
Port Orchard Church of Christ

Where

Jesus is Lord, Jesus is Lifted, Jesus is Lived

Thoughts on last week's article. By: Cody Rousseau

Last week we had an article on the "Problem of Biblical Authority." If you, like many, read and were confused or frustrated by this article, then good work for wrestling with a tough subject!

I wanted to distill some thoughts on this article this week and give some breathing room before continuing on with N.T. Wright's lecture. As we continue through his article, which is rather long, I plan to take a week in between each section and try my best to explain and organize some of the content.

In his first section he talked in the introduction about the historical pitfalls that Christians have faced when using the bible as an "authoritarian" text. The problem he is referring to is that we do not have a simple book of rules and regulations given to us in a neat 66 installment manual. Instead we have 66 books ranging from personal letters to poetry, from specifications and blue prints, all the way to narrative prophecy.

With such a huge and varied collection Christians have struggled since day one to comprehend and properly utilize the scriptures in a way that is healthy. If you need evidence of this a brief foray into church history will help illuminate.

During the Reformation, for instance, Catholic believers decided if the Anabaptists wanted adult baptism so bad they

could have rocks tied to their feet and they could be dropped in rivers. Sola scriptura. During the last 50-60 years the divisions in churches and believers hasn't lessened in any way.

This constant and very visible marring on the people of God is indicative of a problem with how we define and use "Authority."

So N.T Wright begins this article with some troubling words. He questions the way that we, and he, were raised to view scripture and truth and authority. Where does the final authority lie?

The issue is that we can see how a narrow view of the way that scripture teaches and guides us ultimately leads to divisive views based on personal worldview. Each of us sees scripture a little differently and we will naturally diffuse down into groups of likeminded believers. Finding groups that confirm our biases and points of view.

As this happens churches naturally hit tipping points wherein people have enough momentum to take any idea and make it central. Those who agree stay, and those who don't begin to "shop" for a place that confirms their beliefs and practices more closely.

(Continued on page 4)

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Welcome Guests

We are so glad that you decided to try out Port Orchard Church of Christ this morning! Since you took this step to join us for worship, I would like to give you a warm welcome to our congregation. Wherever you are this morning, as we lift worship to God, I pray that you are able to leave feeling uplifted, convicted, or encouraged in your faith.

We seek here to worship God like the first century church did, with a sense of awe and with a

fear of the Lord. Some things we do might seem old fashioned or traditional, but we want you to know that at its core, it is for the praise of God's glory.

You are not required to do anything weird or ostentatious. We hope that you feel free to join us in worshipping God to the best of your abilities. If you have any specific needs we have a ministry staff that would love to connect with you. Ask the people sitting around you for their

names and to point them out!

Once again, we are so happy to have you here worshipping with us and we hope this is a chance to worship God in a deep and meaningful way.

Cody Rousseau

Save the Dates!

Sunday 3/13 Daylight Savings

Tuesday 3/15 Ladies Bible Study

Wednesday 3/16 Youth Group

Thursday 3/17 St. Patrick's Day

Sunday 3/20 Palm Sunday

Tuesday 3/22 Ladies Bible Study

Friday 3/25 Good Friday

Sunday 3/27 Easter Sunday

Port Orchard News and Events

Pulpit Preview— Acts 1: A new apostle

This week we will be starting the book of Acts. We will be talking about the first church, about making choices, and moreover about being a people invited into the narrative of God.

Happy Birthdays!

Spring is almost here! With it's arrival we have many brothers and sisters to celebrate their birth with. Let's celebrate the birthdays of our family members with joy and thanksgiving!

4—Ariana Avery, 4—Charlotte Hahn, 5—Lynn Chapman, 10—Lydia Gerard, 12—Brad Orser, 15—Troy Hill, 23—Mary Carter, 24—Jim Furstenworth, 25—Darrel Fry, 29—Mallory Hall, 31—Rodger Taylor

SERVING OPPORTUNITIES

Meals Needed

Bonnie Mitchell, along with Pene Hammock and Judy Van Lueven will be coordinating the temporary providing of meals on occasions when they are requested. Upon receiving the request, we will coordinate with the family to ascertain their needs – length of time, dietary restrictions etc. Once this has been determined through various means of communication we will contact the families here at POCOC for those who would like to participate with providing the meals.

There are some of you who want to always provide a meal, some who choose not to and some who would like to do so occasionally. Please email me if you

Serving March 13, 2016 :

Prayer Leader:	Joshua Wilson	Communion Prep:	Hill
Scripture Reader:	Cody Rousseau	Communion Cleanup:	Hill
Offering Thoughts:	Dale Sanders	Praise Team:	TBD
Communion Meditation:	Dave Snynn		
Servers:	B. Karn & T. Hill		
Ushers:	I. Zepf & B. Zepf		
Greeters:	Greg & Sandi Warner	Sunday School & LG Helper:	
Nursery Attendants:	Kerri S.	Fellowship Team:	Donuts— Roy & Jo Vaughn
Sound:	J. Hammock		Coffee— Rick V
Slides/Lighting:	Lisa Bratcher		Cleanup— Roy & Jo Vaughn



fall in any of those categories and I will make a list which will be confidential.

This is a great ministry and can be an opportunity to serve others. If you have any questions, please be sure and call:

Bonnie Mitchell 360-895-0453 (h) 360-265-3266 (c)
Pene Hammock 360-871-9678
Judy Van Lueven 360-692-0361

Nursery and Communion

Thank you to all who served in the nursery and preparing and cleaning up communion this year!

Are you gifted with little kids? Would you like to serve somehow but don't know where to start? We have just the place for you! We need for more people to sign up for doing the nursery and communion prep/clean-up for 2016. There are only a few slots left for Communion, so if you feel like you are willing and able, please sign up in the foyer for the next opportunity on our community board. We will be printing a new Nursery sign up soon!

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Easter Sunday Celebration!

Invite your family and friends to join us Easter Sunday to celebrate the Risen Lord with a Potluck Breakfast, Easter Egg Hunt, and Specially designed worship service for the Holiday and occasion! We need lots of food and eggs prestuffed! Please see Tiffany Rousseau for questions or where to volunteer! We will need at least 200 eggs and expect a great turn out!

Women's Retreat

The women's retreat is scheduled for April 22-24. Registration form and payment can be turned in to LaDonna Latham. Any questions regarding the retreat can be fielded by Lisa Bratcher. Information will be on the bulletin board and registration should be taken care of as soon as possible!

ESG: Potluck March 13th

After worship there will be a meal provided! Please bring a dessert; The timeline is posted on bulletin board; Q & A posted on bulletin board; If you or someone you know is interested in being a paid babysitter during growth group times when needed, please contact Carla Duffy.

New Directory

There will be a new directory published in the beginning of April. Please check all items in your family's entry and submit additions, deletions, corrections to Cody by March 27th.

Our Prayer List

Healing for the following family members:

Gary Chasteen, Barbara Byrd, Rick Valasco, Bonnie Mitchell, Lucille Lowe, DJ Magneson, and Les Lewis and any others we are not aware of being ill.

Prayer for Deja and Rodney Cormier and for Deja's pregnancy.

Pray for members who are homebound and unable to worship and fellowship with us.

Prayers for our nation

Prayers for our church as we begin a new journey with the Growth groups and curriculum.

Prayers for Cody, our deacons and the many ministries of our church.

March 6, 2016

Worship: 81

Class: 36

Offering: \$3,316.29

Goal: \$3,437.50

The entire protestant movement has been built on this, ironically the Orthodox movements have been built on this as well. We all suffer when we try to make the "point" of Christian life and understanding fit within a "rulebook."

It seems to me that we should instead, adopt a view that takes the story of God, the narrative text of scripture and look closely at how the story informs our understanding of Christ.

If we wish to see a time when more believers unite instead of divide then we cannot keep taking a course of action that bears divisive fruit.

The issue with an article like this, with ideas like this, and moreover with the culture of "individual" faith, is that in order to make positive progress one needs to be intensely devoted to study and prayer and listening.

In order to affect positive change we need to be a people who are MORE in tune with the Holy Spirit.

In order to know it's voice though, to know God's voice, you have to be studying and learning WHO God is.

I always think of the story of Moses and the burning bush when considering these issues.

Moses stumbles into a conversation with the God of all creation and upon receiving his calling he asks, "What then shall I call you?" Moses is asking for power over the people, power over God, and God won't have it. He responds in the best way! "I am who I am. I will be what I will be."

To me this is the perfect story for us as we seek to wield authority. Ours is not a position of power, ours is not a mind that can understand God. Instead we are called by Christ to live as Christ lived.

If you are wondering what it should mean to give authority up and seek proper relationship with God look no further than Christ.

"5 In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus:

6 Who, being in very nature[a] God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage;

7 rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature[b] of a servant, being made in human likeness.

8 And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross!" (Phil. 4:5-8)

May God bless you as you seek Him.

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