

# *It Is Written*

*A weekly publication of the  
Junction Highway church of Christ in Kerrville, TX.*

*Vol. 6*

*April 7, 2024*

*No. 14*

## ***"Be Not Many Masters"***

By Robert F. Turner

Every now and then a preacher (usually young and/or inexperienced) gets the idea that he has discovered something new and wonderful in his nonsectarian, undenominational concept of church; or that salvation is a gift of God through Jesus Christ, rather than the product of legalized obedience. He startles the brethren (and makes them antagonistic) by announcing that he is going to tell them something they have never heard before—or that is very different from what they believe and practice—and all who question his exaggerated statements are sectarian or do not understand him.

There are party members and legalists among brethren of this generation, just as there have been in the past—and just as there will be in the new movement today's iconoclast will form. But many have been pushed into such concepts by careless arguments of preachers, and could be rescued by loving—tender—care and sound teaching. Of course that is work, and does not satisfy the pride of the iconoclast, nor produce revolution.

More than thirty years ago I conducted my first protracted meeting, and preached God's People, The Church. No claim is made for originality. Bros. Srygley, Hardeman, Brigance and others taught me that one's allegiance must be to the Lord, not to a party; and my private Bible study confirmed this.

I have called out empty chairs, during tent meetings; painted blocks, on TV programs; and chalk marks on a thousand boards (more or less); and in every case Christ was the Saviour, His gospel the call, and His church consisted of those who obeyed His call, being submissive to His will.

Our brethren believe in salvation by the Grace of God. If they have an imperfect grasp of its significance—if their concepts are shallow and immature—all the more reason why the subject should be carefully studied and presented. But start with common ground. Take a statement often made and accepted, and dig into it. Help brethren to expand, grow in knowledge and mature in understanding.

It is bad enough when a preacher discovers a truth (which his more experienced brethren have known and preached for years) and allows his pride to cause frictions. It is much worse when his new-found truths are actually Calvinistic error concerning the Holy Spirit, imputation of righteousness, faith only, etc., which were debating issues when he was in diapers, but which he now absorbs from sectarian commentaries.

We can not learn much from one who does not know enough to teach us what he does know; and thinks to increase his own stature by repeated reference to our lack of knowledge. Jas. 3:1-f

## **We "Have A Name"**

By Robert Turner

Concerning the church at Sardis, the Lord said, "I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead" (Revelation 3:1). Now think, where did they get that "name"?

"Name" is here used in the sense of reputation the popular opinion. But the smallness and insignificance of the cause of Christ in the world at that time negates any suggestion that this was a "name" in the world's Hall of Fame. The world couldn't care less. Yet, someone had to give them that name, and give it such general acceptance as to warrant significance. The Lord certainly did not

sanction this appraisal; so we are forced to conclude that their peers, or social circle, gave them their “name”.

Other churches, others of their professed “kind,” must have talked of their “good works,” “wonderful spirit,” “liberal contributions” or whatever that generation considered great. It is apparent that brethren of that age were no more qualified judges of what God approves than their current counterparts. Doesn’t it shake you? They had a good reputation they got it from their own brethren and it did not amount to a hill of beans (when beans were cheap). No wonder Paul said those who “measure themselves by themselves, and compare themselves among themselves, are not wise” (II Corinthians 10:12). For the Lord said of Sardis, that Big Name church, “thou art dead.” What remained was “ready to die.” The “few names in Sardis” who had not defiled their garments must have stood out from the rest like a sore thumb — a few cranks or “fanatics” who would not line up with the majority. Perhaps those “on the march” wished them gone, so as to remove that source of criticism and embarrassment, not realizing that they were the last bit of salt in the whole stinking mess.

The majority “had a name” — and it seems the “name” was more valued than the truth. Well, we all have a name — of some sort — with both God and man. Our concern for what men think often blinds us to what God thinks of us — and that’s what I’d call real near-sightedness. Man, a good reputation is not enough. We’ve got to consider who gives us our “name.”

## Attitude

By Jefferson David Tant

The word “attitude” has different meanings. Two of the meanings are critical and are related to this writing. (1) “Disposition or state of mind,” and (2) “the orientation of a vehicle ... relative to the horizon, the direction of motion, etc.” Bad attitudes, in either case, bring bad results. A fairly recent airplane crash in California was evidently caused by a bad attitude, i.e., the tail of the plane was too low and it caught the abutment at the end of the runway and crashed. Likewise, if our mental attitude is not lined up properly, it is inevitable that the results will not be good.

The airplane’s attitude is controlled in the cockpit, the heart of the plane’s operation. And our attitude is controlled in our heart, which is our “control center.” In responding to a question about eating with unwashed hands, Christ replied that it was not what went into the mouth, “But the things that proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and those defile the man. For out of the heart come evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, slanders. These are the things which defile the man” (Matthew 15:18-20). Christ’s point was that everything may be scrupulously clean on the outside, but our insides may be corrupt. Solomon’s admonition is to “Watch over your heart with all diligence, For from it flow the springs of life” (Proverbs 4:23).

Question: Where does “lust” begin? Someone might say the sight of a scantily clad girl would incite lust in a man’s heart. Not necessarily. That would depend on the man’s heart. Job said, “I have made a covenant with my eyes; How then could I gaze at a virgin?” (Job 31:1). If we live in the world, we cannot escape the things that Satan uses to tempt us. Where did Job’s covenant originate? The eyes don’t decide anything. Job’s heart made the decision, made the covenant.

How do we develop the right attitude(s)? The Psalmist declared “Your word I have treasured in my heart, That I may not sin against You” (Psalms 119:11). Another psalm says “The mouth of the righteous utters wisdom, And his tongue speaks justice. The law of his God is in his heart; His steps do not slip” (Psalms 37:30-31).

Many times the Psalmist begs to know the ways of God. “Teach me Your way, O LORD; I will walk in Your truth; Unite my heart to fear Your name. I will give thanks to You, O Lord my God, with all my heart, And will glorify Your name forever” (Psalms 86:11-12)

It is with the heart (mind) that we determine to love our enemies, to resist temptation, to learn God’s word, to have the desire to serve the Lord. As someone has said, “Attitude is everything.”