

## WOULD SOMEONE GRAB YOUR SLEEVE?

Joshua Welch

*“Thus says the Lord of hosts: In those days ten men from every language of the nations shall grasp the sleeve of a Jewish man, saying, ‘Let us go with you, for we have heard that God is with you’” (Zechariah 8:23).*

People notice when God’s people are enjoying the favor and blessings of God. Abimelech noticed Abraham (Genesis 21:22). Laban saw it in Jacob (Genesis 30:27). Potiphar saw the favor of God upon Joseph (Genesis 39:3). Rahab had heard of how God had blessed the people of Israel before their conquest (Joshua 2:9-11). Naomi could see God was blessing Ruth through Boaz (Ruth 2:19-20). Nebuchadnezzar could see *“the Spirit of the Holy God”* was in Daniel (Daniel 4:18). The Sanhedrin could *“not deny”* that *“a notable miracle”* had been done among the apostles (Acts 4:16).

Likewise, when God is working in us, people will take notice. How can they see God is with us? What is it the world needs to see before they would grab our sleeve and want to tag along with us in our spiritual walk?

**They can see God is with us by our *“good works.”*** *“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven”* (Matthew 5:16).

**They can see God is with us when they see a powerful love for each other.** *“By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another”* (John 13:35).

**They can see God is with us when they see unity among Christians.** Jesus prayed the disciples *“may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me”* (John 17:21).

**They can see God is with us when we convince and convict sinners through teaching and preaching.** Paul wrote to Corinth about their assembly: *“If...an unbeliever or uninformed person comes in, he is convinced by all, he is convicted by all. And thus the secrets of his heart are revealed; and so, falling down on his face, he will worship God and report that God is truly among you”* (1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 14:25).

Let’s keep doing the things that will lead others to grab our sleeves and come along. Good works, love, unity, and edifying worship and teaching are all keys to success. The opposite of these will repel the world. Make your life a compelling argument for God’s presence.

## THUNBERG’S THEOLOGY

Bryan Matthew Dockens

The Faculty of Theology at the University of Helsinki in Finland recently announced it would confer an honorary doctorate upon Greta Thunberg, the twenty-year-old environmental activist from Sweden.

**Environmentalism Is a Religion.** That an institution whose alleged purpose is to study the divine would bestow honors on someone for sounding alarms about harming the earth is sufficient evidence that environmentalism is a religious pursuit. Anything that takes higher priority than serving the one God of heaven is, by definition, idolatry. Thus, opponents to environmental fervor have long understood that mania to be idolatrous. The present activity of the Finnish theologians merely substantiates what was already known to many. Jesus said that *“earth will pass away”* (Luke 21:33), so trying to *“Save the Earth,”* as was long the mantra of environmentalism, is not only certain to fail, but sets environmentalists in opposition to God. Salvation has nothing to do with sparing the planet from pollution because there is salvation in no other name than Jesus Christ of Nazareth (Acts 4:12, 10).

**Theological Degrees Do Not Honor God.** *“Theology”* is a word derived from Greek terms for *“God”* and *“study;”* it is literally the study of God. An academy that awards diplomas for studying God, which chooses to honor a social activist who is intent on characterizing mankind – the pinnacle of God’s creation, as a plague on a fragile earth – which God has marked for destruction, has clearly gone far off course. Even so, that is to be expected because the Lord never authorized any religious institution beyond His church. According to God’s *“eternal purpose,”* the church is to make known *“the manifold wisdom of God”* universally (Ephesians 3:10-11). If the church is actively doing this, then its members would have neither the time nor inclination to establish new, man-made organizations for studying God. After all, it is the *“church of the living God”* that is *“the pillar and ground of the truth”* (1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 3:15). Since Scripture never commanded, exemplified, or implied any use for theological institutions beyond the church itself, such are additions and additions are dangerous. *“Do not add to His word, lest He rebuke you, and you be found a liar”* (Proverbs 30:6). Any school of divinity, in Helsinki or elsewhere, whether it honors godless crusaders or otherwise, does not serve to honor God, regardless of its original intent.

**"WHAT MUST I DO  
TO BE SAVED?"**

**ACTS 16:30**

**LEARN THE GOSPEL**

John 6:45; Romans 10:17

**BELIEVE IN CHRIST**

Hebrews 11:6; John 3:16

**CONFESS CHRIST**

Matthew 10:32-33; Romans 10:9-10

**REPENT OF SIN**

Acts 3:19; 17:30

**BE BAPTIZED INTO CHRIST**

Mark 16:16; Romans 6:3-6

**REMAIN STEADFAST**

1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:58; Revelation 2:10

**"THE ASSEMBLING OF  
OURSELVES TOGETHER"**

**HEBREWS 10:24-25**

**SUNDAY**

Worship @ 10:00 a.m.

Studies @ 11:45 a.m.

**WEDNESDAY**

Studies & Worship @ 7:00 p.m.

**THURSDAY**

Men's/Women's Studies

@ 6:30 p.m.

75 Sherrod Boulevard

Belen, New Mexico

**"IF A MAN IS OVERTAKEN IN  
ANY TRESPASS...  
RESTORE SUCH A ONE"**

**GALATIANS 6:1**

**CONFESS TRESPASSES**

James 5:16; 1<sup>st</sup> John 1:9

**REPENT OF SIN**

Acts 8:22

**PRAY FOR FORGIVENESS**

Acts 8:22

**REMAIN STEADFAST**

1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15:58; Revelation 2:10

**"A WORD FITLY SPOKEN IS  
LIKE APPLES OF GOLD IN  
SETTINGS OF SILVER"**

**PROVERBS 25:11**

"You got to keep your ethics intact because good and bad is a compass that helps you find a way and a person that only does what's better or worse is the easiest type of person to control. They are a mouse in a maze that just finds the cheese. But the one who knows about good and bad will realize that he's in a maze."

– Dave Chapelle

**"WHOLE COUNSEL"**

**ACTS 20:27**

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**WITHOUT LOVE, I AM NOTHING**

Ralph Walker, adapted

If you write a zero on a paper, you have zero. If you write ten of them on the page, you still have zero. You could fill the entire page with zeros and the value wouldn't change a bit: still zero.

But put a single one in front of all those zeros – and "wow" – everything changes. From no value, the one has united them and infused them all with tremendous worth and power.

So it is with works and knowledge. They have no value on their own. You can line up a whole page full of worship and service, you could quote the entire Bible, and you'd have a whole lot of nothing. But if you place love in front of them, place love beneath them, make love the peg on which they all hang and depend – everything changes.

All of that knowledge humbles instead of puffing up. All of that service becomes about others and God and not self. It's not that love matters and the other things don't. They matter tremendously, but only with love. Love unlocks their true value and potential.

*"Knowledge puffs up, but love edifies"* (1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 8:1).

*"Though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing"* (1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 13:2).

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