

... "Will you not receive instruction by listening to My words?" declares the LORD. **Jeremiah 35:13**

Store In My Heart 1Corinthians 1:10

Now I exhort you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all agree and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be made complete in the same mind and in the same judgment.

As Paul begins his instruction to the brethren in Corinth, he pleads with them to be united. He wanted harmony among the saints. He wanted agreement in their teaching. He wanted no divisions among the ranks. This is in perfect agreement with the desire of our Lord as He prayed to the Father on the night He was betrayed.

It has been said, and I agree, when two teach different things on the same subject, either one is wrong, or both are wrong. The only way to be certain that we can have harmony is to keep our focus and teaching in accordance with the inspired Scripture. God's Word is always the perfect standard!



The Transfiguration

George Hutto

About nine months before the Lord's death, He took Peter, James, and John up onto a high mountain and was transformed so that His face shined like the sun, and His clothes were brilliantly white. This transfigured state must have been Jesus' heavenly state before He came and after He ascended. Moses and Elijah appeared with Him, and the three disciples were brought to their knees in awe and fear, as the three great prophets *"spake of his decease which he should accomplish at Jerusalem."* (**Luke 9, Mark 9, Matthew 17**)

This event is reported by three gospel writers, and later as Peter gives his testimony before his own decease. (**2Peter 1:16**) If we were sci-fi fans or students of Einstein we might call the transfiguration a "wormhole" event, that a door or window exists for moving into another universe. Truth is better than fiction, and Jesus said *"they which shall be accounted worthy to obtain that world, and the resurrection from the dead, ... they are equal unto the angels; and are the children of God, being the children of the resurrection."* (**Luke 20:35-36**)

The disciples grappled with the resurrection, *"questioning one with another what the rising from the dead should mean."* (**Mark 9:11**) Moses was there, who once was allowed to see God from behind, (**Exodus 33:20-23**) who was buried by God Himself. (**Deuteronomy 34:5-6**) And now here is Moses, speaking to Jesus about His imminent death.

Second about the resurrection is the presence of Elijah, who never died (**2Kings 2:11**), and yet named to prepare the way of the Lord. (**Malachi 4:5-6**) The three disciples asked Jesus about Elijah as they descended the mount, wasn't he supposed to come before the Christ? He said that Elijah had already come, pointing to John the Baptist (**Matthew 17:12-13**), who came *"in the spirit and power of Elijah."* (**Luke 1:17**)

Third, Jesus charged *"them that they should tell no man what things they had seen, till the Son of man were risen from the dead."* (**Mark 9:9**) This "crash course" on the resurrection was difficult. Peter had tried to tell the Lord that certainly He would not die and was severely rebuked (**Matthew 16:22-23**), and the disciples were afraid to ask. (**Mark 8:32**)

Why was the event kept quiet? Such an event as the transfiguration would require a proper handling. If Jesus had turned stone into bread, would the devil have honored Jesus for the miracle? Herod *"hoped to have seen some miracle done by him,"* (**Luke 23**) but what kind of witness would Herod have made for Jesus? He had already put John the forerunner to death. The Scribes and Pharisees taunted Jesus, *"He saved others; himself he cannot save. If he be the King of Israel, let him now come down from the cross, and we will believe him."* (**Matthew 27:42**) Would they really?

No. Jesus revealed Himself as the Son of God to whom He chose, when He chose, and how He chose. After the resurrection the disciples asked Him about the kingdom. He said, *"It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power. But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."* (**Acts 1:6-8**) They received that power on Pentecost, and the kingdom came just as John and Jesus had foretold, through the preaching of the gospel in the most key times and places.

Revelations like that on the mountain were world-changing events. Perhaps it figured into the quarrels about who was to be the greatest in the kingdom. James and John were involved with that contention (Matthew 20), and likely Peter.

The event was a big part of Peter's faith and preaching. He could not ignore it.

"For we have not followed cunningly devised fables when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty. For He received from God the Father honor and glory when there came such a voice to Him from the Excellent Glory: 'This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.' And this voice, which came from Heaven, we heard when we were with Him on the holy mount." (**2Peter 1:16-18**)

John wrote *"Beloved, now we are the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be; but we know that, when He shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is."* (**1John 3:2**) John knew what Jesus could be. This passage is but a gentle reminder from one of the "sons of thunder."

The apostle Paul had a different revelation, although similarly significant: *"he was caught up into paradise, and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter." He was tempered by that thorn in the flesh, "lest he should be exalted above measure."* (**2Corinthians 12**)

To believe in Jesus as the Son of God is no small thing. One generation in obscure Judea saw the Son of God in the flesh, and only three saw Him transfigured. Jesus said to Thomas, *"... Because thou hast seen Me, thou hast believed. Blessed are they that have not seen and yet have believed."* (**John 20:29**) Our privilege is to see Jesus through the eyes and ears of the apostles and through the Scriptures.

The gospel is God's way to reveal Him — the how, the when, and the who — now for everyone. *"Go ye into all the world, and preach the Gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned."* (**Mark 16:15-16**)

Another world, a world of eternal life, awaits those accounted worthy. If we believe, we must obey, as those on Pentecost believed and obeyed at Peter's preaching. *"Then those who gladly received his words were baptized, and that same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls. And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in the breaking of bread and in prayers."* (**Acts 2:41-42**)

Contact Us

We like opportunities to speak with others about the Lord.

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The
CHURCH OF CHRIST
MEETS HERE



10:20 AM • Sunday Worship Service
5:00 PM • Sunday Night Bible Study
7:00 PM • Wednesday Bible Study

For Our Information

Sue Soliday continues physical therapy for her lymphedema. She is seeing some slow improvement.

Vickie McNees has an arthritis Dr referral for her migraines.

Shannon Soliday will be in Indiana the next couple of weeks helping family with a house situation.

Sunday Evening – **Isaiah 14:28** Wednesday – **1John 2:18**

Keep in mind that we have a second meeting scheduled for later this year. Zach Redmon will be here to speak for us beginning September 28th. That is only four months away.