

"... for we cannot stop speaking about what we have seen and heard."

Acts 4:19-20

Store In My Heart Micah 4:1-2

It shall come to pass in the latter days that the mountain of the house of the Lord shall be established as the highest of the mountains, and it shall be lifted up above the hills; and peoples shall flow to it, and many nations shall come, and say: "Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob, that he may teach us his ways and that we may walk in his paths." For out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem.

Yes, that passage is in Micah. Micah prophesied near the time Israel was taken captive by Assyria. His warnings and message of hope were needed but not heeded by those in Judah. The coming salvation was prominent in the hopeful passages of his writing.

Such promises help verify the identity of Jesus as Messiah. We live in the promised time. Do I heed and walk in His Path?



The Original Originals

Doy Moyer

Let's say there are some original practices of an original group of people. That group of people is known as the "Originals." The Originals put those practices down in writing so that later people will know what the Originals actually believed and practiced. They also warned that getting away from what is written and taught originally would result in being led astray from the intent and blessings brought by following the Originals. If others, then, want to be part of Originality, they would seek to read what the Originals said and strive to practice the same.

Now let's say that a few hundred years pass. The original Originals are long gone, but their practices and beliefs are well documented. All these centuries later people are still calling themselves Originals and claiming they are following the original Originals. However, what these later ones believe and practice have changed significantly from what the Originals documented. They are now justifying evil actions that the first Originals did not practice and would never have endorsed. Yet because these later people are still using the name "The Originals," others who are overtly non-Originals have come to identify "Originality" with the latter group. Consequently, Originality is identified with evils from that point forward. Many then assume that is what Originality was all about from the beginning, even though they are perfectly capable of checking out the documents of the original Originals.

Fast forward a few more centuries. Now there are all kinds of claims to "Originality." Those who hate Originality charge that Originality is filled with evils, hatred, and divisions. To prove this, they point back a few centuries to those who claimed to be Originals but who practiced what the first Originals would have also considered evil. In other words, to try to prove what Originality is about, they point to pseudo-Originality. Consequently, their argument has nothing to do with the original Originals, but only those who have co-opted the name and practiced what is twisted and evil.

How, then, is anyone to identify true Originality? Everyone would know the obvious answer. They would go back to the first Originals. Going back to a time when people wore the name but practiced the evils that betrayed the name would be an obvious blunder.

You know where this is going. How are we to identify what Christ and the apostles intended to be believed and practiced by Christians? Pointing to the Crusades or early American slavery to demonstrate the “evils of Christianity” is baseless and faulty. This is why we want to look to the originals (i.e., Jesus and His chosen apostles) to see what Christians are really supposed to be (cf. **Ephesians 2:19-21**). Christianity as a whole is not defined by progressive steps over time initiated by uninspired men seeking to do their own will. Those who seek to do God’s will and “deny self” are not to be so brazen.

When Paul met with the shepherds from Ephesus, he sternly warned them:

“I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, to draw away the disciples after them. Therefore be alert, remembering that for three years I did not cease night or day to admonish every one with tears. And now I commend you to God and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up and to give you the inheritance among all those who are sanctified.” (**Acts 20:29-32**, ESV)

The threat of apostasy was recognized and warned about from the beginning, and the apostles were clear about it. There would be those who “depart from the faith” (**1Timothy 4:1-4**). Certain people would “creep in unnoticed” and pervert the grace of God (**Jude 3-4**). False prophets would arise and lead others astray (**2Peter 2**). Many deceivers were going “out into the world” (**2John 7**). The warnings are there. Christians are to “test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world” (**1John 4:1**). If Christianity were meant to be a progressive movement that significantly changed over time, then such warnings are meaningless. Change in teachings and practice would have been welcomed. Yet the warnings were given to avoid such.

If we are going to define what it means to be a Christian, let’s not try to do it by pointing to people and practices well beyond what the documents of the originals teach. Rather, let Christ and His apostles define it for us. Then, the issue is simply whether or not we will conform to Jesus and His expressed will.

“So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, ‘If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.’” (**John 8:31-32**) Freedom from sin is based on Jesus and His word. True disciples will remain therein. Is this our goal today?

Contact Us

We like opportunities to speak with others about the Lord.

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The
CHURCH OF CHRIST
MEETS HERE



10:20 AM • Sunday Worship Service
5:00 PM • Sunday Night Bible Study
7:00 PM • Wednesday Bible Study

For Our Information

Jim Soliday has an appointment with the ablation doctor.

Vickie McNees is having more severe headaches but less often & an arthritis Dr appointment in September.

Stanley Hurst has knee replacement surgery September 10th.

John LaValla will be wearing a heart monitor again.

Deborah Brooke's son, **Michael** is still in ICU Houston. They are still trying to balance blood clotting and loss of blood.

Leta Rivera still has shortness of breath & dizziness.

Sunday Evening – **Isaiah 26:10** Wednesday – **3John**
Gospel Meeting - Zach Redmon - September 28 - October 2