaten track, if he would not be denounced as a deluded heretic! But few have the moral courage to question the decisions of the Church, much less to discard what she has labeled as "orthodox".

The verdict of a few leading denominations has thus grown up into a threatening tyranny; and the multitude cannot think of stemming the mighty tide. So they bow down in their narrow enslavement and worship this curiously-fashioned but pious-looking idol - "the Church!" Since all idolatry is an abomination to God, we have no more right to worship a church than we have to worship a golden calf! We rob the Lord of His rightful honor, and ourselves of the highest bliss of Christianity, by looking to the Church too much, and "looking unto Jesus" too little.

What can be done to deal a staggering blow to this cruel church/worship of the day, and at the same time give us more exalted and ravishing views of Jesus Christ? There is a grand failure to carry out the ultimate design, when the appliances of the Gospel result only in the production of Churchianity.

Our perception, our prayers, our faith and our adoration must overleap the narrow precincts of the outward Church, and rise up to the eternal throne! - A. Phelps

"Worship God!"

Re: - posted by roadsign (), on: 2012/8/28 10:26

Quote:

----- You missed the intent of the article entirely.

I do not think I questioned the validity of solitude with God or Sean's point. My aim was to offer a caution. It is an ever-troubling propensity to fall over either edge of any claim. Even on this topic: Some over-emphasize "community". Yet we also see a tendency to overemphasize the other extreme: individualistic Christianity (which is especially a temptation in our free-rights/choice culture).

In any argument, it is not unfitting to comment on the other "side". That need not be regarded as "missing" the point - wouldn't you say?

A point to consider: Sometimes when people have been hurt by the church, rather than seek forgiveness and restoration, they are inclined to distance themselves from community (and speak ill of the church). That choice can be justified as a virtue: I'm being "alone with God". Pride knows no boundaries - even on desert islands.

Diane

Re: , on: 2012/8/28 10:44

In the end the remnant will find themselves in solitude as persecution increases in America.

Bearmaster.

Re: , on: 2012/8/28 11:04

Yep,

But many will be in solitude swept away as a bride in the wilderness for a time kept by the Lord, seeing His Sovereign hand keeping us in times of unforeseen difficulty. Even after that, if we are swept away into solitude only in cells by ourselves awaiting death, we will have the Lord and His Spirit. If we have Him, we have everything. Without Him, we can be in a church, alone, at a conference, or in a forum, and be utterly, truly alone. We will have all we need in Christ. And many will be swept into the kingdom in that day, though it go unnoticed on the earth - for it will be known in heaven.

In Him,
Jeff

Re: - posted by UntoBabes (), on: 2012/8/28 11:15

I do not know if those who keep quoting saints and commentaries are aware that they are playing the hypocrite.

If you so admire what they did, in that they honored the Bible above all else and refused to have a kind of a second-hand faith that is handed down from the traditions of men, then why don't you do the same.

It was mentioned that George Mueller came to believe in the doctrines of grace from reading the Bible alone but how do you know that his understanding of the doctrines of grace is the same as yours.

For example when he said " If this were true I could do nothing at all in the conversion of sinners, as all would depend upon God and the working of His Spirit."

How do you know that he means what many nowadays understand him to mean that the Spirit would work independently from him.

Please listen to this short link by Paul Washer to get what I am trying to say.

<http://youtu.be/O-7Z2cQbb3k>

Re: - posted by learjet, on: 2012/8/28 13:15

Took bearmasters advice and took the point down...

Re: Learjet, on: 2012/8/28 18:00

Brother those are some serious allegations concerning Diane. She may have a different understanding of things but felt your treatment of her in your post to be unfair. Whatever happened to playing the ball and not the man. Or in this case the woman.

If I am off the mark I stand corrected. But felt you were a little unfair to our sister.

Bearmaster.

Re: , on: 2012/8/29 10:15

We say persecution will soon come upon America. Does that reality grip us? What will we do when we no longer have access to our Bibles or the New Testament? What is more important to us? Our commentaries or reference works or lexicons? What will comfort us in the hour of trial? Will it be the Greek or Hebrew verb conjugation?

If we would in humility look to the persecuted? They have no access to the reference works that we do. They have no Sermon Index to turn to. If they are blessed they may have the New Testament and the Holy Spirit of God. Yet where are the revivals taking place? China, Vietnam, Iran. The VOM magazine will report of pastors having only a fraction of a New Testament over seeing large networks of fellowships that meet in homes. They are sustained by the Spirit of Christ and his word.

Again what will sustain us in the hour of trial? What should we be hiding in our hearts? How important is the Bible to us? Do we treasure it above everything else? Are we investing time to get it into our heart and mind?

We read in Revelation that the martyrs, those witnesses of Christ, were slain for the Word of God and the testimony they had maintained. Again how much do we live his word?

Just some thoughts resonating in my spirit on this urgent hour.

Bearmaster.

Re: , on: 2012/8/29 10:29

In N. Korea believers will risk death to own a copy of the scriptures. Even a portion of God's word is so precious to them. I read reports of elderly saints who cry tears when they get a copy of God's word for the first time. They will hug and kiss that Bible and treat it as more precious than gold.

How important is God's word to us? Will we take the time to fill our minds and hearts with his truth? Will we value the word of truth above all else? Will we have the attitude of Mary to sit at the feet of Jesus and choose what is better? To listen to his word.

For surely no commentary or reference work can bless us as only the words of Jesus can.

Bearmaster.

Re: - posted by MaryJane, on: 2012/8/29 10:39

I wonder why it can't be both? I have been so blessed and grown in my walk so much at times from reading the Bible and at other times when the LORD has used the words of another brother/sister.

GOD gave us HIS Word, and HE also gave us one another. I look at both of these as a means to help me in my walk with the LORD.

God bless
mj

Re: The Sacred Place of Solitude - posted by roadsign (), on: 2012/8/29 11:16

Quote:

-----I wonder why it can't be both?

An insightful thought, Mary Jane! The Christian life involves both solitude and community. While either can be desired for or wrong reasons, God does work through both to purify our faith and strengthen our unity together.

For what it's worth, I'm posting a reading I once wrote, which, I think, fits into this topic:

THE SACRED PLACE OF SOLITUDE

"I cherish the sacred place of solitude - an abyss opening up in the center of my soul" by Peter Feldmeier

Have you ever found yourself utterly alone - perhaps through rejection or exclusion, or simply through exhaustion from doing good? You are not alone in your loneliness. Today there is widespread sense of loneliness and alienation. Perhaps this is why internet social networking has proliferated: It combats loneliness and the fear of isolation. But it also deprives people of true solitude.

Few know the value of solitude. Jesus valued solitude. He would often go off somewhere to be alone. Yet he was never alone. He said, "The Father is with me." John 16:32 Jesus taught his followers to practice solitude, saying, "When you pray, go into your room." Matt. 6:6 In other words: Your spiritual workout is not meant for display. You need to be alone - in private. You need solitude with God.

Through solitude we come to know ourselves as we are known by God. This may not feel loving at first. "It may feel more like deadening boredom or inner darkness - and even pain of loneliness." 2 We discover how much we depend on external factors. Through solitude we learn to overcome our fear of isolation and our worry over what others think. When we are free from all that, our creativity is free to bud and flourish.

Great eagles fly alone. Likewise, those who have made outstanding contributions, such as in music, art, and science, have learned to fly alone. The biblical prophets themselves learned to value solitude - often through long and lonely wilderness experiences. Consider King David: His spirit thrived during times of loneliness and isolation. When alone in the pastures and the caves, God's Spirit intertwined with his spirit. That's when David created some of the most beloved songs the world has ever known.

We can never know the richest blessings from God until we learn to walk alone with God. Let God isolate us and call us to the sacred place of solitude - the abyss opening up in the centre of our soul. There our soul gains an independent trust in God, and we no longer need the constant help, prayers, or attention of our peers. There we discover that, although we may be little and unknown, we are prized for God and God alone. And there we are liberated and shaped for our destiny.

by DE

Re: - posted by learjet, on: 2012/8/29 14:46

I just want to apologize directly to Diane about what I wrote yesterday without thinking about the outcome. To be sure I have confessed my sin to the Lord and wanted to apologize to you Diane as well.

Jesus said:

Quote:
-----What goes into a man's mouth does not make him 'unclean,' but what comes out of his mouth, that is what makes him 'unclean.'" -Matt 15:11

Thank you very much for your patience while the Lord works out every unclean thing out of me.

Additionally, I want to thank bearmaster for the rebuke and I accept it in love.

Re: - posted by roadsign (), on: 2012/8/29 15:35

You are forgiven, Learjet. It's my pleasure.

On another note, I do invite challenges or questions to the thoughts I express. Always, my ideas are a "work in progress". Sometimes corrections, clarifications and further discussion are both helpful and appropriate.

blessings to you,

Diane

Re: Learjet, on: 2012/8/29 15:52

Brother never was my intention to rebuke you. But I give you permission to call me to account in love. I thought BillPro was calling me out on another thread only to realize he was talking about the devil. Needless to say I spoke before I thought and had to apologize to him.

It happens but we forgive and press on. But the way how do you come by the handle Learjet?

Bearmaster.

Re: - posted by brothagary, on: 2012/8/29 20:36

hi brethren

i think the most important question is what does the bible say about the idea of desert island type theology

does the bible teach us to practice this type of thing please show verses to support opinions

and as precious and holy as our scripture are can we do away with or downgrade or degrade the commands to teach and exhort and the office of such

i was brought up on a deserted island and still remain on one so im not being biased by asking this sort of question

it was the only way i knew till i learned to use the internet

after more than ten years in the wilderness with times of blessings, deception, starvation, and fasting, my belief is the body of christ should remain attached to its members in general all the time except for times of fasting and secret prayer

i cant find any scripture to support a whole hearted practice of learning from just the bible and his spirit, without the exhortations, teachings and prophecies

but over the years i've spent more time in the bible some times 4 and 6 hours a day 5 days a week, just hearing the word

once recorded by my self for food ,,

and i dont want to downplay the blessings of this sort of meditation ,,but the corintian master peice that paul wrote on gifts and church practice ,has become a burden to experience now for me ,,and i know can not be divorced from island bible meditation

blessings

Re: , on: 2012/8/29 22:08

Hi BrothaGary,

You said: "i think the most important question is what does the bible say ,,about the idea of desert island type theology does the bible teach us to practice this type thing ,,please show verses to support opinions "

Here's the scripture support:

Act 17:11 Now these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so.

The Berean's were noble not because they checked Paul's doctrine by going to their teachers to see if it was right, but because they check Paul's teachings against the word of God; and for this the scripture commends them.

If you'll remember in my original post I said, "Not that it needs to be your only method of theology, but it certainly should be your primary one."

I'm in no way trying to minimize the importance of godly men in the body of Christ who have the Spirit given gift of teaching. Every believer to a degree benefits by the teaching and admonition that they receive from other believers. What my exhortation was, was for believers to simply check and test everything against the word of God.

Some people might say, "My denomination forbids prophecy and speaking in tongues". Well, what does the bible say? Did they get that rule from the scriptures? The obvious answer is no.

Some might say, "My denomination says that tithing 10% of my income is the only part of the law that is still for today; it's the only part of the law that Christ did not do away with. Well, does the bible say that? Did they get that from the scriptures? The obvious answer is no.

I could go on and on.

Like I said in one of my other replies, I'm not advocating believers be divorced from the body. When we are saved, we are saved into Christ, and into His body. Christ has ordained that we be part of a body of believers wherever we live. Not only that, it should be the desire of every believer (loving the brethren 1st John). I can't imagine a believer not wanting to be part of a local fellowship.

What I am saying though, is that one can have this Desert Island Theology, or more scripturally, this Berean mindset, no matter where they are. And while we definitely learn from teachers and are blessed by them, we should always test what we are being taught with the word of God.

Hope that helps clear up what I was talking about.

Re: brothagary - posted by proudpapa, on: 2012/8/29 22:28

Hi brothagary,

RE: brothagary wrote //i think the most important question is what does the bible say „about the idea of desert island type theology
does the bible teach us to practice this type thing „please show verses to support opinions//

Read John ch 5 v 39-47

v 39 Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me (the Jews prided themselves in their belief of the scripture.)

v 40 And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life

(Yet when they read them they did not truly believe them rather they put their trust in the dead orthodox understandings of the day)

41 I receive not honour from men.

(Jesus was the truth and believed the truth he was not worried about offending the Orthodoxy of His day)

42 But I know you, that ye have not the love of God in you.

(He saw right into the true motives of the religious of His day)

43 I am come in my Father's name, and ye receive me not: if another shall come in his own name, him ye will receive.

(I wonder how many would reject Him today, I wonder how many do indeed because of their preconceived scriptural perspectives)

44 How can ye believe, which receive honour one of another, and seek not the honour that cometh from God only?

(verse 44 is in relation to how we read scripture the entire context thus far and to the end of the chapter is how we interpret scripture, Are we afraid to think outside the Orthodox Box when it comes to scripture?)

45 Do not think that I will accuse you to the Father: there is one that accuseth you, even Moses, in whom ye trust. (Jesus told them that they trusted in Moses in the Pentateuch, watch what He says in the next verses)

46 For had ye believed Moses, ye would have believed me; for he wrote of me. (He then goes on and tells them that they really did not believe the scriptures, Oh their trust was in religion it was in Orthodoxy that used and twisted scripture but not in scripture they had theology but not //desert island type theology//

47 But if ye believe not his writings, how shall ye believe my words? (If we do not believe The written Word how can we then truly believe the true Word)

Edit: PS thought and section Headings can and do muffle the Scripture, have you realized that the entire story of the rich man and Lazarus was given as a defense to the inspiration of scripture, If you have a Bible with section and thought headings this is hard to see.

Re: - posted by brothagary, on: 2012/8/30 0:24

i agree scott we should test everything by the word of god „but in doing so we all are adding our interpretation of how we see the word of god ,and are testing every thing by how we interpret scripture ,and as we all know there are varied interpretations on most verses, which is why there are so many denominations and factions „, we have believers grouped together under various interpretations all claiming to have the right meaning of the scripture

this in itself is having the problem we all have and this practice in itself doesn't solve the problem ,

but due to the multitudes of immature ,or not yet mature believers „,we have debate,factions ,and argument ,all from us who claim to be more fair minded for the reason that we search the scriptures

most of the very active members here like my self ,would undoubtedly claim to search the scriptures prayerfully „,but we still come to different conclusions

i think we need to test our interpretations of scripture by comparing how other matured saints have concluded their studies, so we don't run into false teachings, especially when we are babies in Christ, and not yet matured, as well as meditate on scripture prayerfully and quietly

these two things can't be separated by favouring one or neglecting the other

a balance is needed

it's worth noting that the scripture you quoted about the fair-minded Bereans, where still searching the scriptures in a Jewish mindset according to the past influence and learning, nothing is said about them casting all their old theology out the door, it would only be an assumption based on presumptions to say that

Scott when you mentioned tithing and prophecy

many who believe in tithing will sincerely claim that scripture does in fact teach that, and will show scripture references till the cows come home

and some say prophecy is out and will show from scripture why this is so in their eyes

as you said you could go on and on, but to claim you have all the right interpretations regarding all the controversial teachings, is not wise my friend

just for the record I believe in prophecy and personally don't believe in tithing, so I'm not in disagreement with how you interpret in this instance, but some great saints of God who used mightily by Him whose sandals I'm not worthy to untie, would disagree with us

blessings

and ye need not that any man teach you - posted by proudpapa, on: 2012/8/30 0:34

18 Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time.

19 They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us.

20 But ye have an unction from the Holy One, and ye know all things.

21 I have not written unto you because ye know not the truth, but because ye know it, and that no lie is of the truth.

22 Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son.

23 Whosoever denieth the Son, the same hath not the Father: he that acknowledgeth the Son hath the Father also.

24 Let that therefore abide in you, which ye have heard from the beginning. If that which ye have heard from the beginning shall remain in you, ye also shall continue in the Son, and in the Father.

25 And this is the promise that he hath promised us, even eternal life.

26 These things have I written unto you concerning them that seduce you.

27 But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him.

28 And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before

re him at his coming.

29 If ye know that he is righteous, ye know that every one that doeth righteousness is born of him.

Re: - posted by brothagary, on: 2012/8/30 0:46

hi proudpapa

i dont believe that scripture you quoted can be draged out of its oridgnal contex ,and aplied to newcovernt believes ,and then used as a scripture to suport a true believers growth to maturity ,is better done with a desert island type princaple

brother your expositions of those verses is a basic thing that most of us would allready know

scripture says he who is of god heres the words of god

these jews were not led by the spirit in any way shape or form ,,there father was the devil jesus said

all whom the faher have givern me will come to me
and i will in know way cast them out
you do not believe ,becasue yo are not my sheep
my sheep here my voice and i know them
and they follow me

i dont see how we can aply that scripture in the contex it is in to an issue i raised about finding scripture,to suport us co ming to our own conclusions about what scripture teaches ,with out the true matured elders helpng to expound and teach us ,,

we constanly see the apostals apling there teaching gift to expond the old testament and give its meaning to the readers ,,and other examples of others who are not apostals ,taking aside certaint others and teaching them more properaly the word of the gosple

i see no one exorted to go off on ther own and come to there own conclusion as a lone ranger of interprations

if we look at timotheey he was exorted to keep the teaching he got from paul a sound doctrine ,, not his own version

blessings

Re: and ye need not that any man teach you - posted by brothagary, on: 2012/8/30 0:59

hi proudpapa the last scripture you posted by john doesnt suport the island theoligy

the reason why the church spoken of here by johns knows all things ,,because they were taught by teachers and the apos tals them selfs and prophecided to by propherts and led by pastors ,we know this by reading pauls leters to the corinthia ns ,,

these dont need men to teach them .like the old covernt days ,they have the holy spirit ,teaching them inturnaly ,and thr ough apostals propherts and pastors and teachers ,,god him self speaks throught these chosen vesels to aply his holy d octrine,,we all know this and we experance this

this scriptue agrees wityh the letters of paul and does not teach we shoyld go in a cave and get intouch with an inerlight , and get all our understang from that ,,not at all brother

blessings to you

Re: brothagary - posted by proudpapa, on: 2012/8/30 1:49

Hi brothagary,

RE: brothagary wrote ///i dont believe that scripture you quoted can be draged out of its oridgnal contex ,and aplied to ne wcovernt believes ,and then used as a scripture to suport a true believers growth to maturity ,is better done with a desert island type princaple///

I believe that scripture I quoted is extremly applicable for today and for this topic and has been inspired (preserved) spec ificaly for our usage today, it certainly was not written down and preserved as to be a benifite to those of whom it was sp oken. He is calling on (all men) to set there traditions there preconcieved notions, there theolgys to the side and not to b e bound by Orthodoxy and to put Ones trust in His sovereignty to both inspire the written word and also to illuminte its m eaning.

Re: brothagary - posted by proudpapa, on: 2012/8/30 2:07

Hi brothagary.

RE:brothagary wrote ///hi proudpapa the last scripture you posted by john doesnt suport the island theoligy///

1 John ch 2 most certainly does support /island theoligy/ The context of first John is that in the last days in which he sa ys of his day had already begun that there would be those teaching a false Christianity whom would try to seduce us, W e are living much closer to the last time than was John and these suducers are much more prevailent than was they the n.

I agree though that there is a balance needed within the brotherhood and I believe that, that is the point that you are tryi ng to make, I know we can and do get a blessing from anointed brethren and anointed preachers but we must needs to be intune and in the Word enough to dictate error, And willing to do as so many of the herroes of Faith of the past and st and alone when so called to.

Re: - posted by brothagary, on: 2012/8/30 4:20

hi proudpappa i relise that scripture was not preseverd for those of whom it was spoken ,thats more then obvious ,,just t he aplication of it as you used it is to far in the wider contex to aply it to the caled and chossen sheep ,,for one it spoke about those who were not called whose father was the devil him self as jesus said

i dont think he is calling all men to set a side traditions if they are of a godliiy tradition ,

paul said in one of his letters if you rember to hold fast to the tradtion taught by word or letter

maby you have a differnt definition to me regarding orthadoxy ,, but the lord as revived certaint orthadox christanity and blessed them with the bapthisim of the spirit as a sign of obedance ,,and there was no need to put a side orthadox traditio ns ,,just fast, prayer and bible stude and preach the word

brother there is live orthadoxy
and dead orthadoxy ,as there is weat and tares

we should not bundel them all together and burn them angles

if your saying get out of the dead liberel orthadox traditions and church ,i agree

bless you

Re: - posted by brothagary, on: 2012/8/30 4:25

not all the heroes of the faith threw out their learning and traditions, some were blessed to have been taught good things and were further blessed with great power from on high there is a balance on that scale there as well

Re: - posted by roadsign (), on: 2012/8/30 7:58

Quote:
----- not all the heroes of the faith threw out their learning and traditions, some were blessed to have been taught good things and were further blessed with great power from on high there is a balance on that scale there as well

A wise caution! The apostle Paul's past experience and heritage was used mightily by God in the formation of the epistles. In other words: Paul did not start a brand new religion – and it was vital that the people of his day could see that. This was not sudden flash cult he was promoting! No! It was rooted in God's ancient promises and plans. That is also important today. Many have arisen with their own "desert island" brand of Christianity – but it is not rooted in historical Christianity.

Quote:
----- we must needs to be intune and in the Word enough to dictate error, And willing to do as so many of the heroes of Faith of the past and stand alone when so called to.

Very true! At the same time God will use the Body to expose our errors and faulty ways. I don't necessarily mean that somebody gives us a phone call and tells us we are wrong. I mean that through the maturity and insights of others – past and present, God does the work of transforming our mind. That will indeed involve our desert experiences when God gets us alone with him, away from the pressures and patterns of our own social contexts... (off the treadmill). That is where he can teach us ... and yes certainly through others too. After all, there are many who have walked the walk ahead of us. And even the weaknesses and sins of others provide teaching ground for us. (How else can we learn to be forgiving people?)

It seems that the real dividing line has to do with where our trust is placed: It in God – or in people (ourselves included)? That discovery, in itself, is a learning process – through both solitude and community with others. Certainly that is the way how God has worked in my life, and as I have discovered, in others too.

Do these comments resolve the tension between solitude vs community in the Christian life?

Diane

Gary and Diane, on: 2012/8/30 10:10

It would appear that Paul did count his traditions as rubbish in Philippians 3. The chapter describes how he counted his Jewish tradition as loss compared to the surpassing value of knowing his Messiah Jesus.

For surely all one needs is Jesus and his word to be sustained and grow and not the religious traditions of men. For this is the testimony of the persecuted church in restricted nations.

Just my thoughts from his word.

Bearmaster.

Re: brothagary - posted by proudpapa, on: 2012/8/30 10:22

Hi brothagary,

RE: brothagary wrote ///hi proudpappa i relise that scripture was not preseverd for those of whom it was spoken ,thats more then obvious ,,just the aplication of it as you used it is to far in the wider contex to aply it to the caled and chossen sheep ,,for one it spoke about those who were not called whose father was the devil him self as jesus said///

The application of the verses very much can and should be used in the context of island theology in that (all men) whom read such verses so ought to and so needs to do a self examination and ask themselves if they are guilty of the same such things as what the Religious of Jesus day whom believed that they where the called and chosen of God but whom by their traditions made the Word of God of none effect.

They believed they had eternal life because of there understanding of scripture but there traditions Blinded them from the true meaning of the written word which caused them to not be able to recognize the true Word.

RE: brothagary wrote ///i dont think he is calling all men to set a side traditions if they are of a godly tradition ,/// I do believe he is calling (all) men to examine their traditions in the light of (all) the scripture. And for them to prove to the ir ownelves that their traditional understandings are not making the Word of God of none effect. Many within religiosity have historically as well as currently made the word of God of none effect by their traditions, We all agree on this, like wise in that we all agree, we should all be open to Gods leading thru the scripture of truth to reveal to us personal errors in our traditions and preconcieved understandings and be willing that God change our perspective in the ereas in that He sees fit.

RE brothagary wrote ///paul said in one of his letters if you rember to hold fast to the tradtion taught by word or letter/// Amen, and let me make clear that I am not encouraging us to be tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; Nay but just the exact opposite

RE: brothagary wrote ///maby you have a differnt definition to me regarding orthadoxy ,, but the lord as revived certaint orthodox christianity and blessed them with the baptism of the spirit as a sign of obedance ,,and there was no need to put a side orthadox traditions ,,just fast, prayer and bible stude and preach the word definition orthodoxy "the condition, quality, or practice of conforming, especially in religious belief" <http://www.thefreedictionary.com/orthodoxy>

Lets be orthodox in truth but lets becareful of what religiosity that we conform to.

RE:/// fast, prayer and bible stude and preach the word/// hey now that is some good Orthodoxy!

RE: brothagary wrote ///brother there is live orthadoxy and dead orthodoxy ,as there is weat and tares///

good point

RE: Brothagary wrote ///we should not bundel them all together and burn them angles///

that is why I included in my other post = "I agree though that there is a balance needed within the brotherhood and I believe that, that is the point that you are trying to make, I know we can and do get a blessing from anointed brethren and a nointed preachers but we must needs to be intune and in the Word enough to dictate error, And willing to do as so many of the herroes of Faith of the past and stand alone when so called to."

RE: brothagary wrote ///if your saying get out of the dead liberel orthadox traditions and church ,i agree

bless you///

I would not just limit it to the dead liberals in seeing that there are many whom are conservative and are bound up by traditions and legalism that also have not the truth.

Blessings also to you Brother