

For Our Information

Brenda Keisler is to have the first session of treatment for her neck pain in October.

Paula Laubach had oral surgery this past Friday. She has been experiencing a good deal of pain.

John Jackson has a sore foot following some minor surgery last week, but he has been working still.

This time of year tends to cause some extra health issues for many folks. We need to remember those with ongoing health issues also. Cards, calls and visits are certainly helpful. Certainly prayer for good health should be offered regularly.

Keep your brothers & sisters in mind

We seek only to serve God according to His Will!

Contact Us

We want opportunities to speak with others about our work in the Lord's Kingdom.

Church of Christ

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Seeking His Righteousness

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God's "Rights"

Curtis Flatt

This is a time when people are wonderfully concerned about "rights." We hear much about "civil rights" and "states rights" and "my rights." Our country was settled by people who were concerned about "rights." The constitution of the United States, with its famous "bill of rights," centers around the "rights" of men. But in the midst of it all, men say but little about "God's rights." It would be well for us to remember that God has reserved some "rights" for himself. He calls some things, "Mine." The Bible talks about some things being "his." The strange thing about it all is that the things which God has reserved for himself are the very things men feel free to use any way they want.

The Right To Make Law

One of the "rights" which God reserved unto himself is the "right" to legislate in



"... for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved by the Holy Spirit spoke from God."

2Peter 1:21

A Couple of Observations

As our author this week mentions, many in the religious world today want to focus on their rights. We must remember that any rights we may have are only ours through the grace and mercy of God. This means commands from God will override any right we may claim as our own.

Another thing we must keep in mind, just because we can do a thing does not mean we should do a thing. There are times that what might be allowed is not what is best. Paul's teaching regarding eating of meats demonstrates this principle very clearly. Those who may be strong have an obligation to *"bear the weaknesses of those without strength and not just please ourselves."* (Romans 15:1)

Our rights or preferences must never interfere with serving God and helping our brethren grow.



1512 Tanner St. Malvern, AR

Meet With Us

Worship Services

Sunday 10:20 am & 5:00 pm

Bible Classes

Sunday 9:30 AM

Wednesday 7:00 PM

TannerSt.com

religious matters. In the very beginning, all heaven, earth, and hell understood that God was the spokesman in religious things. Please recall that in Genesis two and three God and man and the serpent all understood that God was the one to speak. One could not read that without coming to that conclusion. When the Law of Moses was given, we are impressed with this: *"And God spake all these words, saying ..."* (Exodus 20:1.) Even the prophets of the Old Testament spake God's message. *"Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost."* (2Peter 1:20-21.) And yet men take the liberty to usurp God's "rights" and write creeds and talk about what "I think" and about what "I feel." Is it not strange that we can be so concerned about "our rights" and so disregard God's "rights"?

The Right To Remit Sin

Since sin is transgression of God's law, surely God is the one to say what is necessary for man to do to have remission of sin. God does keep that "right" for himself and does say what man must do. He says that man must hear and believe his word. (Mark 16: 16; Acts 16:31; Hebrews 11:6; Romans 5:1.) He further says that man must repent of his sins. (Luke 13:3; Luke 24:46-47; Acts 2:38; Acts 17:30-31.) He says that man must confess his faith in Christ. (Romans 10:9-10.) He, for reasons known to himself and within the scope of his own "rights," says that man must be baptized for the remission of his sins. (Acts 2:38; Acts 22:6; 1Peter 3:21.) But regardless of what God has said and regardless of such being his "rights," men are prone to say that this is not necessary, that this can be deleted, and that can be added and that it will be all right. But please remember that when men do this, they usurp the "rights" of God without even asking. If we resent other men usurping our individual "rights," how can we take the liberty to do the same thing to God?

The Right To Segregate

God reserved the "right" to say who pleases him and who

Store In My Heart

Matthew 5:16

In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.

This verse urges us to live in a manner that others know God is working through us. The light of God is to shine from us in all our activities.

Our works are to be good, but should not be done for our own gain. As Christians we need to understand that any works we might do reflect upon God. Our good deeds toward others help them to see God in us. Paul never wanted to boast in what he had accomplished other than to say Christ and the Father were glorified. We should live to show God to all. Why do you do your works?

does not please him. Men have long assumed that they have the "right" to decide this. But this is not so! People who believe and are baptized, are called his children by God. (Galatians 3:26-27.) On the other hand, people who don't do this, God speaks of as being condemned. (Mark 16:15-16.) God has pronounced blessing upon those who read and hear his word. (Revelation 1:3.) On the other hand, God has pronounced condemnation upon those who add or subtract from his word. (Revelation 22:18, 19; 2John 9.) Men often vehemently insist that this is narrow and dogmatic as if this choice belongs to men.

The Right To Determine The Destiny of The Dead

Another of God's "rights" is that of deciding the destiny of the dead. Many preachers, when preaching funerals, act as if this is their "right." Many people speak as if it were within their "rights" to decide this. However, this is a "right" which God has kept for himself. (Romans 2:6; 2Corinthians 5:10; Acts 17:30-31.) God, through his son, will determine the destiny of the dead.

The Right To Set the End of Time

To God also belongs the "right" to bring this world to an end when he deems wise. Men have long tried to set this time. Some religious groups have been born and exist on the efforts of men in this regard. But this is one of God's "rights." "But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only. But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, and knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be." (Matthew 24:36-39.)

Truly God has some "rights" which men will do well to remember and respect.

January 1969 Gospel Guide

(Almost 50 years since this was written and we still seem more concerned about "my" rights than God's rights. DLH)