

The Elgin Hills Examiner

“...examining the scriptures daily, whether these things were so”
(Acts 17:11)

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81 Elgin Hills Dr., Rogersville, AL 35652

A cordial welcome awaits you at the services of the
Elgin Hills Church Of Christ
Sunday 9:00 a.m. Bible Classes
10:00 a.m. Worship
4:00 p.m. Worship
Wednesday 7:00 p.m. Bible Classes
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Visit us on the web at elginhillschurchofchrist.org

Claims that Make the Bible Special

It is one thing to make a claim; it is a completely different matter to prove the claim.

When we consider all books in existence, very few make claims that they are inspired or from God. That being the case, the Bible is therefore removed from the category of “just another book.” It is special just because of its claims.

Of course, a claim does not prove anything; it simply states something as true. When one makes a claim to something, logically it is either true or false. If the claim is true, there will be evidences indicating such. If false, such will likewise be the case.

Our study Saturday night will deal more with *evidences* and a historical approach that support claims of the Bible being from God. You should make every effort to be present for this important discussion. Audio CD's also will be made for anyone at no charge.

Much is at stake because of what the Bible claims. After all, if it is what it claims to be, God's word, then all it says on every matter must be extremely important!

1. Jesus is the only way to God and heaven eternally. Jesus made this claim, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me” (John 14:6). Especially in the gospel of John, Jesus' unique relation to the Father is emphasized (see John 3:16 – He gave “his only begotten son”). By unique, we do not mean unusual, but *one and only one of a kind*. Jesus claimed that no one had the kind of relation that He had with the Father (see John 5:17-18 and also Matthew 11:27). He claimed throughout His ministry to have been “sent from” God (John 10:36 and others). He claimed that His purpose was to give his life a ransom for sin (Matt. 20:28). In minute details He predicted His own death (Matt. 16:21), as well as His own resurrection (Matt. 12:40). Evidence given in the Scripture is that by the miracles He performed such as raising Lazarus from the dead, His claims to being able to raise us from the dead and give us eternal life were proved true (see John 11:24-25).

You are cordially invited to a
**Saturday Night Bible
Discussion**

with the

Elgin Hills

Church Of Christ

February 2, 2008

6:00 p.m.

Bob Waldron, preaching

Subject: *How We Got The Bible*

- **Is the Bible a compilation of fabricated stories by misguided people in a formerly superstitious age, or is it what it claims to be, God's revelation of Himself to man?**
- **Even if it were given by God originally, did it undergo corruption, changes, additions, and deletions so that we can not know now what was originally given?**
- **Visit with us Saturday night for a rich discussion of this important subject.**
- **Question & Answer period following lecture.**

God's power required in raising Jesus' body from the dead accomplished at least two things. First, it substantiated Jesus' claims concerning His being raised from the dead as true. Second, it verified the unique relation He had claimed with the Father. God the Father performed a miracle on the very body of Jesus raising it from the dead. This then became an external proof of all Jesus had earlier claimed and was the "miracle of miracles" that God used to declare Jesus' deity (see Romans 1:1-4).

Jesus' claims constitute a type of "package deal." If He is who He claimed to be, then everything about which He spoke is true. If He is not who He claimed to be, no one could logically have confidence in anything He said about any subject! This "package deal" logically makes it *impossible* for one to be neutral about Jesus Christ as the only way to God and heaven for this reason: If Jesus were not who He claimed to be, then He was a fraud, liar, and was not only not God's Son, but His words were not worthy of any consideration whatsoever. Why would anyone consider carefully the words of a total liar?! Further, it is logically foolish to believe "some" of what Jesus said, use it as a valuable guide to life, but reject other matters. Therefore, Jesus' claims make Him and the Bible special.

2. Claims of *eternal* punishment or happiness based on one's rejection or acceptance of the Bible are made. Few books in comparison make this claim. Some that have made such claims are already on the ash heap of history, proved beyond doubt as fraudulent. However, in no uncertain terms, the New Testament claims to be the standard by which all people will be judged who have lived from the time the gospel was first preached and on. Jesus said, "He who rejects Me, and does not receive my words, has that which judges him – the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day" (John 12:48). Paul claimed that judgment would be administered by Jesus Christ (Acts 17:30-31), that the standard by which all people will be judged is the gospel He preached (Rom. 2:16), and that eternal life and joy with God or eternal pain and suffering in hell are the only two destinies in which all humanity will one day dwell (Rom. 2:1-16).

These are tremendously awesome claims. If true, we should read and study carefully all the Bible says since we will have our "final exam" one day which will fix our destiny for all eternity. On the other hand, if these claims are based on falsehoods, that Jesus is not God's Son, that Paul was really not speaking God's word, then logically none of it is important and no one should be concerned. It would also mean that all the existence mankind will experience is this life. At death, one ceases to exist. Do you understand why these claims make the Bible special?

3. The Bible claims that it is an all-sufficient guide for all people until the end of time. This is implied in the preceding point. If the Bible claims that the gospel is that by which we will be judged (Rom. 2:16), and that it is to continue until the end of time (I Peter 1:24-25), then that necessary implies its usefulness as a guide for life.

Furthermore, it specifically claims the same for itself in no uncertain terms. Concerning the Scripture itself, Paul claimed that it is "profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work" (II Timothy 3:16-17). This is a claim that all we need to know about God as well as ourselves spiritually, all we need to know concerning our mistakes, how to make them right, and how to live "right" lives is found in the Scripture itself. By this the "man of God" can be "complete," or all-sufficiently provided for to make him equipped for every good work. What a claim! If true, we need to follow it. If not true, such a false claim makes the whole unworthy of any consideration.

Claims the Bible makes are tremendous. Because of this alone it is special. However, because of evidences that prove it is what it claims to be, these facts become foundations for our faith in Jesus Christ as our savior, king, and judge in the final day. Consequently, we should humble ourselves before Him as we learn of Him through the Scripture, and submit to His every precept.

We who compose the Elgin Hills church of Christ are eager to help in these matters. Let us know how we can help in any way. Contact us at shown on the back of this paper, and visit with us. – *Phillip Owens*

The Lord's Church & Man-Made Churches

The number of new churches started by men and based upon a human standard has grown rapidly over the past century in this country. Their creation and continued existence reflect the unbelief and arrogant self-will of their builders, and the gullibility of those who have joined them. Apparently the church of Jesus Christ is unknown to them, or they value their own wishes above the desire of Jesus Christ that all His followers be united (Jno. 17:20-23). They reject the only standard by which unity can be achieved as God planned it, that standard being the New Testament and also designated as the New Covenant (Eph. 4:1-6; Heb. 8:8-13).

Catchy names and loose and liberal practices appeal to the self-indulgent and those ready always to follow some new thing (2 Pet. 2:18,19). Cowboy Church, Bikers' Church, Church for Men, Homosexuals' Church, National David Spiritual Temple Of Christ Church Union (Inc.), U.S.A., Willing Workers Fellowship, New Vision Ministries, Destiny, Peace, or whatever name one may choose to distinguish his new creation, all such plants which the Lord did not plant will be rooted up (Matt. 15:13). God's Word still stands as a light to a dark world.

Jesus built His church (Matt. 16:18), purchasing it with His own blood (Acts 20:28). He set the conditions for membership (Acts 2:41; Mk. 16:16; 1 Cor. 12:12-14; Gal. 3:26,27). He gave it His Law, the Gospel of Christ, the Law of Liberty (Jno. 8:31,32; Jas. 1:25). He authorized its form of worship (Jno. 4:23,24) consisting of prayer, the Lord's Supper, singing, giving, and instruction in the Word of God. He assigned the church its mission and revealed its work. He gave it local organization and only local organization (Acts 20:28; 1 Pet. 5:1-4; Phil. 1:1). There are no archbishops, cardinals, popes, patriarchs, presidents, or any other officers over the universal church. Christ is the Head of His Body, His church (Col. 1:18). He is the Savior of His body (Eph. 5:23). Only those obedient to Him have His promise of salvation (Heb. 5:8,9; 2 Thes. 1:3-10). Does this teaching appeal to you? On what is your mind set (Col. 3:1-9)? -- Gilbert Alexander

Consistency in Scripture; Is it with you? After Jesus was raised from the dead, He commissioned the apostles to go everywhere teaching His gospel (see Matt. 28:18; Mk. 16:15). People who believed on Jesus as the Messiah were taught to repent of their sins and be baptized in order to be forgiven (see Acts 2:36-38 for the first time this was preached following Jesus' resurrection). Preaching of the apostles as seen recorded in Acts was exactly what Jesus commissioned them to preach in the closing accounts of the gospel (Matt. 28:18-20; Mk. 16:15-16; Lk. 24:46-47). This is exactly what we preach. Is it what you have done? If not, why not? -- Phillip Owens

We offer free Bible correspondence courses, and would like to study God's word with you. We will come to any mutually agreeable place for such.

