

The Word Of The Lord

Introduction: We live in a time where respect for God's word is dwindling. Even many that refer to themselves as the church of Christ despise God's word. These false teachers are proposing that God's word is in need of alteration or that it is suppose to evolve. Denominations have proven for years their disrespect for the word of God as authoritative by instituting practices not found within scripture and then defending them by what some scholar said or whatever happens to be PC at the time.

The concern is that without trusting the scriptures as the actual word of God many find no strength in serving God. Evidence of this is clearly seen with many of the statistics of those who consider themselves religious.

Let us spend our time this morning/evening studying this trend and what the consequences of such theories mean.

I. Statistics

- A. Recently published in Truth Magazine in an article by David C. Morrison, Jr. entitled "His Passion and Our Passion" brother Morrison presented statistics, which show the lack of commitment to God by those who say they believe in God as well as their "lack of dedication to His word."
 - 1. The Statistics come from a survey preformed by Harris Interactive of 2,306 adults
- B. Do Not Believe In God:
 - 1. 10% Protestants
 - 2. 21% Roman Catholics
 - 3. 62% Jews
- C. Who Believes In God:
 - 1. 79% Believe
 - 2. 66% Certain of it
 - 3. 12% Aren't sure
- D. What causes such doubt in God?
 - 1. Let me suggest it is not just a "lack of dedication to His word," but rather a total lack of respect for His word as inspired.
 - 2. If it is just another book to us then we will act upon what is said in it just like we do any other book.
 - 3. This is the reason we have so many differing "religions."
 - a. These groups all follow something different based upon what they want (i.e. creeds) instead of what God revealed to us through His word only.

II. A Word Inspired

- A. If there's an answer to what man should practice as an individual or what the church should engage in, where should we turn for the answers if the Bible is not inspired?
 - 1. If not the Bible then where?
 - 2. If we are to have guidance at all it MUST come from the Bible and it alone.

- B. The mistake most often enjoined is a total disregard for inspiration of the Bible.

- C. Sure, if these were merely men writing as they pleased then we could sanction any teaching or practice we'd like. (And most men do) However, what makes the Bible believable and worth staking ones eternal life upon?
 - 1. That it's not the mere words of men but rather the authoritative word of God.
 - 2. If it isn't then we must assume the book simply a well-written fairy tale and live as we please saying, "let us eat and drink; for to morrow we die."
 - a. Note what Paul was saying - I Cor 15:32 - "If after the manner of men I have fought with beasts at Ephesus, what advantageth it me, if the dead rise not? let us eat and drink; for to morrow we die."
 - b. Speaking about the resurrection to life Paul says that if he put his life in danger for the teaching of a resurrected life and it's not true then life is void of meaning.
 - c. If there is no resurrection then no judgment and if no judgment no God and if no God he should simply live as riotous as he pleases.
 - 3. If there isn't inspiration of scripture then all must be a lie and isn't worth the fight.

III. Answered Questions

- A. The most important question we must ask is, if the scriptures are inspired then why would one question what is written or have the audacity to try and change it?
 - 1. If we prove the scriptures are inspired then we also prove they're an authoritative Guide for man.

- B. The Old Testament is inspired:
 - 1. The Bible tells us that God gave His will through prophets (Heb 1:1)
 - 2. The Bible also tells us that these prophets were inspired (II Pet 1:20-21)

- C. However, Paul indicates “all scripture” is inspired.
1. "All scripture is given by inspiration of God..." (I Tim 3:16)
 - a. Was Paul lying? If so religion is vain and there are no words of Paul's which can be believed as from God.
 - b. However, if Paul is not a liar then every word he wrote was with the sanction of the Holy Spirit.
 2. Note what Jesus said about the future teaching of the apostles through the Holy Spirit - John 16:13 - "Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come."
- D. If then, these men were inspired then what they wrote and not some so called scholar and/or teacher should be believed as authority on the subject of Christianity.

Conclusion: If men are ever going to find agreement, not to mention truth, on the subjects of Christianity, we will have to begin by understanding that the Bible alone is the answer to religious principles. If not, the discussion becomes of man's wisdom and words. Again, the reason there are so many differing “faiths” is because there is little respect for God's word as being the final authority on religious matters.

I Cor 15:58 – “Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.”