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It is a group of Christians determined to be pleasing to God. How do they do this? They do all in their power to follow the teaching of Jesus Christ with no changes, additions, subtractions or alterations.

It is a group of Christians that claim no human denominational affiliation — just Christians working and worshipping together at the Lord’s word teaches.

If you need Christ as your Lord and Savior, we believe you will find him among the Christians at Valley Station.

Come and see.

The **VALLEY TIDINGS** is published monthly by the church of Christ, meeting at 1803 Dixie Garden Drive, Valley Station, Kentucky 40272

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Assemblies

Sunday Bible Class 9:30 A.M.
Sunday Morning Worship 10:30 A.M.
Sunday Evening Worship 6:00 P.M.
Wednesday Bible Classes 7:30 P.M.
Ladies Class, Thursday 10:00 A.M.

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Valley Tidings

Set For The Defense of the Glad Tidings

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What’s Your Religion Like?

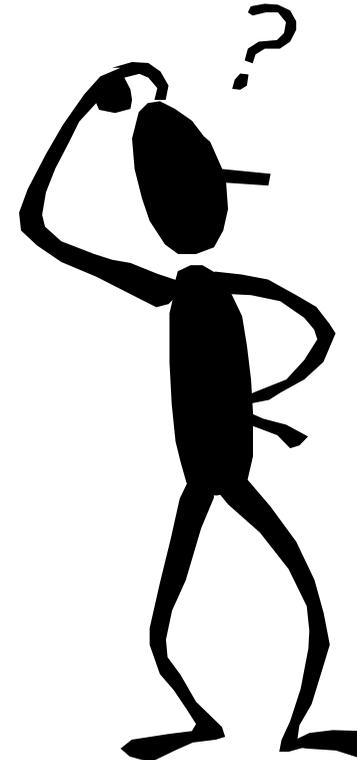
The entire world is by and large somewhat religious. We, in America, enjoy what the Constitution promises, as religious freedom. It doesn’t seem to matter much these days what kind of religion it is, just claim it to be a religion and you’re home free. The government in the past decade or so did put some limits on the financial rights of certain “non-profit” organizations, but religion like fleas on the family dog multiply and multiply.

Likely if you read this you probably profess some kind of religion. Would you be

willing to think about it and determine what your professed religion is like? An excellent way to determine what it is like is to measure it by religion as described in the Bible. The Bible mentions the “Jews Religion” at least twice (Gal 1:13; 14). Paul once held to that way of religion calling it “our” religion (Acts 25:19; 26:5). That religion was fractured into sects. Paul was of the Pharisees section of Jewish religion.

The one religion by which to measure our own is a religion that is “pure and undefiled” (James 1:27). Nothing can be pure or undefiled that doesn’t have God as its origin. In chapter 3 James was guided to write, “Wisdom that is from above is first pure . . .” (3:17). The Revised Standard Version’s rendition of 1 Peter 2:2 is, “Like newborn babes, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up to salvation” (vs. 2).

If you will, just check to see if the mission of your religion is the same as that of which you read in scripture. See if the way of worship is biblical and then learn from the sacred word just how the religion that is pure and undefiled really describes your religion. It’s worth the time.—DRS





"Liberty Throughout All the Land ..."

July 4, 1776 is a day all patriotic Americans remember as the birth of our nation. It was on that historic date that British colonies declared their independence from England. On July 8, 1776, along with church bells throughout the colonies, the Liberty Bell pealed out the symbolic message of freedom and independence. On the bell is found the inscription, "Proclaim Liberty throughout all the land unto all the inhabitants thereof." The inscription is taken from the Bible, Leviticus 25:10.

Until 1835 the bell rang every year during the celebration of the declaration of independence. Now it is just a relic. The Liberty Bell is one of the few remaining national symbols on which a passage from the Holy Book of God remains. That indicates the respect the founding fathers of this nation held toward God and His word. The current legislators reflect just how far away from that respect this nation has come. The Bible has been made an illegal book in federally funded programs and in public schools.

The declaration of independence cost many rebellious colonists their lives. They fought for freedom, the right to pursue their own happiness. They inscribed on our currency, "In God We Trust." But like the Liberty Bell, that inscription means very little to Americans. Some have tried to get it removed from our currency. Quite candidly, I believe it may as well be removed -- not to satisfy the foolish purposes of some radical group of godless people, but to come even with the way most Americans really think. How much trust do you think the majority of Americans really put in God Almighty? Americans show very little trust in anyone or anything. This nation's problems could easily be fixed by a return to the foundational disposition expressed in "In God We Trust." "Every word of God *is* pure: He *is* a shield unto them that put their trust in Him" (Proverbs 30:5).

Men will shed blood for political freedom. It is not so with spiritual freedom. More seek to avoid spiritual freedom than to achieve it. Bruce Barton once said, "What a curious phenomenon it is that you can get men to die for the liberty of the world who will not make the little sacrifice that is needed to free themselves from their own individual bondage." The way to spiritual liberty is through Jesus Christ, the only

begotten Son of God. He said, "Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free" (John 8:32).

Truth is the only thing that frees man from spiritual slavery. But liberty requires that the slaves to sin rise up in a spiritual revolution and rebellion. A declaration of freedom against the bondage of sin is made the very moment one comes out of sin into freedom. By inspiration, Paul wrote, "But thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you wholeheartedly obeyed the form of teaching to which you were entrusted. You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness" (Romans 6:17-18). The turning point from slavery in sin to freedom in Christ is wholehearted obedience.

Obedience must be grounded in faith. Faith is produced by divine revelation (Romans 10:17). Saving faith obeys the word of God without reservation. Obedience is compliance with law. Cicero said, "Liberty consists in the power of doing that which is permitted by the law." Living under God's law is the only way to be free from the blight of sin.

This year, when you celebrate the 4th of July, remember the wide discrepancy between the moral and spiritual values of America today and those of the men and women who died to make this one free nation under God. We need to return to the former disposition toward God and to a time when men felt free to inscribe passages from the Holy Word of God on our most valued national symbols. -- DRS

The spirit of liberty is not a jealousy of our own particular rights, but a respect for the rights of others, and an unwillingness that any one, whether high or low, should be wronged or trampled under foot. -

Channing



The word that came unto Jeremiah from Jehovah, after that the king Zedekiah had made a covenant with all the people that were at Jerusalem, to proclaim liberty unto them; that every man should let his man-servant, and every man his maid-servant, that is a Hebrew or a Hebrewess, go free; that none should make bondmen of them, to wit, of a Jew his brother. - Jeremiah 34:8-9

