

"The man who tells you truth does not exist is asking you not to believe him. So don't."

| | April 2 | April 9 |
|------------------------|--------------|---------------|
| Song leader (SS) | Tim Waldron | TJ Waldron |
| Announcements | Jr. Conner | Joe Green |
| Sunday | Wayne Gannon | Tim Waldron |
| Scripture reading | Andy Miller | Wayne Gannon |
| Opening prayer | Jr. Conner | James Mason |
| Table service (center) | Ken Thomas | Tim Waldron |
| (center) | Nick Graham | Cole Gordon |
| (outside) | Daniel Green | TJ Waldron |
| (outside) | Brian Dennis | Daniel Gordon |
| Closing Prayer | Joe Green | Lee Rose |

Continued from front - to obey all that God has commanded His followers as we "diligently seek him" (Hebrews 11:6). The Scriptures tell us that Christ "became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him" (Hebrews 5:9), thus we want to obey Him in all things. Concerning "methods of intimidation and pressure tactics," it is possible that Ruhkala has confused the Lord's church with the International Churches of Christ ("Boston Movement"), a group that does use anti-Biblical methods in order to gain converts to their religion. The Lord's church, however, does not use such "tactics."

3) "Well, they claim that if you're not baptized by one of their ministers, that you're doomed to hell." Ruhkala here makes an allegation without any proof, and it is not a new allegation. Denominationalists have long accused the Lord's church with this very thing, but it is without any merit whatsoever. If the person being baptized understands what he is doing, that it is for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38), and that the Lord will add him to His church (Acts 2:47), then it matters not who is administering the baptism. As to the necessity of baptism for salvation, that is clearly revealed in God's Word. Read Mark 16:16, Acts 2:38, Acts 22:16, Romans 6:3-6, Galatians 3:27, and I Peter 3:21. How can one

Record of our attendance:

| Date | Classes | AM | PM | Cont. | Wed. |
|-------|------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-------|-----------|
| 02/19 | 19 | 34 | 19 | \$593 | 22 |
| 02/26 | Not recorded in a timely way | | | | |
| 03/05 | 19 | 37 | 21 | \$579 | 24 |
| 03/12 | 22 | 35 | 22 | \$618 | 18 |
| 03/19 | 22 | 31 | | | |
| 03/26 | | | | | |
| Goals | 25 | 45 | 36 | | 35 |

read these passages

and still believe that baptism is not required by the Lord?

4) "It kind of is a borderline cult, unfortunately....The tactics that they use are sometimes just – not only un-biblical but unethical, and they can be very ungracious, unfortunately." In what sense is the church of Christ a cult? According to Ruhkala, his assessment is based on the "exclusivism" of the church. He calls it a "narrow sect." It's ironic that he should use those words. Jesus described the way unto life as "narrow" (Matthew 7:14); that way was considered a "sect" in the first century as well, and "everywhere it is spoken against" (Acts 28:22). Things have not changed much in the past 2 millennia. We must "be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear" (I Peter 3:15).

Do not let errorists such as Tom Ruhkala intimidate you, but rather "be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord" (I Corinthians 15:58).

Jason Carter, Park City, KY

Beech Grove Church of Christ

meeting at Beech Grove, TN since 1875

Highway 41 near I-24 exit 97

Phone 931-394-2305

<http://www.homestead.com/KenThomasHomepage/BeechGroveChurch.html>

Kenneth L. Thomas, minister - 615-890-6959

April 2, 2006

A RESPONSE TO FALSE CHARGES

On Monday, March 27, 2006, Nancy Grace hosted a prime-time segment on CNN about the recent tragedy that occurred in Selmer, Tennessee. She had a number of guests on the program, most of whom attempted to offer some insight to the legal situation as it unfolds. One of her guests, however, was there for a different reason. Grace asked Tom Ruhkala, a Baptist minister, "I've been researching the Church of Christ. I don't know that much about it. What can you tell me?" Why Grace chose to have a Baptist on the program to tell her about the "Church of Christ" is beyond me. Ruhkala's response was full of misconceptions and untruths. Let's examine a few of those false charges leveled against the bride of Christ.

1) "Well, the Church of Christ is a relatively new church. It was started about 150 years ago by Alexander Campbell." The church of Christ actually dates back nearly 2000 years to the Day of Pentecost, around 30 A.D. Beginning then, all who repent and are baptized for the remission of sins are added to the church by the Lord (Acts 2:47). Alexander Campbell did not start the church of Christ, though he did do a great deal of good to bring restoration ideals to the minds of people and he is to be commended for that.

2) "And it's, unfortunately, a very legalistic sect, and they tend to use methods of intimidation and pressure tactics." Legalism is defined, "Strict, literal adherence to the law or to a particular code, as of religion or morality" Normally, in a religious context this term is used derogatorily and carries with it the connotation that the laws which are bound by man are not bound by God. Certainly, we do not seek to obey commands that are nonexistent or to make up new laws for man to obey; such is squarely against New Testament teaching (Revelation 22:18-19). We do, however, seek (Continued on back)



Schedule of Services

Sunday:

Bible Classes 10 AM

Worship 11 AM
6 PM

Wednesday:

Bible Classes 7 PM

Mission Works

Restoration Radio
Jim Waldron
Manuelito Children's
Home

Mail: P.O. Box 85
Beech Grove, TN 37018

Visitors

**Always
Welcome**



Bible Search

by Kenneth L. Thomas

Questions for week of April 2

- Two females had stork-like wings. According to what a prophet saw, what was in their wings?
- Who originally wanted to kill a man due to criticism of his own illicit relationship with another man's wife, but put him in prison instead?
- What will eventually cover the man whose breasts are full of milk and also the man who never eats with pleasure?
- What congregation was alive in "name only", but was considered dead by the Lord?
- Before Jesus was crucified, he suffered the indignity of being spat on. What other Bible character complained that young people had done the same to him?
- What group was gathered behind closed doors because they were afraid if the Jews?
- Who were these people . . . Nergalsharezer, Samgarnebo, Sarsechim, Rabsaris, Nergalsharezer, Rabmag?

Answers for week of March 26

- What Jewish priest and his sons were using the names of Jesus and Paul in attempted exorcisms?**
Answer: Sceva. Acts 19:13 Then certain of the vagabond Jews, exorcists, took upon them to call over them which had evil spirits the name of the Lord Jesus, saying, We adjure you by Jesus whom Paul preacheth. 14 And there were seven sons of one Sceva, a Jew, and chief of the priests, which did so. 15 And the evil spirit answered and said, Jesus I know, and Paul I know; but who are ye? 16 And the man in whom the evil spirit was leaped on them, and overcame them, and prevailed against them, so that they fled out of that house naked and wounded.
---- I think it is humorous to think of the evil spirits saying they know Paul and Jesus. But to Sceva and his sons. . . "WHO ARE YOU!"
- Where was Sherezzer sent, and for what purpose?**
Answer: He was sent, along with Regemmelech and

their men, to the "house of God (temple). They were sent to pray and to ask the priests and prophets about whether they should weep in the fifth month as they had customarily done. [Some translations say (in verse 2) that they were sent by people of Bethel.]

Several special days of weeping and fasting were established during the 70 year captivity to commemorate the destruction of the temple, the murder of Gedeliah, etc. These were man-made, man-ordained observances, not that which the Lord had appointed. I believe that accounts for verses 4-6 which record the Lord's reply. They did not need to be as concerned about their observances as about practicing God-ordained principles. This passage is one I have not studied closely, but I believe it merits more consideration. Zec 7:1 "And it came to pass in the fourth year of king Darius, that the word of the LORD came unto Zechariah in the fourth day of the ninth month, even in Chisleu; {2} When they had sent unto the house of God Sherezzer and Regemmelech, and their men, to pray before the LORD, {3} And to speak unto the priests which were in the house of the LORD of hosts, and to the prophets, saying, Should I weep in the fifth month, separating myself, as I have done these so many years? {4} Then came the word of the LORD of hosts unto me, saying, {5} Speak unto all the people of the land, and to the priests, saying, When ye fasted and mourned in the fifth and seventh month, even those seventy years, did ye at all fast unto me, even to me? {6} And when ye did eat, and when ye did drink, did not ye eat for yourselves, and drink for yourselves? {7} Should ye not hear the words which the LORD hath cried by the former prophets, when Jerusalem was inhabited and in prosperity, and the cities thereof round about her, when men inhabited the south and the plain? {8} And the word of the LORD came unto Zechariah, saying, {9} Thus speaketh the LORD of hosts, saying, Execute true judgment, and show mercy and compassions every man to his brother: {10} And oppress not the widow, nor the fatherless, the stranger, nor the poor; and let none of you imagine evil against his brother in your heart. {11} But they refused to hearken, and pulled away the shoulder, and stopped their ears, that they should not hear. {12} Yea, they made their hearts as an adamant stone, lest they should hear the law, and the words which the LORD of hosts hath sent in his spirit by the former prophets: therefore came a great wrath from the LORD of hosts. {13} Therefore it is come to pass, that as he cried, and they would not hear; so they cried,

and I would not hear, saith the LORD of hosts: {14} But I scattered them with a whirlwind among all the nations whom they knew not. Thus the land was desolate after them, that no man passed through nor returned: for they laid the pleasant land desolate."

3. After a quartet of previously unsuccessful efforts to discourage a Jewish building project, who made his next attack by written words? (He sent a letter carrier with a fabricated written charge of rebellion, and accusations that the leader of the project had the motive of becoming a monarch himself?)

Answer - Sanballat. Nehemiah 6:1 Now it came to pass, when Sanballat, and Tobiah, and Geshem the Arabian, and the rest of our enemies, heard that I had builded the wall, and that there was no breach left therein; (though at that time I had not set up the doors upon the gates;) 2 That Sanballat and Geshem sent unto me, saying, Come, let us meet together in some one of the villages in the plain of Ono. But they thought to do me mischief. 3 And I sent messengers unto them, saying, I am doing a great work, so that I cannot come down: why should the work cease, whilst I leave it, and come down to you? 4 Yet they sent unto me four times after this sort; and I answered them after the same manner. 5 Then sent Sanballat his servant unto me in like manner the fifth time with an open letter in his hand; 6 Wherein was written, It is reported among the heathen, and Gashmu saith it, that thou and the Jews think to rebel: for which cause thou buildest the wall, that thou mayest be their king, according to these words. 7 And thou hast also appointed prophets to preach of thee at Jerusalem, saying, There is a king in Judah: and now shall it be reported to the king according to these words. Come now therefore, and let us take counsel together. 8 Then I sent unto him, saying, There are no such things done as thou sayest, but thou feignest them out of thine own heart. 9 For they all made us afraid, saying, Their hands shall be weakened from the work, that it be not done. Now therefore, O God, strengthen my hands.

Sanballat's "open letter" (a grave insult in any man's language) contained two false accusations against Nehemiah: you intend to rebel and set yourself up as king, and you intend to prophesy of such claims in Jerusalem. Then he had the audacity to say, "Come, let us take counsel together."

Nehemiah's response was not to defend himself but merely to say that there was no such thing going on and that the accusations arose out of Sanballat's own imagination.

There is a lot of this kind of thing going on today!

4. Find the five passages where death is described as something that is "tasted".

Answer: Matthew 16:28 Verily I say unto you, There be some standing here, which shall not taste of death, till they see the Son of man coming in his kingdom. **Mark 9:1** And he said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That there be some of them that stand here, which shall not taste of death, till they have seen the kingdom of God come with power. **Luke 9:27** But I tell you of a truth, there be some standing here, which shall not taste of death, till they see the kingdom of God. **John 8:52** Then said the Jews unto him, Now we know that thou hast a devil. Abraham is dead, and the prophets; and thou sayest, If a man keep my saying, he shall never taste of death. **Hebrews 2:9** But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.

5. What city was told to wash its heart?

Answer: Jerusalem (Jer 4:14 KJV) "O Jerusalem, wash thine heart from wickedness, that thou mayest be saved. How long shall thy vain thoughts lodge within thee?"

6. What two varieties of lumber were floated to King Solomon for his building project?

Answer: Cedar and fir. 1 Kings 5:8 And Hiram sent to Solomon, saying, I have considered the things which thou sentest to me for: and I will do all thy desire concerning timber of cedar, and concerning timber of fir. 9 My servants shall bring them down from Lebanon unto the sea: and I will convey them by sea in floats unto the place that thou shalt appoint me, and will cause them to be discharged there, and thou shalt receive them: and thou shalt accomplish my desire, in giving food for my household. 10 So Hiram gave Solomon cedar trees and fir trees according to all his desire.

Cf. 1 Kings 6:15; 1 Kings 9:11; 2 Chron 2:8-9

7. Pillars in Solomon's temple porch were named. What was the name of the one on the left?

Answer: Boaz. 1 Kings 7:21 And he set up the pillars in the porch of the temple: and he set up the right pillar, and called the name thereof Jachin: and he set up the left pillar, and he called the name thereof Boaz.