

## Things Which God Has Joined Together, No. 2

### Introduction:

1. In the sermons last Lord's day we discussed a topic entitled "Things Which God Has Joined Together," a lesson based upon Matt.19:3-6.
2. In that study we noted the question the Pharisees asked Jesus, "Is it lawful for a man to put away his wife for every cause," v. 3, and then we observed:
  - a. The Lord's immediate reply, vs. 4-5.
  - b. The necessary conclusion of the principle set forth: "what therefore God hath joined together, let not man put asunder," v. 6.
    - (1) We observed that to "put asunder" is to separate or to divide. Man is forbidden separate, divide, or "put asunder" that which **God** has joined together.
3. We then made application of that principle – there are some things God has "joined together," and which man is forbidden to "put asunder," namely:
  - a. A lawfully married husband and wife.
  - b. The words of Jesus and the rest of the New Testament.
  - c. Faith and obedience.
  - d. Baptism and Salvation.
  - e. The blood of Jesus and Baptism.
  - f. Jesus Christ and the church.
  - g. God and Christ.
4. In this study we shall consider some other "things which God has Joined Together," and which man must not attempt to "put asunder."

### Discussion: God Has "Joined Together:"

#### I. Hearing the Word and Faith.

- A. Faith Defined:
  1. Heb. 11:1.
- B. The Necessity of Faith.
  1. Heb. 11:6; John 8:24; Mark 16:16b.
  2. 2 Cor. 5:7; Rom. 14:23.
- C. How Faith is obtained:
  1. It comes by "hearing, and hearing by the word of God," Rom. 10:17.
  2. Other Scriptures: Gal. 3:2; Acts 4:4; Acts 15:7; Acts 18:5,8; I Thess. 2:13.
  3. If we want to build up our faith, we should avail ourselves of each opportunity to hear the word of God proclaimed, and we should daily search the Scriptures.

#### II. Forgiveness and a Forgiving Heart.

- A. All of our have sinned!
  1. Rom. 3:10,23; I John 1:8,10.
- B. Sin is what separates people from God.
  1. Isaiah 59:1-2.
  2. Hence, it is imperative that we receive God's forgiveness!
    - a. Luke 23:34; Acts 2:38; 22:16; Col. 2:12-13; Rom. 4:7.
- C. But if we refuse to forgive others God will not forgive us
  1. Matt. 6:12-15; Mark 12:25-26; Luke 17:3-4.
  2. It is often been observed that those who refuse to forgive others destroy the bridge upon which they themselves have to travel.
  3. Eph. 4:31,32.

#### III. Discipleship and Fruitfulness.

- A. The Objective of the Great Commission is to "Make disciples," Matt. 18:18-19.
  1. Those who obeyed the gospel were called "disciples." Acts 6:1,7; 9:1,26; 20:7, etc.
- B. A Disciple (*Mathetes*) Is:
  1. A person who learns and follows "one's teaching," Vine.
    - a. Cf. Disciples of John, Matt. 9:14.
    - b. Of Moses, John 9:28.

- c. Of the Pharisees, Matt. 22:16.
- d. Of Jesus, John 6:66; John 8:31,32.
- 2. A disciple is also an imitator of the one of whom he is a disciple, Matt. 10:24-25; Luke 6:40
- C. The Disciples were "*called Christians*," Acts 11:26.
- D. True discipleship demands that we be fruitful, John 15:1-8, 16..
  - 1. Note verse 8: "*Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be My disciples.*"
  - 2. Fruitfulness is evidenced when we:
    - a. Develop the qualities called "*the fruit of the Spirit*," Gal. 5:22-23.
    - b. Win souls for the Lord, 2 Tim. 2:2.
      - (1) Fruit borne is the result of seed down.
      - (2) We must sow the seed of the kingdom, Luke 8:11.

#### IV. The Lord's Supper and the Assembly.

- A. Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper.
  - 1. Matt. 26:26-29; Mark 14:22-25; Luke 22:19-20.
  - 2. First century Christians partook of the Lord's supper, Acts 2:42; 20:7; I Cor. 11:23-28.
  - 3. They partook of the Lord's Supper when they "*came together*," Acts 20:7; I Cor. 11:33-34.
- B. The Lord's Supper is a subject around which much error centers.
  - 1. Evidenced among Catholics and people in various denominations.
  - 2. Also evidenced among brethren:
    - a. We hear it said "the Lord's Supper is the **most important** part of our worship."
      - (1) It is important, but where is the scripture which says it is "the most important part?"
    - b. Consequently, believing it is "the most important part of our worship," some have been known to:
      - (1) Assemble until the Lord's supper is served and then leave.
      - (2) Take the elements of the Lord's supper to the homes of the sick where they partake of it separately and individually.
- C. Proper Observance of the Lord's Supper involves:
  - 1. The Lord's day, Acts 20:7.
  - 2. The Lord's people, Acts 20:7.
  - 3. The assembly, Acts 20:7; I Cor. 11:33-34.
  - 4. The proper elements, Matt. 26:26-29.
  - 5. The proper attitude, I Cor. 11:23-26.

#### V. Faithfulness to God and a Crown of Life.

- A. Faithfulness (from *Pistos*) means "to be trusted, reliable," Vine.
- B. God is Faithful.
  - 1. I Cor. 1:9; 10:13; 2 Tim. 2:13; Heb. 10:23.
- C. Christ is faithful.
  - 1. Heb. 2:17; 3:1; Rev. 1:5; 3:14.
- D. The Word of God is faithful.
  - 1. Acts 13:34; I Tim. 1:15; 3:1; Titus 1:9.
- E. We must be Faithful!
  - 1. Matt. 25:21,23; I Cor. 4:2,17; 2 Tim. 2:2.
- F. We must be faithful unto death, Rev. 2:10,13.
  - 1. Not simply faithful until we die of natural causes at a "ripe old age," but faithful, even if it means being a martyr for the cause of Christ. Cf. 2 Tim. 4:6-8.

#### Conclusion:

- 1. Yes, there are many things which God has "*joined together*," and which man must not "*put asunder*."
- 2. Included in these things which God has "*joined together*" is obedience to the gospel of Christ and forgiveness of sins, Acts 2:36-41.
- 3. Have you obeyed the gospel of Christ?

--Bobby Witherington, Nov. 15, 2015