

## Seeking God or Man's Glory?

Pedro Gelabert

*You search the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is they that bear witness about me, (40) yet you refuse to come to me that you may have life. ... (44) How can you believe, when you receive glory from one another and do not seek the glory that comes from the only God?... (47) But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe my words? **John 5:39-47 (ESV)***

The Scriptures, God's own words, contain the revelation of salvation for man's soul. The Scriptures bear witness of Jesus. If you do not have the Scriptures within you then you don't have God's love in you - you have man's glory in you. To receive Jesus is to believe and have the Scriptures in you. Otherwise, you have man's glory in you and not God's love (**1 John 3**). If you don't believe in the writings you don't believe in Jesus' words either, for the writings testify about Jesus. How we practice what we study and why we do it reveals who we worship.

If your desire is to seek man's wisdom and fulfill your own idea of what you think life is teaching you – or perhaps be known as an important and influential teacher – you will not end up believing what the Scriptures teach. You may read it and read it and yet you will end up making your own doctrine as you go along, seeking the approval of others or your own approval instead of God's. Listen to what Jesus says here:

*If anyone's will is to do God's will, he will know whether the teaching is from God or whether I am speaking on my own authority. (18) The one who speaks on his own authority seeks his own glory; but the one who seeks the glory of him who sent him is true, and in him there is no falsehood. **John 7:17-18 (ESV)***

Some "authoritative" Christian writers are all about heightening doubt and expressing human opinion over godly instruction. When you read their books and musings most of what you get is grayness, not real clarity, unless they speak by spiritual wisdom from the Scriptures. Truth is simple and can be simply understood. But beware of long explanations and lengthy writings when someone attempts to "interpret" what the scriptures are saying! Where there are many words sin is not absent (**Prov. 10:19**). Complicated doctrines and teachings have little to no truth in them. They are full of presumption and man's glory, which is why people who write them need so many letters in front or behind their name. Where is the authority coming from? Man. And what is in man? If not the love of God, then hatred, murder, lies and the like (**Matt 15:18-20**). In the name of academic pursuit or theological significance these so-called teachers have failed to simply let their heart pursue the pure word of God and have allowed man's glory to distract them.

Brothers and sisters, of the reading and writing of books there is no end (**Ecc. 12:11-12**). Fill yourself up with the word of God, as Peter encourages; search for truth in His word and fill yourself with the words of God and delight in God's Word.

We have been reading and studying Peter and John's writings. These brothers were elders by the time they wrote their letters. They had much wisdom and maturity, not to mention they were inspired by the Holy Spirit. Can you see the clarity in their words? The simplicity in their instruction? Do you see any grey areas or does it look pretty much black and white? Judge for yourself the things you choose to read and see if they are full of black and white truth or the grayness of man's glory and presumptions.

The Jews whom Jesus addressed were probably those who sought man's interpretations of the Scriptures more than they sought and prayed for truth. This prevented them from spiritual discernment of scriptures since they were more impressed with man's musings than God's wisdom and truth. Are you easily impressed by people's speeches or books or opinions? Do they sound intelligent? Do they sound confusing?

*"...long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation." **1 Peter 2:2 (ESV)***

*The Lord Jesus has enabled us to serve in the following capacity:*

**Evangelist**  
Robert Carr

**Associate Evangelist**  
Pedro Gelabert

**Spanish Minister**  
Charlie Gomez

**Marriage Counselors**  
Derek Peterson  
Steve Aponte, Sr

**Worship Directors**  
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George Bullinger

**Bulletin Editors**  
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**Freedom In Christ**

Kevin Booker

*“For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery.” Gal 5:1*

When I was only a couple of years old in Christ I would measure my relationship with God based on the good things that I did. When I preached the gospel to someone or served my brother or sister in some way I thought that I was doing pretty well and I thought that God would bless me in some way. But when I fell short in some way, like failing to preach the gospel to someone or giving into anger, I would get down and wait for God to discipline me. I had a lot of ups and downs because I was basing my relationship with God on me and what I did. I thought that my actions were earning me either blessings or curses.

I mistakenly believed that my faith in Christ could be expressed by following rules and regulations. I had to learn what Paul told the Galatian church:

*“For in Christ Jesus neither circumcision nor uncircumcision counts for anything, but only faith working through love.” Gal 5:6*

Because Jesus went to the cross to abolish the law with all its regulations and commandments we are now able to live in the new way of the Spirit and not in the old way of the written code. (Eph 2:14-15; Rom 7:6) Praise God that because of the Spirit we are now free from the law and we can focus on love!

*“For you were called to freedom, brothers. Only do not use your freedom as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.” Gal 5:13*

Trying to live by law will only cause you to be critical (of yourself and others), and struggle with envy and guilt. Focusing on the Spirit and living a life of love is what will give us peace and confidence in our relationship with our Heavenly Father.

*“By this is love perfected with us, so that we may have confidence for the day of judgment, because as he is so also are we in this world. There is no fear in love, but perfect love casts out fear. For fear has to do with punishment, and whoever fears has not been perfected in love.” 1Jn 4:17-18*

DATE	NAME	TOWN
3/10/10.....	Racquel Lamarre .....	Springfield Gardens
2/28/10.....	Cliff Hendrickson, Jr .....	Selden
2/19/10.....	Amber Tomengo .....	Medford
2/3/10.....	Kevin Lynch.....	Bronx
1/21/10.....	Jennifer Krauss.....	West Islip
1/18/10.....	Ceceila Flores.....	Washington Heights

Weekly Budget: \$ 9,000		
MONTH	AVERAGE WEEKLY ATTENDANCE	AVERAGE WEEKLY CONTRIBUTION
January, 2010	305	\$11,324.40
February, 2010	296	\$8,921.25
March, 2010	304	\$8,529.75

**“Keep back thy servant from presumptuous sins...”**

Carolyn Shlesinger

In *Psalm 19:13 (ESV)* David prays “*keep back your servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me. Then I shall be blameless, and innocent of great transgression.*” David gave us a good prayer to imitate.

The word presumptuous means taking liberties, being forward. In the Hebrew dictionary the word can mean daring, arrogant, or proud. Presumptuous thinking is “how can I be served”, rather than looking to serve others. Presumptuousness is not looking to God, but looking to people, expecting to be served and have all your needs met by them, when only the Lord can meet all your needs. Obviously this type of thinking is dangerous and leads to sin.

An example of presumptuous sin is found in *2 Chronicles 26:16-21*. We read about King Uzziah. The chapter tells of all the wonderful things Uzziah did, but in verse 16 (ESV) it reads, “*But when he was strong, he grew proud, to his destruction.*” He went to burn incense in the temple of the Lord—something only the priests were authorized to do. Maybe he thought he could do a better job than the priests—whatever the reason he acted presumptuously. In verse 19 (NIV) it says he was so angry that he was raging at the priests. At that point the Lord struck Uzziah with leprosy for his unfaithfulness. If he would have humbled himself after the priests told him not to do this thing, he would have spared himself from great loss. This presumptuous act cost him his life—he had leprosy until his death.

*2 Peter 2:10 (NKJV)* speaks about those “*who walk according to the flesh in the lust of uncleanness and despise authority. They are presumptuous, self-willed. They are not afraid to speak evil of dignitaries.*” Being presumptuous is the opposite of having a quiet and gentle spirit. It is an attitude dominated by self-interest. I fall into presumptuous thinking at times. When I start looking at everyone in my life, and presuming how they ought to be acting, that’s my cue that I know I need to humble myself, and change my thinking. I confess my sin, and start meditating on verses like *Philippians 2:3 (NIV)* “*...in humility consider others better than yourselves*”, and the simple verse in *Ephesians 4:2 (NIV)* “*be completely humble and gentle.*”

*Deuteronomy 17:12, 13 (ESV)* Moses wrote that “*the man who acts presumptuously by not obeying the priest who stands to minister there before the Lord your God, or the judge, that man shall die. So you shall purge the evil from Israel. And all the people shall hear and fear and not act presumptuously again.*”

*1 Peter 1:17 (KJV)* says to “*pass the time of your sojourning here in fear.*” That word “fear” is speaking of a loving reverence for God, fear of displeasing or causing pain to God. Presumptuousness is not acting out of reverence for God.

*Exodus 20:20 (ESV)* says “*that the fear of God will be with you to keep you from sinning.*” Remembering the fear of the Lord always helps me to humble myself, keeps me from acting presumptuously, and keeps me faithful.

**“For the building up of the Body...”**

**Ephesians 4:12**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THIS QUARTER**

- 📖 **Off Bible Class Dates:** April 14<sup>th</sup>; May 12<sup>th</sup>; June 9<sup>th</sup>
- 📖 **Devotional Service Dates:** April 9<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup>; May 7<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup>; June 4<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup>
- 📖 **Ladies’ LifeTalks:** April 24<sup>th</sup>, 11am-1pm at Tasha Jules’ home
- 📖 **Women’s Retreat:** May 14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup> at Camp DeWolf in Wading River, NY
- 📖 **Homeschool Science Far:** Saturday, May 29<sup>th</sup>. Come encourage our homeschoolers!
- 📖 **Kent Men’s Retreat:** June 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup>. Visit [www.cocmensretreat.com](http://www.cocmensretreat.com) for details.
- 📖 **Harvest Campaigns:** Long Island: June 26<sup>th</sup>, July 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>; Queens: July 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup>
- 📖 **Video Library:** If you have any items take out from the video library, please make sure they are signed out or return them if you’re done with them. Please see Rob Dixon in the back foyer Sunday after services for more information.
- 📖 Keep up with all church events by joining LIChurch Space! Go to [www.licoc.org](http://www.licoc.org) and click the LIChurch Space link!
- 📖 If you would like to order a cassette tape of a past sermon or seminar, please see Rob Dixon.
- 📖 All announcements should be submitted to David Luhrs.
- 📖 Address/telephone changes can be e-mailed to [directory@licoc.org](mailto:directory@licoc.org).
- 📖 **Parking reminder** - Public Safety has issued a statement requesting that all church members and visitors **refrain** from parking on any **grass areas** beyond the parking lots surrounding the chapel. Thank you for your cooperation!

**MISSIONARY SUPPORT**

- ✝ Apologetics Press.....International
- ✝ We Care Ministries.....West Monroe, Louisiana
- ✝ Ron Clayton.....India
- ✝ Doug & Lucy McDougle.....Ukraine, Russia
- ✝ Long Island Harvest Campaign.....Central Islip, NY
- ✝ City Harvest Campaign.....Queens, NY

**“Your faith toward God has gone forth...”**

**1 Thessalonians 1:8**

**COMMUNITY BIBLE CLASS MINISTRIES**

Long Island Ministry.....(Wednesday 7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.).....Robert Carr.....(631) 348-7322  
*New York Institute of Technology Chapel, Carleton Avenue, Central Islip, N.Y.*

City Ministry.....(Wednesday 7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.).....Pedro Gelabert ....(347) 732-2101  
*House Churches in Rosedale, St Albans and Fresh Meadows in Queens, New York City. Please call for directions.*

Spanish Ministry.....(Tuesday 7:30 p.m. - 8:30 p.m.).....Charlie Gómez.....(631) 772-2889  
*New York Institute of Technology Chapel, Carleton Avenue, Central Islip, N.Y.*

**UPCOMING KINGDOM EVENTS**

For anyone wanting to use his/her vacation in a fruitful way, take a vacation to help bring souls to Jesus. :) Join a “We Care Ministry” soul winning team and help bring people to the Lord. Learn the techniques of the “We Care Ministry” team leaders: Larry West, Willie Tolison, and Bill Oden. Room and board will be provided. If you have any questions or need more information, please contact Bob Carr.