

Birds of the Bible

Q O X G L N Y L G T R N W F Z R V V V E U H
 N E F Y S H P Q D J X I S T H B F P J K G I
 U R E H L Z P F L Q W G H A E D F I Q C N W
 G X K A A I G Q R S Y H R E R A G G F O L R
 O W L W H D A V Z L O T I X O F E E F C V T
 B R Q K P O P U M C S H E N N O C O J A I A
 O J V S C V I W Q G Z A R I S F W N F E L E
 I P Y P O E K E L N T W T S H O S L H P C B
 F S T Q R S Y A R I I K I J K I V V S K L U
 Q E W P M W F G F W U F P C W P G J E W K H
 W Z R Z O A U L O P R E U T K B R O D F O A
 Q M V T R L Y E X A M C X G X E P J H A A I
 S X U E A L C S G L K J Y W N A S I L R M N
 E O L Q N O L E S F K R A B R Z M R T N A V
 T L T G T W S P V Z B C O T A J B A T C W A
 I J U H S U L T O K T I R T B L X Z I Y J M
 K G R F Y Y M A R S E I T E S R O L P D A W
 N Z E O Q A V K P I D G M T Z E E W U E T N
 H N P J K R Z F V G C X C C E P O E Y V P E
 N P Z D E P T Q E H S H W O R R A P S H F V
 K C B G P S O X H M T Q E B N E N Z J D E A
 K C K W K O S M F Z G P T S A L U S D U W R

Words to Find: doves, nighthawk, peacock, stork, eagles, osprey, pelican, swallow, bat, hawks, ossifrage, pigeon, vulture, bitterns, herons, ostriches, quail, cormorants, kites, owl, raven, cuckoo, lapwing, partridge, sparrow

Answers at: <http://www.openthoumineeyes.com/Puzzles/birds.htm>

Excuses for ...

Continued from Page 3

back and realize they have not been in church for months. Breaking a routine of consistent church attendance is a subtle way of missing church.

Pride: "No one shook my hand." "They are such an unfriendly church;" or "No one is going to tell me what to do."

These thoughts and others reflect that the sin of pride is involved. The sin of pride keeps many out of church.

"Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching." Hebrews 10:25



Sign-up for the weekly e-mail version of the Bible View at: www.OpenThouMineEyes.com

The Bible View

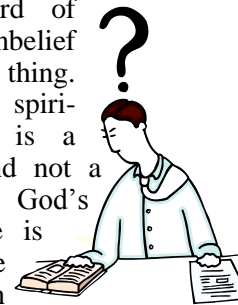



Visit: www.OpenThouMineEyes.com Vol.: 151

Unbelief, As Taught in John

Bill Brinkworth

Many boast of their unbelief in the things of God. According to the Word of God, that unbelief is not a good thing. Unbelief in spiritual things is a weakness and not a strength in God's eyes. Here is what the book of John says about unbelief.



Unbelief questions how.

"Nicodemus answered and said unto him, how can these things be?" John 3:9

Here is a religious man, educated in the finest schools about the things of God, who did not understand what the Son of God was trying to teach him. He did not believe what he heard. Spiritual unbelief often blinds the eyes and deafens the ears of one to the point that they never see or hear what God so patiently is trying to show them.

Continued on Page 2

Excuses for Missing Church

Bill Brinkworth

"Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil." Ephesians 6:11

Daily the Christian must prepare himself to ward off the wiles, or tricks, the devil has for us. His stratagem is to do all he can to keep us from obeying God. One of the areas he prompts us to be disobedient in is in attending church. We cannot blame all of our disobedience on him. Our own pride, laziness, and sinful nature also keep us out of the house of God. Some of the popular excuses in keeping many out of church are:

Church "hopping": Church attendance is a must for Christian growth. God has raised up a pastor of a local church to minister to your needs. When you miss church, you miss what God had for you that day. When you are a member of a church and go to this church today and another one next week, your "hopping" around

Continued on Page 3

Unbelief, ...

Continued from Page 1

Unbelief does not want the things of God.

"... For everyone that doeth evil hated the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved." John 3:19-20

The natural, unsaved man does not want to know about the things of God. It is natural for him to want the things that are only pleasing to the flesh. It is also natural for him to hate the things of God.

Unbelief needs miracles.

"And said Jesus and to him, except ye see signs and wonders, you will not believe." John 4:48

This verse is from a story where a nobleman approached Jesus about healing his son. Jesus, knowing the heart of the man, knew that he would not believe unless he had some visual proof. Too many people today will not believe unless they have proof; and they are still waiting for it. Today, God commands us to live by faith and not by sight.

Unbelief will not be changed by proof.

"... But though he had done so many miracles before them, yet they believed not on him:" John 12:36

Many today claim they would believe in God, if they could only see a miracle. All through

"Man prefers to believe what he prefers to be true."

—Bacon

the Bible people witnessed what God had done, but rarely did it make them believe. Again, God wants us to live by faith.

Unbelief believes only man, not God.

"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 ..." John 5:43-44

People will believe what they see on Oprah, Jerry Springer, what they read in the newspaper, or what they see on the television, but will not believe what God's Word or what the man of God says. They just will not trust God.

Unbelief will send a person to Hell.

"He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him." John 3:36

Many scoff and are proud of their unbelief. God clearly says that if you do not believe in the one that He sent to pay for your sins, you will go to hell.

Unbelief does not fool Jesus
"But there are some of you that believe not. For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were that believed not, and who should betray him." John 6:64

One of Jesus' own followers, Judas, betrayed Him and pointed Him out to be sent to the torture of the cross. Judas looked like, talked like, and acted like the other men of God. Jesus knew, however, that He was not one of His. We have many that talk the

talk, but are not saved themselves. Jesus knows!

Unbelief can prove that one is not a child of God.

"But ye believe not, because ye are not of my sheep, as I said unto you. My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:" John 10:2

A true Christian believes! He believes what he reads in the scriptures, and believes what the Holy Spirit speaks to his heart about.

Unbelief keeps one from learning the Bible.

"Why do ye not understand my speech? even because ye cannot hear my word. ... And because I tell you the truth, ye believe me not." John 8:43-45 Unbelief, not trusting what God has recorded for us, will keep us from ever learning the truth.

Excuses for ...

Continued from Page 1

around keeps you from attending the church God has for you.

Discontentment: If God originally pointed you to that church to join and attend, you need to stay there until He tells you to move! "I'm not happy with the preacher," or "That church is too cold" are not excuses not to attend. The main question should be, "Does God want me to attend there?"

Hurt feelings: All churches are made up of humans. All humans are sinners; therefore there is no perfect church! People will accidentally, or purposely say the wrong things at times. Everyone

gets their feelings hurt sometimes. Again, the question should be, "Did God call me here?" If He did, hurt feelings are not a legitimate reason to leave a church.

Sin: When people are purposely sinning against God, they most often do not want to be reminded of it. Where will they be reminded of it? In church. However, in order to get one's freedom back from the control of sin, one should be hearing the Word of God, not avoiding it.

Conviction: When the Holy Spirit of God speaks to them about their sin, instead of obeying that small voice, they avoid it by keeping out of church. Sometimes they even join another church, where watered-down preaching does not remind them of what God has already spoken to them about.

Lack of understanding of the things of God. Since they do not read their Bible and do not know what it teaches, when they hear hard, convicting preaching from the Bible they stay far away from strong doctrine. Ignorance of the Word of God keeps many from attending a strong, Bible-believing church.

Legitimate reasons, such as sickness, vacations, or work. Sometimes good excuses keep people from attending church for a week or so. That is understandable and happens. However, because they miss, it is easier to miss twice; then three times. Soon it is not long until they look

Continued on Page 4