

SIGN SEEKERS

Text: Matthew 16:1-4

INTRO: The Jews of Jesus' day had seen miracle after miracle, yet they refused to believe in Him. On this occasion they implied that if only they could see a sign they would follow Him.

Many today are of a like mind. They have not seen miracles, but they have seen God manifested in the things which He made, Rom. 1:20, and are without excuse. What is wrong with the sign seeker?

I. THE SIGN SEEKER WANTS TO WALK BY SIGHT, NOT BY FAITH.

A. Thomas was rebuked for this attitude.

John 20:29, Jesus said to him, "Thomas, because you have seen Me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed."

B. Paul contrasted faith with sight, 2 Cor 5:7

II. THE SIGN SEEKER SEEKS GREATER PROOF THAN THE SOLEMN PROMISES OF GOD.

A. God's promises are sure.

Psa 33:4, word of the Lord is right

Heb 6:18, impossible for God to lie

Num 23:19, God is not a man that He should lie

Titus 1:2, God cannot lie

B. The O.T. had been settled long before Jesus' time.

Luke 16:29.

C. Jesus promised that the H.S. would enable the apostles to work miracles to confirm the N.T. revelation. And He fulfilled that promise.

Mark 16:17-20, And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by

no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover." So then, after the Lord had spoken to them, He was received up into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God. And they went out and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them and confirming the word thru the accompanying signs.

Heb 2:3-4, How shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him, God also bearing witness both with signs and wonders, with various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to His own will?

John 3:5; John 20:30-31

III. THER SIGN SEEKER DEMANDS GOD TO SUBMIT TO THE WILL OF MAN.

- A. This is what Satan demanded of Jesus, LK 4:1-12.
- B. This was the attitude of Balaam. Not satisfied with the word of God, he sought to see "what the Lord would say more" (Num 3:19)
- C. Man needs to realize that God's ways are not our ways but God's ways are best. Prov 14:12; Isa 55:8-9; Rom 10:1-3

IV. THE SIGN SEEKER MOST LIKELY WOULD NOT ACCEPT THE TRUTH EVEN IF HE WERE GIVEN A SIGN.

- A. Pharaoh didn't. Ex. 7ff
- B. The Jews of Jesus' day didn't.
- C. The brothers of the "rich man" wouldn't, LK 16:27-31

V. THERE SHALL BE NO SIGN GIVEN.

- A. The word has already been confirmed. Believe it or you will die in your sins. John 20:30-31; 8:21, 24

B. With God's revelation being completed, signs & wonders ceased to be given.

1 Cor 13:8-11, Love never fails. But whether there are prophecies, they will fail; whether there are tongues, they will cease; whether there is knowledge, it will vanish away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect has come, then that which is in part will be done away.

CONCLUSION: 1 Cor 1:21-25, For since, in the wisdom of God, the world thru wisdom did not know God, it pleased God thru the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe. For Jews request a sign, & Greeks seek after wisdom; but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness, but to those who are called, both Jews & Greeks, Christ the power of God & the wisdom of God. Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

Butler St., Springhill, LA, October 21, 1978

KBSF Radio, Springhill, LA, April 7, 1974

La Porte, TX, August 12, 1978

Exton, PA, January 21, 1990

Susquehanna, Marietta, PA, August 15, 2004