

Well, What does It Mean?

by Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian Church

“Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;) And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: 25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together; as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching;” Hebrews 10:23-25.

It is surprising, to me at least, how much scripture that is not believed by those who say that they believe and follow the Lord. To believe and follow the Lord is to obey the Lord and to walk according to his word. That is my understanding of it and I believe that is what the Lord Jesus understands and means too. Isn't that why he asked the question in **Luke 6:46**, *“And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?”*

Do some folks actually think that the Lord said things that he didn't mean? Did he, that gave man the power of speech and language, not know how to say what he meant? Isn't it odd that some parts of scripture is not questioned, but certain parts are? When he said to not lie, steal, murder,

and such things, I don't know of anyone saying that he meant that it was alright to do those things. Yet, when he clearly stated in his word that a repentant sinner was to be baptized for the remission of sins, and he was baptized as an example for us, many say that you don't have to do it. Really, on whose authority?

His word tells the believers to assemble in his name as the body of Christ on the Lord's day. Again many say that you don't have to do it and that it is wrong for anyone to say that you should. Once again I ask, *“Who countermanded the Lord's word?”* If therefore the whole church be come together into one place, and all speak with tongues, and there come in those that are unlearned, or unbelievers, will they not say that ye are mad?

1 Cor. 14:23, *“For if there come unto your assembly.”*
James 2:2, *“Now in this that I declare unto you I praise you not, that ye come together not for the better, but for the worse.”* and *“For first of all, when ye come together in the church, I hear that there be divisions among you; and I partly believe it.”* **1 Cor 11:17-18**. These are some of the scriptures that speak of the church coming together to worship. The early church thought that the Lord meant for the believers to gather into one body to worship the Lord.

The Bible tells us to love one another and not just the

people that love us, and those that we like. We know that the word of God tells us to do this, but we also know that often it is not done. I don't understand how people can avoid this command of the Lord, but it seems that many ignore it, especially if they meet someone who goes to a different church. Often they are judged and treated like they have some dreaded disease. I wonder just how many people who have been treated badly, judged and condemned, and cast out and ignored who have changed their life and wanted to join a group like that? The Lord went to people who had been treated like that by the self-righteous. You can see in the gospels that Jesus was condemned by the religious leaders who thought that they were better than anyone else.

The Lord said to forgive those who had offended us and to not hold grudges against them. How many truly forgive someone and treat them as they did before the offense? A lot of people are like the person who said, *“I'll forgive, but I won't forget!”* Then they are cold toward the person from then on. In all of these situations did Jesus say what he meant, or did he have something else in mind? If he didn't mean it when he said something, then how are we to know what is the right thing to do? That's easy to answer, if we believe God and trust in Jesus then we need to do what he says, not what some person says from his own heart.

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This is a dramatized version of facts taken from the book of I Samuel intending to show some of the customs of these ancient and traditional times

SAMUEL AND SAUL

SEEKING AID TO FIND HIS LOST ANIMALS, SAUL, WITH HIS SERVANT, HAS REACHED SAMUEL THE PROPHET IN RAMAH...

... AND, AS SAMUEL SEES SAUL, THE LORD SPEAKS IN HIS EAR...

BEHOLD THE MAN WHOM I SPAKE TO THEE OF! THIS SAME SHALL REIGN OVER MY PEOPLE!

TELL ME, I PRAY THEE, WHERE THE PROPHET'S HOUSE IS?

I AM THE PROPHET! DO NOT FEAR FOR THINE ANIMALS—THEY ARE ALREADY FOUND!

GO UP BEFORE ME INTO THE HIGH PLACE FOR YE SHALL EAT WITH ME TODAY, AND TOMORROW I SHALL TELL THEE ALL THAT IS IN THINE HEART!

BUT I AM ONLY A BENJAMITE! IN THE LEAST FAMILY OF THE SMALLEST TRIBE OF ISRAEL! WHY, THEREFORE, DO YOU HONOR ME IN SUCH MANNER?

AND MUCH TO THE ASTONISHMENT OF SAUL AND HIS SERVANT, SAMUEL PUTS THEM IN THE CHIEF PLACE OF HONOR AT THE HIGH FEAST...

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