

THE BIBLE VIEW

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Theme: False Beliefs

Filling the Empty Spot

Bill Brinkworth

Paul found himself in the world's cultural center, Athens, Greece. As well educated and developed in the arts as the Athenians were, Paul saw something the people were doing that deeply troubled him.

The man of God saw throughout the city idols and other signs that it was immersed in idolatry. On approaching a hill where many judicial duties were performed, Mars Hill, he saw something that concerned him even more about the people there.

There on the hill, he saw an altar dedicated to "The Unknown God." Here were people who had much of what the world desired: money, education, and pleasures. In all this, they were not satisfied. There was something spiritually missing in their lives.

They tried to fill that void with worship of their own design. Still, worshiping their created deities did not fulfill their spiritual needs. "What happens if we leave out a god that we don't know about?" must have been their concern. They then created an altar to a "god" they did not even know about.

The Athenians of Paul's time are no different from many today. People are still not satisfied with who they are or what they have. Most have an innate need that they do not know they have. Throughout their lives, they unconsciously try to satisfy that need.

Pleasure with all its laughs and imaginations does not fill the "empty spot," nor do the degrees that come with their education. Money never fills an insatiable pit. It always seems, no matter how much is collected, that there is just not enough. The searching continues. They try this religion or that religion. All kinds of ways to please a God they do not really know are attempted. They remain "empty."

The "empty spot" everyone has can be filled only through a relationship and fellowship with the real Creator. When it is accomplished the way He requires, not our ways, He will be a part of our lives.

God will be the direction our lives yearn for. He will be the comfort our troubled souls desire. He will be the supplier of all our needs. God is the filler of everyone's "empty spot" when He becomes the Known God to us.

“No God; no peace. Know God; know peace.”

Believe and Ask

Bill Brinkworth

“That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.” Romans 10:9

Next to John 3:16, Romans 10:9 is one of the most memorized and recited verses in the Bible. Within those 29 words is the message that has changed the lives of billions and saved countless souls from an eternal Hell. It contains God’s directions for being saved from punishment for our sins — an eternity in Hell.

The most important step in salvation is confessing. “Confess” is to “own, avow, or acknowledge. To declare a belief in and adherence to” (*Webster, 1828*). We are to acknowledge that Jesus, God’s only son, is alive.

Jesus is not dead; He has risen from the dead. Because God’s son did the “impossible” by overcoming death, He could also make it possible for His death, burial, and resurrection to be the payment for all our sins.

Unlike other religious leaders, whose remains are still on this Earth somewhere, Jesus did what no other man could do. He died for our sins and was buried. On the third day, He rose from the dead by the power of God. There were no remains of His body left on this Earth.

If the truth of Jesus’ death, burial, and resurrection is believed in one’s heart, that person is saved. He can then be assured of a home in Heaven upon death.

Believing that Jesus paid for all our sins is admitting that there is nothing we can do to earn our way to Glory. It was something another did for us. Jesus paid for our sins with His blood and got the victory over death, Hell, and the grave.

Saying we believe in Jesus and still hoping our good works outnumber our bad deeds is not trusting in Jesus Christ’s work alone for our salvation. It is adding something to what He did. The devil believes in Jesus because he has talked to Him, so just believing Jesus exists is not enough.

What is “enough” is believing that Jesus got the victory over death, and that He is the payment for our sins. It is trusting with all our hearts that Jesus is the only Way to Heaven. He is our only hope. That is total belief in what Jesus did for us.

With this belief, we can be saved from what is due us: the penalty for our sins (Romans 6:23). Believe that Jesus died for your sins, confess Him and you can have God’s promise of eternity with Him in Heaven.

The world says, “Seeing is believing,” but Jesus says, “Believing is seeing.”

— *Barbara Brinkworth*

Whosoever!

C. H. Spurgeon

One time, Martin Luther saw, in one of the Roman Catholic churches, a picture of the Pope, cardinals, bishops, priests, monks, and friars all on board a ship. They were all safe.

As for the laity, poor wretches, they were struggling in the sea, and many of them were drowning. Only those were saved to whom the good men in the ship were so kind as to hand out a rope or a plank.

Fortunately, that is not our Lord’s teaching. His blood was shed “for many” (Mat. 26:28) and not for the few. Jesus is not the Christ of a caste, religion, or a class, but the Christ for all people. “*For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.*” *Romans 10:13*

Look It Up!

Bill Brinkworth

In Romans 4, the doctrine of works versus faith is discussed. Paul said (vs. 3) that no matter what biblical teaching is discussed or considered, there should be one concern that must have paramount importance. That concern should be, “For what saith the scripture?...” (vs. 3).

Your opinion or mine has little importance in light of many topics, especially those concerning the things of God. Unfortunately, many people’s beliefs about spiritual things are not based on God’s Word.

Often, people discuss among themselves what they think God’s Word means. Usually, it is just opinions. Dr. Mickey Carter called that kind of belief “fireside religion.” People share their opinions, and often those thoughts turn into lifelong beliefs about the subject, even though they may not be true.

There is one God, and one way to His Heaven. It is not anyone else’s way, no matter how much education, money, or popularity one has. Those things do not matter one iota to God when man’s philosophy does not line up with what He has said in His Word.

If this problem of different opinions were not a reality, there would not be different denominations and religions. Shockingly, many Christian denominations do not even line up with what God has said.

Because the majority of people do not read and study the Scriptures for themselves, the only biblical knowledge they have is what has been expounded from the pulpit. They have assumed that the preacher went to college for biblical studies and must know what he is talking about.

Unfortunately, many who claim to know the Scriptures do not know them or even believe what they teach. I remember being horrified when a pastor many years ago remarked, “Oh yeah, I read the Bible once when I was in college.” Here was supposedly a spiritual leader to hundreds

of people, and he had read the Bible once in his lifetime! His lack of knowledge certainly must have hurt many lives and eternal souls.

A quick study and examination of most religions, and even denominations that are labeled “Christian,” may quickly reveal that:

- Idolatry may be involved in their worship. Many may deny that they are committing idolatry when they stand before a statue and pray or do some “religious” activity before it. However, in God’s eyes, it is still idolatry.
- According to their teachings, Jesus is not the only way to Heaven. Unbiblical teachings often center on good deeds and works that do not please God. Good works will not get anyone into Heaven.
- There are other people of the past that they pray to to get answers to their prayers, help, etc., other than Jesus or God. The Bible says there is only one person (“mediator”) we should pray to, and that is Jesus Christ (1 Tim. 2:5).
- Church teachings and writings have higher importance than the Word of God.
- They often do not know where the Word of God is. Leaders frequently use many different versions of the Bible, each teaching differently, and even use writings from other religions.

Many church doors would be closed shortly if attendees simply asked the same question Paul did about church doctrines. A simple, “I heard what you just preached from the pulpit. Show me in the King James Bible where what you just preached is written down, and I will gladly believe it.” A biblically aligned church leader, or even one answering your query, should not be offended when you earnestly seek “What saith the Lord?”

“If you have truth decay, brush up on the Bible!” — Author Unknown