

## **FOLLOWING NO CREED BUT THE BIBLE**

Jas 1:19-27

### INTRODUCTION:

- A. Most denominational people avoid the problem of doctrinal differences by saying it makes no difference what you believe as long as you are sincere
- B. This sounds good, it appeals to almost everyone and it avoids the problem of offending anyone
- C. However, almost no one is willing to accept the ultimate conclusion of this doctrine.

### DISCUSSION:

#### **I. IF IT MAKES NO DIFFERENCE WHAT WE BELIEVE, THERE CAN BE NO FALSE DOCTRINE**

- A. However, note the warnings of Jesus and inspired writers in regard to false teachers and doctrines.
  1. Beware of false prophets Matt 7:15
  2. Blind lead blind, both fall in ditch Matt 15:13,14
  3. Devil & ministers appear as righteous 2Cor 11:14,15
  4. Try the spirits whether of God 1Jhn 4:1
- B. Warned against perverting the Gospel Gal 1:6-8
  1. Some corrupt the word 2Cor 2:17
  2. Preach "fables" to tickle ears 2Tim 4:1-4
  3. God allows to believe a lie 2Thess 2:10-12
- C. A lie can come to seem as real as truth (Note: Jacob and Joseph)
- D. Excerpts from article on shooting in San Bernardino, CA from the "Christian Chronicle" (Jan 2016) (filed under controversy / islam)
- E. If it makes no difference what one believes, then it makes no difference what the Bible says and we can believe anything we want

#### **II. OUR ATTITUDE TOWARD THE BIBLE MAKES ALL THE DIFFERENCE**

- A. The Bible is God's final revelation 2Tim 3:16,17 and is a complete and perfect guide 2Pet 1:3 (either it is or it is not)
- B. The Gospel is God's power to salvation Rom 1:16
- C. Whether or not we obey God's will, determines whether we have salvation Matt 7:21-23
  1. Just being religious is not enough Lk 6:46
  2. Not to add to or subtract from word Rev 22:18,19
  3. Must abide IN His doctrine 2Jhn 1:9
- D. Departure from the faith causes division 1Tim 4:1-3
  1. Heresies make manifest those approved 1Cor 11:18,19
  2. Religious division cannot be of God (1Cor 14:33) therefore we must test our differences by the Bible lest we have false security through following man's way rather than God's Isa 55:8,9

### **III. WE MUST SPEAK WHERE THE BIBLE SPEAKS AND REMAIN SILENT WHERE THE BIBLE IS SILENT**

- A. This was the concept in N. T. 1Pet 4:11
  1. Obviously, every detail is not specifically stated in the Bible, but principles of truth and right must govern our every action
  2. Modern conveniences allow nice buildings, lighted etc. and Bible on the printed page as well as electronic, etc.
  3. In seeking commandments of God we will determine to obey them within the framework of the same class or kind of that which is specified (examples)
    - a. Immersion is specified Rom 6:3-5. To sprinkle or pour for baptism is a change in the kind of action commanded. But to choose to immerse in a river, creek, lake or baptistery does not change the action commanded
    - b. Assembling on the first day of the week for worship is commanded by approved example Acts 20:7; 1Cor 16:1,2. To meet another day changes the classification of the day authorized. However, to choose early or late hour is within that which is commanded
  4. Important to keep in mind this basic difference
    - a. An **AID** helps to carry out what's commanded
    - b. **ADDITIONS** make a change in the class or kind of that which is commanded (Ex. Inst. music)
- B. Creed books of various denominations keep us divided
  1. They are written by men or groups of men – though they may be spiritual leaders, their decisions and/or ideas cannot supersede the authority of Christ Matt 28:18; Eph 1:22,23
  2. Everything in creed books that comes from the Bible is true (though it may be taken out of context and made to say what it doesn't say) but that which makes one group different from another in doctrine and practice is of men.
  3. If a book contains more or less than the Bible it is of men and constitutes a creed. If it contains nothing more or less than the Bible, then it is the Bible and therefore of God and must be believed.

### CONCLUSION:

- A. Why not put away the wedges of division and seek to unite on a thus saith the Lord 1Pet 4:11
- B. If you find something commanded in the Bible that you have not obeyed, would you be willing to obey? Jas 1:22-25
- C. If you find you are doing something for which you have no scriptural authority, will you stop? Matt 15:7-9