

## Words of Wisdom Radio Transcripts by John T Polk II

All Scriptures and comments are based on the **New King James Version**, unless otherwise noted.

# 8/8/2022

## **Hyphenated Christians**

What "kind" of Christian are you? Paul found "contentions" in the Corinthian church of Christ caused by hyphenated Christians. Paul charged that:

Each of you says, 'I am of Paul,' or 'I am of Apollos,' or 'I am of Cephas,' or 'I am of Christ.' Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul? (1 Corinthians 1:12-13)

Each group sought special identity among Christians, which defeated the purpose of Jesus' death. The churches of Christ should "all speak the same thing and that there be no divisions among" us (1 Corinthians 1:10). Those who only are "of Christ" were right, all the others had gone astray. Jesus Christ died to bring us together, people hyphenate to divide us up. Are you a hyphenated Christian?

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## 8/9/2022

#### **Questions for Unity**

To the divided Corinthian church of Christ, Paul asked:

"Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?" (1 Corinthians 1:13)

Many people act as if denominations don't matter – but they do! Regardless of their affiliation, the claim is "we're all in the church of Christ." It may not matter to them, but it did to the Apostle Paul! "Is Christ divided" was answered in the New Testament with a resounding "NO!" Paul's appeal then was that there should be "no divisions among" Christians (1 Corinthians 1:10). Paul urged Christians:

Note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them. (Romans 16:17)

Divisions are not over "the doctrine" but over those who misrepresent and misteach that doctrine!

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# 8/10/2022 Faith Is Not From Opinions

[Jesus asked His disciples,] saying, "Who do the crowds say that I am?" So they answered and said, "John the Baptist, but some say Elijah; and others say that one of the old prophets has risen again." (Luke 9:18-20)

Jesus did not say:

- (1) "Everyone is entitled to his own opinion;"
- (2) "Truth is found somewhere in the middle of these opinions;"
- (3) "It doesn't matter, everyone is just following a different prophet to Heaven;"
- (4) "Actually my disciples can believe all of this and be saved!"

Jesus asked for the God-inspired truth that showed all those opinions to be mistaken, for Peter answered and said, "The Christ of God." Paul divided an assembly of Pharisees and Sadducees by preaching the truth of Jesus' resurrection, which neither side believed (Acts 23:6-7). Bible truth is not the combination of opinions!

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#### 8/11/2022

## **The Immigration Problem**

When "illegal immigration" has become an overwhelming invasion of non-citizens who assume their right to government giveaways and constitutional protection, it raises doubt and confusion in our minds as to whether citizenship means anything anymore. For an earthly country, constitutions and people must decide.

#### For Christians:

Our citizenship is in heaven (Philippians 3:20)

[And] the solid foundation of God stands, having this seal: "The Lord knows those who are His," and, "Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity." (2 Timothy 2:19)

Only those are "added to the church daily" who were willing to:

Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins. (Acts 2:38, 47)

God does not offer spiritual "amnesty" to anyone who refuses to obey His rules for citizenship!

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## **Understanding God**

For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse. (Romans 1:20)

God is not in the Creation, but His handwork clearly shows that He has left His imprint all over the place! "Understood" literally means, "using your intelligence!" The evidence is in the Creation, but we must draw the conclusion! **David** said:

The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork." (Psalm 19:1)

## Paul declared:

God, who made the world and everything in it. (Acts 17:24)

**Jeremiah** spoke as we should when he said:

Let us search out and examine our ways, And turn back to the LORD; Let us lift our hearts and hands To God in heaven. (Lamentations 3:40-41)

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