

Love Letter

"Jesus Wrote In The Sand"

Weekly Newsletter Published and Distributed By the Agape Church of Christ

Agape Church of Christ / Adorn Hall 4165 FM 521 Rd, Fresno, TX 77545

Graylon A. Freeman, Minister



AGAPE
CHURCH OF CHRIST



From The Pen Of A Free Man

"Backyard Religion"

Bro. G. A. Freeman

Is it just imagination, or is history repeating itself? Eccl. 1:9; 3:15. There was time in Israel when there was no government or central authority to see that everything was done right, so "every man did what was right in his own eyes" Jud. 17:6; 18:1; 19:1; Deut. 12:8 — including even building a church in one's own backyard just to suit himself Jud. 17-18.

Micah's church in the backyard seemed like a good idea. It was convenient, and suited his whims to a "T." Only later did he discover some disconcerting and frustrating consequences. He paid a silversmith to make a graven image (something not allowed by the law of Moses) and set it up in his own house (Jud. 17:1-5). Jud. 17:5 tells us that he ordained his own son to be his priest (something only Levites were to do according to the Law – 1 Chron. 23:21-32. Micah even made special garments for his son to wear (like the priests of old). Even Micah realized that not everything was quite right, for when a real Levite came by Micah offered him a salary to be his priest, and that satisfied the Levite quite well Jud. 17:7-13.

Micah built his own faith by borrowing ideas from others. From Judaism, he would take some ideas, and from the nations round about, he would take their seraphim, "household gods" as a tribute to ancestor worship. The ideas taken from here and there resulted in a pitiful, terrible mixture of things as is often the case in a self-pleasing religion. If you read the whole story, things didn't end well. Micah wails as his gods are captured, "You take my gods which I made, and the priest, and go away, and what have I left?" Jud. 18:22-24 ESV. It all fizzled out in the end.

I fear for those today who go about establishing religions and building their own churches according to their desires with ideas taken from a dozen religions and philosophies. What will their end be?

It would be well to remember the apostle Paul's warning: "But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to that which we preached to you, let him be accursed" Gal. 1:8 ESV.

Whatever kind of church you might establish yourself, you will never be able to compete with the one promised by Christ when He said, "I will build my church" Mt. 16:18.

Till The Last Amen

Inside This Issue

Love Letter Headline "Backyard Religion"	1
Agape Corners "God Is Always More"	2
Agape Spotlight Questions To Consider	3
Agape Considerations "If Noah Had Gone With The Crowd"	3
<i>Important Dates</i>	

** Weekly Zoom Thursday
Stay With The Book Re-
search Hour 7:00 pm*

** Weekly Broadcast
The Place Where It Is
Written
Every Monday on Face-
Book and YouTube*

Plan Of Salvation

In order to obey the Gospel and become a Christian, a member of the Church of Christ, which is the Kingdom of Christ (Col. 1:13) which is the body (Col. 1:18).

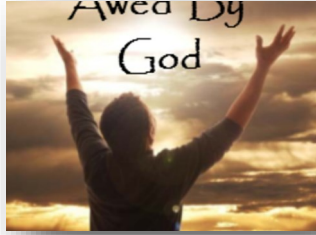
God has provided a scheme of redemption. A Plan of Salvation.

All who obey God, through Christ, must:

1. Hear the Gospel.
Rom. 10:12-17;
1 Cor. 15:1-4
2. Believe in Jesus, as the Christ, the Son of the Living God.
Jn. 8:24
3. Repent of your Sins.
Acts 2:38; 17:30,
Lk. 13:3, 5.
4. Confess Faith In Christ. Rom. 10:9.
5. Be Baptized for the remission of sins.
Mk. 16:16,
Acts 2:38; 22:16
6. The Lord will add you to His Body, which is the church.
Acts 2:47

This is the simple plan of salvation. There are biblical examples of this : Acts 8:26-39.

Dear student of the Bible, follow after the Lord in the same fashion , and you too can be saved.



AGAPE

Corners (Evangelism Ministry)

God Is Always More

God is essentially a mystery. He will remain a mystery (in our fleshly state).

1) God Is More Than Our Names For Him: Just as a person's name doesn't really describe him, the writers of the Bible knew this, so they utilized a variety of names for God, knowing that God could never be completely grasped by a single name.

2) Reverence For God's Name: Wrongful use of God's name is expressly forbidden in the Ten Commandments (Exodus 20:7). Because of this, there is an extraordinary reverence for God's name throughout the Testaments. Ancient Hebrew has no vowels hence the sacred name is YHWH. Since "The Name" was so sacred and for fear of using God's name wrongly, the ancient Jews would only call him "the Holy One", or Adonai, which means "my Lord."

3) God Is More Than Images. Just as in our own lives, images or titles can help us identify someone but really doesn't tell us about his or her character brother, sister, daughter, mother etc. These all imply relationships but nothing about personalities. Because God is a mystery, he defies reduction and will always remain somewhat illusive.

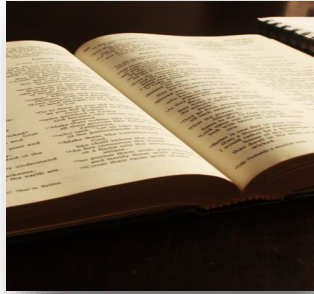
The writers of the Bible knew this and so they developed a variety of images for God. These were titles or images that were familiar to people, and they could relate God to the character that was being described.

4) God Is More Than Human Experience. The Bible provides a variety of ways in which people experienced God. Moses encounters God in a burning bush (Exodus 3); God was revealed to Samuel in his dreams (1 Samuel 3); Ezekiel and Daniel in visions (Ezekiel 1:1; Ezekiel 8:1-4; Daniel 2); Mary through an angelic visit (Luke 1); Jesus in the form of a voice from heaven; Paul, in a vision of the Lord himself (Acts 9).

What emerges is the realization that no two people, not even in the Bible, experience God in the same way. No single experience of God could ever completely capture the mystery of God.

God is always more more than any of us can ever imagine!

AGAPE Spotlight (Highlighting Our Members)



The FAT OF THE LAND

1. What pagan king is the first fat man mentioned in the bible?
2. Which parable of Jesus mentions killing a fatted calf for a grand feast?
3. What prophet predicted a time when the fat of Israel would waste away?
4. What ruler had a curious dream of seven fat cows being devoured by seven scrawny cows?
5. What leader mocked the Israelites foolish enough to sacrifice fat to false gods?
6. What dabbler in the occult cooked a fattened calf and gave it to a distraught king?
7. What prophet condemned the rich of Israel for lying on ivory beds and dining on fatted calves?

Till the last amen.

"Judge me, O Lord; for I have walked in mine integrity: I have trusted also in the Lord; therefore I shall not slide."

Psa. 26:1

AGAPE Considerations (Activity Ministry)



If Noah Had Gone With The Crowd

Even if he by himself must abide.
If one's mind is made up to go the right way,
In his life sin will not be allowed.
For where would you and I be today,
If Noah had gone with the crowd?

It's nice to be where the multitudes throng,
It's easy to go with the crowd;
But many a time the crowd is all wrong,
Though claims that it's right are loud.
Whenever one sees others take the wrong way,
Though unable to stem the tide;
He must not let the crowd lead him astray,

AGAPE Salutations

We, the Church of Christ, who meet at the Adorn Hall in Fresno, TX, are delighted that you have received this particular edition of the "Love Letter," a weekly publication which highlights important events and featured articles by our Minister and staff.

When you have the opportunity we would be elated to welcome you to any and all of our services at the congregation.

It is our great joy to proclaim the glad tidings of Christ, His Kingdom and His glorious gospel.

AGAPE
CHURCH OF CHRIST

Agape Church of Christ
Adorn Banquet Hall (Rear Entrance)
4165 FM 521 Rd, Fresno, TX 77545

Phone:
832-377-6785
Website: agapecoc.org

PLEASE
PLACE
STAMP
HERE

