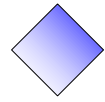


The Voice of Truth



June 23, 2013

“Which is Not Another Gospel”

By Jimmy Pettigrew

The purpose of Paul’s letter to Galatia was written to meet needs of a particular occasion. We are not left to second-guess the reason for which this letter was written. *“I marvel that ye are so quickly removing from him that called you in the grace of Christ unto a different gospel; which is not another (gospel) only there are some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ” (Galatians 1:6-7).* What were these “foolish Galatians” doing? They were turning away themselves from the grace of God to a different gospel which Paul explained is not another gospel.

There is only one gospel, one faith (**Ephesians 4:5**); one message of good news (**Romans 10:13**); It is called Truth (**John 8:32**); the Word (**Acts 8:4**); the faith (**Jude 3**); the Way (**Acts 9:2**); the Gospel (**Romans 1:16**). There is one gospel for all men for all time (**Matthew 28:18-20**; **Mark 16:15**); and men will be judged by that one gospel (**John 12:48**). The truth, the one gospel will give freedom from sin (**John 8:32**), salvation (**1 Timothy 2:4**; **Romans 1:16**); it is able to save your soul (**James 1:21**). But one’s salvation is predicated upon his love for the Truth (**2 Thessalonians 2:10**). God intends for the Truth to be in us (**1 John 1:8**); keeping God’s commandments is the clear evidence that the Truth is in us. The Truth abides in the person who is faithful to the truth (**2 John 2**).

Truth can and has been perverted. Error and perversions are to be rejected! The gospel may be perverted, twisted, or changed (**Galatians 1:6-9**); *“twist to their own destruction” (2 Peter 3:16).* Perversions of the gospel bring false teachers under condemnation (**Galatians 1:8-9**). God does not have a gospel for one group and a different gospel for another group. The one gospel does not reveal different plans of salvation. There is one way for all people to be saved. One must heard the gospel (**Romans 10:14**); one must believe Jesus is the Christ the Son of God (**John 8:24**); Repent of sins (**Luke 13:3**), and be baptized for the remission of sins (**Acts 2:38**); baptized into Christ (**Galatians 3:27**); where grace is found (**2 Timothy**

2:1) and salvation (**2 Timothy 2:10**). People pervert the gospel of Christ by adding of taking away from His word (**Revelation 22:18-19**). Perversions of the gospel assert:

1. That salvation is by faith only (**James 2:24-26**).
2. That one is saved before baptism (**1 Peter 3:21**; **Mark 16:15-16**).
3. All one has to do is pray to be saved, repeat the sinners prayer (**Acts 22:16**).
4. That God is pleased with many different “churches” (**Matthew 16:18**; **Ephesians 1:22-23**).
5. Just accept Jesus as your personal Savior (**Hebrews 5:8-9**; **Matthew 7:21-23**).
6. All worship is pleasing to God (**John 4:24**).
7. That we are to keep the Law of Moses (**Romans 7:1-6**; **Galatians 3:24-25**).
8. That Truth doesn’t really matter, sincerity matters (**Acts 9, 22, 26 look at Paul’s life, he was sincere, but sincerely wrong! Sincerity is not sufficient**).

One needs to remember **2 John 9**: *“Whosoever goeth onward and abideth not in the teaching of Christ, hath not God: he that abideth in the teaching, the same hath both the Father and the Son.”* What kind of sin is John talking about? The kind of sin under consideration here is one that does not abide in the doctrine of Christ. To have the Father and the Son, we must abide in the doctrine or teaching of Christ; that is, we must do their will, as set out in the New Testament, *“he that doeth the will of my Father who is in heaven” (Matthew 7:21).* Truth is from heaven (**John 1:17**; **14:6**). It must be known (**John 8:32**), believed (**2 Thessalonians 2:12**), loved (**2 Thessalonians 2:10**), and obeyed (**1 Peter 1:22**; **5:7**). Only then can it set one free (**John 8:32**) and sanctify (**John 17:17**). One must be careful for truth can be perverted (**Romans 1:25**). The voice of the majority is never the proper standard in religion (**Matthew 7:13-14**). It is possible to be strong in numbers but not in truth (**Jeremiah 9:3**). The human race is not qualified to direct its own steps (**Jeremiah 10:23**). All men

Continued on Page Two

In This Issue...

Pages 1 to 2 - “Which is Not Another Gospel”
Pages 2 to 3 - “You Can Be A Christian, Just Like People In The New Testament”

Page 3 - Honesty - Truth – Error
Page 4 - WHAT IF IT’S NOT IN THE SCRIPTURES?

Continued from Page One, "Which is Not Another Gospel"

have the responsibility to hear the divine truth (**Jeremiah 22:29**). One must take heed what he hears (**Mark 4:24**); it must be truth. Friends, God's word is powerful (**Hebrews 4:12**)!

Friends, the gospel, is the good news that Christ came to earth (**Galatians 4:4**); that He died for our sins and was resurrected (**1 Corinthians 15:1-4**); that Jesus Christ

opened the way to heaven (**Hebrews 10:19-20**). No one knows when the second coming of Christ will occur (**Matthew 24:36**). The Lord's second coming will be sudden and unexpected as a thief in the night (**2 Peter 3:10**). Are you ready for that day to come? Are you following, walking in truth (**2 John 4**)? Or are you following "a different gospel; which is not another (gospel)..." (**Galatians 1:6-7**)? "Choose you this day whom ye will serve" (**Joshua 24:15**). •

"You Can Be A Christian, Just Like People In The New Testament"

By Jarrod Jacobs

Are you troubled by religious division? If you are, we want you to know that we are too! In fact, we believe that Jesus Christ is displeased with religious division. We believe this because Jesus said so in the Bible.

Jesus Prayed for Unity

Jesus prayed that all His followers would be united. Hear Him as He prays to the Father as recorded in **John 17:20-21**: "Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word; that they all may be one; as thou Father art in me and I in thee, that they also may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me." This scripture shows that Jesus is displeased when those who call themselves "Christians" -- followers of Christ -- are divided. And we can learn also that it is possible for all Christians to be united. If it were not possible, Jesus would not have prayed for it.

Unity Was Commanded

When division among Christians developed during Bible times, Paul, an inspired apostle of Christ, charged them that there be no divisions among them. From **1 Corinthians 1:10** we hear him as he says: "Now I beseech you brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment." The solution for division specified here by the apostle was for everyone to speak the same thing and to be of the same mind and judgment.

The Bible is not divided. The Bible does not contradict itself. It does not teach conflicting doctrines. So, we can end all religious division if we will let the Bible, and only the Bible, be our guide. Consider this: Many times, we find that men are not divided over what the Bible says; rather they are divided over what the Bible does NOT say.

Christ Is Not Divided

The Bible clearly tell us that Christ is NOT divided, and that division is the result of following men instead of following Christ. We read in **1 Corinthians 1:11-13**, "For it hath been declared unto me of you, my brethren, by them which are of the house of Chloe, that there are contentions among you. Now this I say, that every one of you saith, 'I am of Paul'; and 'I am of Apollos'; and 'I of Cephas'; and 'I of Christ'. Is Christ divided? was Paul crucified for you? or were ye baptized in the name of Paul?" Friends, the cause of religious division today is the same as it was then: people following various men instead of following Christ. Christ is not divided, and neither should Christians be divided. When we follow men, instead of following Christ, the Lord Jesus said that our worship is unacceptable to God. Hear Him, "But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men" (**Matthew 15:9**).

Today We Can Have That Same Unity

Certainly we are able to understand the Bible alike because the apostle Paul commands us to keep the unity that the Holy Spirit revealed. "Therefore, I, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the calling wherewith ye are called, With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; Endeavoring to keep the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all who is above and through all and in you all" (**Ephesians 4:1-6**). This scripture shows us that Christians in the Bible were united because they were told to **keep the unity**. One cannot keep what he does not have. If we will all follow the **Bible**, and only the Bible, we today can have that same unity which Christians had in the Bible.

Continued from Page Two, "You Can Be A Christian, Just Like People In The New Testament"

We Can Be Like Christians In The Bible

It is possible to be just what Christians were in the Bible if we will believe and obey the Word of God -- the Bible -- like they did. In **Luke 8:4-8**, the Lord Jesus used the sowing of seed to describe how some people will believe and obey the Bible while others will not. In **Luke 8:11-15** the Lord Jesus told what the parable meant. He explained that "The seed is the word of God." A fundamental truth is that a certain kind of seed will always produce its own kind. When we plant a seed of corn, we know we will always get corn, not beans or squash or something else. In like manner, the word of God -- the Bible -- when it is planted in our hearts -- when it is believed and obeyed -- will always produce Christians, not anything else. So we can be Christians just like Christians in the Bible, if we receive that same seed in our hearts -- unmixed with the commandments and doctrines of men -- and we believe and obey the Bible like they did -- nothing more and nothing less.

How People Became Christians In The Bible

It is easy to understand how people became Christians in the Bible. The Lord's instructions are plain, and the numerous examples God has given in His Word are simple.

1. They Believed in Christ - The Bible tells us that the Philippian jailor brought them, Paul and Silas, out "and said, *Sirs, what must I do to be saved? And they said, Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house. And they spake unto him the word of the Lord, and to all that were in his house. And he took them the same hour of the night, and washed their stripes; and was baptized, he and all his straightway*" (**Acts 16:30-33**).

2. They Repented of Their Sins - "Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and the rest of the apostles, *Men and brethren, what shall we do? Then Peter said unto them, Repent and be bap-*

tized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost ... they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about 3000 souls" (**Acts 2:37-41**).

3. They Confessed Christ - "Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus. And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? And Philip said, if thou believest with all thine heart thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him" (**Acts 8:35-38**).

4. They Were Baptized - "And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord" (**Acts 22:16**).

How Christians Were Joined Together In The Bible

When they became Christians, they were not part of any denomination because denominations did not exist in the Bible. Denominations resulted when men began teaching "perverse things" -- things not found in the Bible, and "drew away disciples after them" (**Acts 20:30**). We read in the Bible that Christians in each local area joined together to worship God, and every group of Christians was just alike in their faith and practice. They worshipped the same way; they taught the same doctrine; they did the Lord's work in the same manner; they had the same organization. They were independent churches which all looked to the Lord Jesus Christ alone as their head. They had no sub-head under Christ over them. Such as this resulted from the "perverse teachings" of men long after New Testament times. We encourage you to follow the Bible, and be a Christian just like the people in the New Testament. Credit: www.southside-churchofchrist.com ♦

Honesty - Truth - Error

By Eugene Britnell

There are many good people in the religious world who are honestly mistaken, but when a man who is honestly mistaken hears the truth, one of two things must happen: he will cease to be mistaken or he will cease to be HONEST. If he does not obey the truth he will no longer be honest. If he does obey the truth he will no longer be mistaken. Honesty and error must separate when truth comes along. No man can be honestly mistaken if he has heard

the truth!

"For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries." (**Hebrews 10:26-27**) Credit: www.moodychurchofchrist.com ♦

WHAT IF IT'S NOT IN THE SCRIPTURES?

By David J. Riggs

On several occasions, after I had stated that a certain religious belief or practice was not in the Scriptures, I received the reply, "Does that make it wrong?" Let me affirm plainly and emphatically in words which cannot be misunderstood that **it most certainly does make it wrong!** When one believes or practices something in religion which is not in the Scriptures, all of the following divine principles immediately apply:

1. It is not a good work - **2 Tim. 3:16-17**
2. It does not pertain to life and godliness - **2 Pet. 1:3**
3. It causes one to not have God - **2 John 9**
4. It is not authorized by Christ - **Col. 3:17**
5. It cannot be done by faith - **2 Cor. 5:7; Rom. 10:17; 14:23**
6. It is going beyond what is written - **1 Cor. 4:6**
7. It is not as the oracles of God - **1 Pet. 4:11**
8. It is not according to the pattern - **Heb. 8:5**
9. It does not pertain to the seed of the kingdom - **Luke 8:11; Matt. 13:18-19**
10. It is not of righteousness - **Rom. 1:16-17; 10:1-4**
11. It is of "no such commandment" - **Acts 15:24**
12. It is iniquity - **Matt. 7:22-23**
13. It is of men - **Matt. 21:25; 15:9**
14. It is not of truth - **John 4:24**
15. It is another gospel - **Gal. 1:6-9**
16. It is adding to the Word of God - **Rev. 22:18-19; Deut. 4:2; Prov. 30:5-6**

"The Bible doesn't say not to." The Bible doesn't need to condemn a practice to make it sinful and wrong. It is wrong when it is not in the Scriptures for it violates the above principles. Similarly, many use the time worn reply, "Isn't our practice a good work; look at the good we're doing." If it's not in the Scriptures, if cannot be a good work because, again, it is condemned by the above principles.

What should we say, therefore, about the many things which are practiced in religions today that are not in the Scriptures? For example, what about baptizing infants, sprinkling for baptism, christening, calling a man Reverend, instrumental music in worship, taking money out of the church treasury and sending it to human institutions, etc.? Aren't all of the above sixteen principles violated by such additions?

How can people claim to be followers of Christ when they have no respect whatsoever for the things which Christ said? How can they claim love and respect for Christ when they continue to do things in religion which have been introduced solely by man? Spending time and effort to learn the Word of Christ and continuing steadfastly therein, demonstrates genuine love and respect for Christ. Similarly, a rejection of all traditions and doctrines of men confirms true love and respect for Christ. Those who are doing things not authorized by Christ have no love and respect for Him. *Credit: <http://oakridgechurch.com/riggs/> ♦*

In effort to justify their practice, people often argue,

What Must I Do To Be Saved?

Hear and Learn - Rom. 10:17 m. 10:9-10 ; 1 Pet. 3:21 ; John 6:45; 17:3

Believe - Heb. 11:6; John 6:29; 8:24

Repent - Luke 13:3; Acts 3:19; 17:30

Confess the Lord - Matt. 10:32-33; Romans 10:9-10; 1 Pet. 3:21

Be Baptized - Mark 16:16; Acts 22:16; Gal. 3:26-27

Continue in the Apostles' Teaching - Acts 2:42; 2 Tim. 3:14-17

About the Hillcrest church of Christ

Evangelist: Jimmy Pettigrew

How to Contact Us

Telephone: (920)499-5677
E-mail: hillcrestcofc@live.com



Our Address

1621 Hillcrest Drive
Green Bay, WI 54313



Schedule of Assembly

Bible Study: Sunday, 9:00am
Worship Service: Sunday, 10:00am
Bible Study: Wednesday, 7:00pm*

*A song service is held on the last Wednesday of every month

www.hillcrestchurchofchrist.com