

View

A Publication of the Folsom Point church of Christ, 900 E. Natoma, Folsom, CA

September 23, 2007

Good Ol' Common Sense

Isn't common sense just that?

One of the strangest conversations I ever had was with a fellow, let's call him Joe, who asked "what is common sense?" He asked that as a rejoinder to a comment I made to the effect that much of my view of biblical authority is based on common sense. Since he didn't like my view of authority, he questioned whether there is such a thing as common sense.

I understand that the term can be marshaled to support unscriptural practices or other false doctrine. I don't employ common sense as the ultimate test of what is right and wrong. Saying, "that's just common sense" doesn't answer a question by itself. But my point was that getting to the truth requires some of this stuff we call "common sense."

Let's break down the term "common sense." "Common" means widespread, prevalent, general, usual.

"Sense" means judgment. The term is actually defined in the dictionary as "native good judgment." Notice the dictionary says good judgment, not just judgment. It's what we mean when we say, "that just makes good sense." A lack of common sense should be obvious to almost everyone (that's what makes it "common").

"The term is actually defined in the dictionary as 'native good judgment.'"

Let's see if a little common sense would not have helped "Joe," mentioned above, avoid a problem. Some months after our conversation, he and some others left the church of which they were members to start a new group in which musical instruments were used in the assembly. The teaching against using instruments didn't make "sense" to Joe. It's true that one does not come to an understanding of what kind of music God wants in the

assemblies of the saints through common sense except by reference to Eph. 5:19 and Col. 3:16 which tell us to sing. The command to sing, in the absence of another command, example or necessary inference allowing instruments, excludes their use. A specific command excludes all things in the same class that are not specified. "Common sense" tells us that, and the common case of a mom sending her son to the store with \$5 to buy a loaf of bread illustrates it. If he buys something else, he has defied her authority. That's *common sense*, isn't it?

Well Joe and his friends did OK in the new setting for awhile. Apparently the use of instruments was limited to an acoustic guitar, and Joe did not find that objectionable. But guess what happened? The majority of the new congregation decided they would like to have bigger and better instruments, and so they brought in a 5 or 6 piece band. Joe said, "this is going too far" and left the group. He could have used some common sense to tell him that if the Scriptures allow a simple guitar in the assembly, the same Scriptures allow the Los Ange-

les Philharmonic Orchestra in the assembly! *Common sense.*

Miracles

You can see how a little common sense can spare you from a lot of silliness. Some people will argue with you about whether miracles are still happening today. They'll describe some strange, inexplicable, mysterious event and then ascribe it to modern-day miracles. Now, there are several passages in the New Testament that tell us the scope and, by implication, define the duration of miracles. They tell us that miracles had a specific purpose (to confirm the spoken word) and that purpose was fulfilled when the spoken word was reduced to writing by inspired men. That's the most important line of argument when discussing whether miracles are around today.

But there is something else that seems obvious – common sense, if you will. One never sees a miracle performed today that is anything like those described in the New Testament. There is no man blind from birth who is made to see, no lame man for 38 years who is made to walk, and no one raised from the dead, as Eutychus was (Acts 20:9-12). Today, you have to go into a building and watch a “miracle” on a stage. Doesn't common sense tell you that something's wrong there?

Prophecies

Likewise, when the so-called Jehovah's Witnesses and others attempt to set the date of Christ's return and miss it, doesn't common sense tell you that they are no prophets? The Bible tells us that if one prophesies something and it doesn't happen, you know he's not a prophet and you need to. Get away from him! (Dt. 18:20ff.).

Why would you listen to anything that man or woman has to say?

Common sense tells you he is not a spokesman from God, and the fact that he would represent himself as such shows how dangerous he is.

In fact, the JW's decided a few years ago that they were leaving the date-setting business to others. By doing that, they admitted that they were no good at it. But a little common sense tells you that by trying, they condemned themselves as false prophets. If a person has even a “lick

of common sense,” he could figure that out.

Unfortunately, when it comes to religion, some people decide to hide their common sense under a bushel. But, while is not the basis upon which we decide matters of spiritual importance, it is one of the handiest tools in helping us understand Scripture.

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Church Bulletin TYPOS

This is a supplement to our authority quiz. While these are humorous entries in actual church bulletins, there are reasons why many of these announcements should not be in a “church” bulletin in the first place. Can you “give a reason” (1 Peter 3:15)?

1. Low Self Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7 PM. Please use the back door.
2. The preacher will preach his farewell message, after which the congregation will sing, “Break Forth Into Joy.”
3. Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our church.
4. The eighth graders will be presenting Shakespeare's Hamlet in the Church basement Friday at 7 PM. The congregation is invited to attend this tragedy.
5. Thursday night Potluck Supper. Prayer and medication to follow.
6. Weight Watchers will meet at 7 PM at the First Presbyterian Church. Please use large double door at the side entrance.
7. Don't let worry kill you, let the church help.
8. For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.
9. Eight new choir robes are currently needed, due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones.
10. The senior choir invites any member of the congregation who enjoys sinning to join the choir.

Gospel Meeting

Ed Harrell

Jacksonville, Florida

Christian Primitivism

Thinking

"Inside the Box" about Restoring New Testament Christianity

Titles

"The Principle of
Apostolic Authority"

"Biblical Hermeneutics:
Common Sense
Interpretation"

"New Testament
Congregations: What They Were and Why It Matters"

October 8-10, 2007

7:30 PM

**Folsom Point
church of Christ
900 E. Natoma
Folsom, California**

For Information

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The church of Christ

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Services

Sunday Morning Assembly
9:30 AM
Sunday Evening: 5:00 PM
Wednesday Bible Study
7:30 PM

Classes for all ages.

Private classes arranged
at your convenience.

For more information,
visit our web site at:

www.folsomchurch.com