

own churches because so many churches today are feeding their people with shallow, catchy, heavily illustrated sermons with clever sayings that tickle ears. Much of 'Christian Television' is an example of this. I have personally seen sermons on Christian television where the audiences seem enthralled and are taking copious notes from material that has almost no biblical root whatsoever! It is amazing to watch people so deceived that they are hungrily eating what they think is 'meat', but is really the latest psychology with a Scripture or two attached for dressing! The apostle Paul encourages us to 'renounce the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves *to every man's conscience in the sight of God. But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom the god of this world has blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them. For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake*', (2Cor.4:2-5).

Paul here encourages 'honesty' in handling the word of God as well as the courage to challenge peoples minds, (vs.2). Our understanding must be this: - the gospel is naturally 'hidden' to the unsaved because Satan has 'blinded' their eyes, (vs.3,4). We cannot therefore naturally entice people with modern craftily built methods in handling the word of God. ..

Many churches today simply do not believe that the word of God in itself alone has enough power to literally change lives. This is seen in the methods and new programmes churches today so easily adopt. They have subtly concluded that the gap between the glory of Christ and the felt needs of the human in this age, is simply too great for the fullness of God's word to overcome. The result is a 'reduction' of the Word of God. I realize many of the ways we 'do church' are adapted to the culture but what we teach and preach must be strictly biblical. Culture does not define the word of God; the word of God overrides and must speak *to the culture. The Bible is the only inspired and infallible revelation of God.*

Terry Arnold



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Please feel free to contact the Pastor for any needs you may have, queries, or questions about our church family.

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Central Mountains Baptist Church

20 JUNE, 2010

Information for Visitors.

* We're glad you're here. Sit back, relax, and enjoy the service. You're very welcome to join us for a cuppa after church.

* a Kid's Church and creche is normally provided, during the sermon for the **toddler to primary age bracket**. Please ask for details.

How Powerful is the Bible?

This editorial is unashamedly an appeal and encouragement to pastors, elders, teachers and anyone who handles the word of God or shares it in any way with others. That includes most, if not all of us.

Each week people write or phone and complain that churches they have attended simply do not preach or teach 'from the Bible'. There are many large towns in Australia that now have barely one or two churches that are still truly Bible based and uncompromised with doctrine. Most churches today have adopted liberal inclusive thinking, 'seeker sensitive' or 'emergent church' growth methods, psychology, music with shallow lyrics, women elders/pastors/preachers and other unbiblical or new forms of worship.

Many subscribers to this newsletter are simply starving for 'meat' in their





Discipleship Series

Why be Baptist?

The issues associated with the question "Why be Baptist?" are best discussed under two headings :

1. A statement of the _____,

B Bible as our sole _____,

(2 Timothy 3:16-17) "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, [17] that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work."

(2 Peter 1:3) "as His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue,"

A Autonomy of the _____,

(Matthew 18:17) "'And if he refuses to hear them, tell it to the church. But if he refuses even to hear the church, let him be to you like a heathen and a tax collector."

P _____ of believers

(1 Peter 2:9) "But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;"

T Two _____,

I Individual _____,

(Acts 4:19) "But Peter and John answered and said to them, "Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you more than to God, you judge."

S _____, _____ membership

(Acts 2:41) "Then those who gladly received his word were baptized; and that day about three thousand souls were added to them."

T Two _____,

(Acts 20:28) "'Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.

S Separation of _____ and _____



2. Issues arising out of the _____, 1 Corinthians 1:11-13, 3:1-4

◆ Do we care about the Baptist _____?

◆ Can we dispense with the _____ "Baptist", then?

◆ But doesn't that make our church _____?

(Acts 20:29-31) "For I know this, that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock. {30} Also from among yourselves men will rise up, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after themselves. {31} Therefore watch, ..."

(Romans 16:17) "Now I urge you, brethren, note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them."

(Titus 3:10) "Reject a divisive man after the first and second admonition,"

