

WALKING IN WISDOM (Colossians 4:5) Number #45

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All Scripture quotations from the Editor are from the New King James Version

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The Authority of Jesus' Resurrection by John T. Polk II

1. His Commandments

After His resurrection, but before His ascension into Heaven, Jesus "through the Holy Spirit had given commandments to the apostles whom He had chosen, to whom He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God" (**Acts 1:2-3**). What "commandments?"

- 1)** "And you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.' This is the first commandment" (**Mark 12:30**);
- 2)** "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another" (**John 13:34**).
- 3)** "He who believes and is baptized will be saved" (**Mark 16:15-16**). Which of these can anyone say is "nonessential?"

2. His Apostles

After His resurrection, but before His ascension into Heaven, Jesus "through the Holy Spirit had given commandments to the apostles whom He had chosen, to whom He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God" (**Acts 1:2-3**).

- 1)** The Twelve Apostles were personally chosen by Jesus (**Matthew 10:1-4**).
- 2)** Only Judas Iscariot was replaced when he committed suicide (**Acts 1:15-26**). Herod killed James, but he was not replaced (**Acts 12:1-2**).
- 3)** The Apostles were eye-witnesses of the resurrected Jesus.
- 4)** These were "infallible proofs," or evidence with certainty. "Infallible" only referred to Gospel evidence, never to an Apostle! Faith is without doubt!

3. His Infallible Proofs

After His resurrection, Jesus "presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during

forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God" (**Acts 1:2-3**). "Infallible" means not capable of failing. What made these "proofs" "infallible?" Because His living body was seen by: Mary Magdalene (**Mark 16:9**), two disciples on the Emmaus Road (**Luke 24:13-34**), Cephas, the Twelve, James, all the apostles (**1 Corinthians 15:5-7**). At the Sea of Tiberias, Jesus ate physical food with seven of the Apostles (**John 21:1-14**). He was also seen by "over 500 brethren at once" (**1 Corinthians 15:6**). All of these bodily appearances within 40-days surely should be called "infallible." This is a Christian's "certainty of the words of truth" (**Proverbs 22:21**).

4. His Kingdom

Jesus physical resurrection has "infallible proofs." He also spoke "of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God" (**Acts 1:2-3**). What did Jesus say about "the kingdom of God?"

- 1)** He said, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" (**Matthew 4:17**). "At hand," meant "close, near by."
- 2)** He said, "there are some standing here who shall not taste death till they see the Son of Man coming in His kingdom" (**Matthew 16:28**). Either He lied, or else the kingdom came while people who heard Him were alive!
- 3)** He said, "I will not drink of the fruit of the vine until the kingdom of God comes" (**Luke 22:18**). Either the kingdom came in the 1st Century, or there is no Lord's Supper. Kingdom people observe it every 1st day of the week in the church of Christ (**Acts 20:7**)! The kingdom has come!

5. His Throne

Luke tells of Jesus Christ, until "He was taken up" (**Acts 1:2**). "So then, after the Lord had spoken to them, He was received up into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God" (**Mark 16:19**). On Pentecost, the Apostles preached David was still dead, but had prophesied "that God had sworn with an oath to him that of the fruit of his body, according to the flesh, He would raise up the Christ to sit on his throne" (**Acts 2:29-30**). Everyone who preaches that Jesus is not yet on David's throne is denying Jesus's resurrection! If Jesus is not now on David's throne, He could not have "delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed us into the kingdom of the Son of His love, in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins" (**Colossians 1:13-14**). "Millennial-ism" denies the faith!

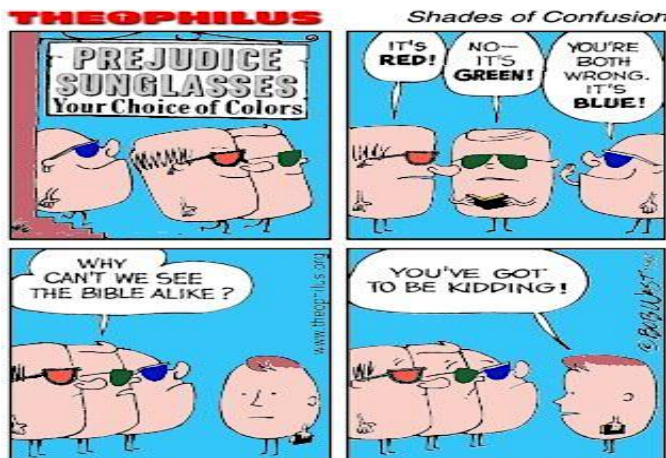
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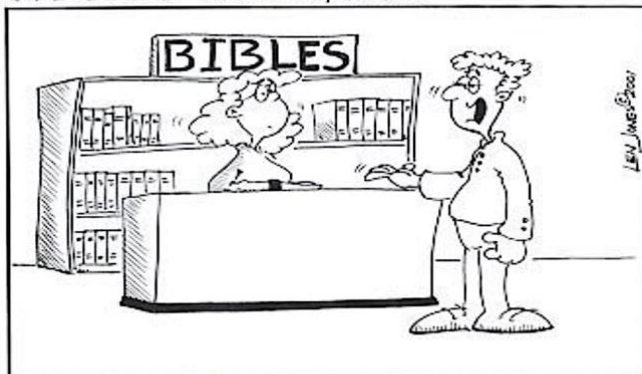
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Salted Speech Colossians 4:6

- ~ I prefer winter and fall, when you feel the bone structure of the landscape – the loneliness of it – the dead feeling of winter. Something waits beneath it – the whole story doesn't show. ~ Andrew Wyeth, c. 1973
- ~ To Improve Is to change; to be perfect Is to change often. ~ Winston Churchill
- ~ When a deep Injury Is done us, we never recover until we forgive. ~ Alan Paton
- ~ "And whenever you stand praying, If you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses. But If you do not forgive, neither will your Father in heaven forgive your trespasses." ~ Jesus Christ (Mark 11:25-26 NKJV)



ALTAR EGO by Len Jones



"What I really need is a translation that won't leave me feeling guilty, convicted, or in need of making some kind of decision."

Five Pieces of Evidence

When Jesus walked on earth, He was the culmination of all that the prophets wrote. In the synagogue on one occasion, after reading from Isaiah 61, the Scripture says, "And he closed the book, and gave it back to the attendant, and sat down: and the eyes of all in the synagogue were fastened on him. And he began to say unto them, To-day hath this scripture been fulfilled in your ears" (Luke 4:20-21). Jesus was the fulfillment of such prophetic oracles as Psalm 2, Isaiah 2, 9, and 11.

Because Jesus was the fulfillment of the prophet Scriptures, Jesus lays out 5 pieces of evidence for His claim of Credibility.

1. What He says of Himself. Everyone has a right to testify on his own behalf. No one of a healthy and fair mind will dispute such a self-evident truth. But, testifying on behalf of oneself only goes so far. Jesus called upon others to find fault with Him (John 8:13-14, 46). Would you do that yourself? This not only gets to His works, but His motivations also. He called on others to make a fair judgment on all the things He said, not those things that were said about Him.
2. Though Jesus did not accept the testimony of men, He knew there was one person the general populace accepted as from God (Matt. 21:25), and Jesus presented him as a piece of evidence for who He was. His name was John, the one who baptizes (John 5:33-35).
3. A third piece of evidence Jesus presented to the people to consider is that which He did (John 5:36). In the Gospel of John, the word "sign" is a significant word, for it points in a certain direction. The miracles Jesus did point out to others that He was of God. John wrote, "Many other signs therefore did Jesus in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book: but these are written, that ye may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye may have life in his name" (John 20:30-31).
4. A fourth piece of evidence is the Father attesting to Jesus. Three times in the New Testament did the Father of glory speak from heaven: at Jesus' baptism (Matt. 3:17), during the time of the transfiguration (Matt. 17:5), and shortly before His death (John 12:28). Perhaps not many heard this, but those who did had lives that were changed. Changed lives do not keep silent.
5. Finally, a fifth piece of evidence Jesus presented was the Scripture. Jesus lamented that the people who were "people of the Book" knew not the Scriptures. He said to them, "Ye search the scriptures, because ye think that in them ye have eternal life; and these are they which bear witness of me; and ye will not come to me, that ye may have life" (John 5:39-40). If they knew the scriptures so well, why did they not come to Him? Because they did not have the love of God within them, amounting to "they did not want to" come to Jesus.

Application: the evidence is there for people if they have an interest in learning about Jesus and His message. People refuse to learn because they do not want to make changes in their lives; instead, they want the Lord to accept them as they are without change. Sadly, on Judgment Day, the Lord will say, "Depart! I never knew you because you took no time to get to know me."

Ron Thomas