

# Simply Christ

Gospel Newsletter

*Sharing the simplicity that is in Christ*

September 24, 2020

## Childish Things

My dad sometimes speaks of his childhood and how much he admired his brother Bill. He is six years younger than Bill, so growing up, Bill was his hero and mentor. To him, Bill was the wisest person in the world and anything Bill told my dad was immediately recorded in his mind as “wisdom.” There were times later in life as he faced times of decision, my dad would remember the wisdom Bill had given unto him so many years before. One day it dawned on my dad that he, a grown man with a family, was following the advice given to him by a twelve year old boy. He would always love and respect his brother, but he knew it was time to *“put away childish things.”*

When the Apostle Paul speaks of putting away childish things, he is referring to childish speaking, childish understanding, and childish thinking. He says, ***“When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things.”***

1 Corinthians 13:13. These “childish things” were things the believers held to be wise, but it was not the wisdom of God.

None of us were born again with a divine revelation of all things. All of us were taught. Sometimes the teaching was good; sometimes it was not. Often the things we learned were in fact a mixture of scriptural truth and carnal understanding. Yet most of us accepted the

things we were taught as “truth and wisdom” because they came from someone we loved and trusted to give us the word of God.

Although we should always honor those who have instructed us in the Lord, each of us must come to a place where we determine to “...let God be true, but every man a liar.” Romans 3:4. This is simply an acknowledgement that the words of any person, no matter how great they are in our sight, are just “childish things” in light of the word of God.

Decades ago, when we began to preach “freedom from sin” through the blood of Christ, we were well aware that it would be scoffed at by the “wise” in the modern church. We were not ignorant of the fact that this message was contrary to the dogma of almost every Christian group and denomination, and that it would cost us many friends in the ministry. Yet we did not choose to declare it because it is acceptable, but because it is what Jesus said (“If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.” John 8:36); it is what Paul said (“Being then made free from sin...” Romans 6:18); it is what Peter said (“...that we, being dead to sins...” 1 Peter 2:24); and it is what John said (“Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not.” 1 John 3:6). We had to make a conscience decision to “...let God be true!”

Someone once asked me why I preached that “our old man is **actually crucified** with Christ and the body of sin is **actually destroyed** and we are **actually delivered** from sin.” They said, “Everyone else says that is not true. Do you think you know more than everyone else?” My response was this: “I preach it because every time I open my Bible it says, ‘Knowing this, that our old

*man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.*' Romans 6:6. I choose to believe God."

In light of the word of God, my thoughts are merely the thoughts of a child, but then so are yours. The words of the greatest ministers of our generation are no more than "nursery rhymes" if they run contrary to the gospel as recorded in the scripture. Each of us must come to the hour that we choose to "*put away childish things*" and believe God for what his word actually says. Only then will you "*...know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.*" John 8:32.