

HUMAN PHILOSOPHIES WHICH ARE ACCEPTED AS AUTHORITY IN RELIGION

Psalms 119:124-131

INTRODUCTION:

- A. Since Satan first tempted man & sin resulted, man has abused & misused the authority of His Creator:
 - 1. Adam & Eve failed to respect God's authority - So sin & death resulted
 - 2. All have violated God's authority Rom 5:12; 3:23; 1Jhn 3:4
- B. In trying to justify themselves, men have developed a series of human philosophies which serve to satisfy millions that their religious/moral actions are authorized by God, when in fact, God rejects them Col 2:8; Matt 7:21-23
- C. Let's examine some of these philosophies

DISCUSSION:

I. IT WORKS -The end justifies the means

- A. Saul & the Amalekites: 1Sam 15 (command v 3); (Saul's confidence v 13); ("it works" v 15); (Saul's rationalization v 19-21); (God's judgment v 22-23).
- B. Do you want to base your salvation on the same kind of logic king Saul used?!
- C. We cannot do evil that good may come! Rom 3:5-8
Such reasoning is condemned by God Rom 10:1-3.

II. TRADITION - It has been practiced for so long

- A. All traditions are not necessarily bad 2Thess 2:15
- B. We are talking about man's tradition versus God's commands Mk 7:1-13
- C. Here is what makes tradition wrong: v 8-9
 - 1. Require the tradition, yet reject God's commands.
 - 2. When established tradition(s) contradict God's word (v 10-12)
- D. Elevates man's judgment above God's law!

III. SILENCE OF THE BIBLE - doesn't say not to

- A. Be content with what Christ has revealed 2Jhn. 9.
- B. Men of Judah could not be OT priests! Heb 7:12-14
 - 1. God said what He wanted! - Num 3:10
 - 2. Silence does not give consent

IV. NUMBERS - Surely so many people can't be wrong

- A. Jesus says the majority is wrong! Matt 7:13-14
- B. Human race (except for 8 people)! Gen 6:5-6
- C. Only 2 of millions enter promise land. Num 14:28-30
- D. It was the majority that crucified Jesus
- E. This logic bases salvation upon man, pure & simple

V. LITTLE THINGS - Those issues are not important – or if I do some important things right, these other things won't matter

- A. Did their good make up for their lie? Acts 5:1-2, 3-4
- B. Must live by all of God's word -- If we sin, our good does not eliminate judgment Ezek 18:21-24
- C. Uzzah 2Sam 6:6-7 kept the ark from falling...Touched it & died. Good didn't outweigh the bad

VI. KEEPING UP WITH JONES'S -They are doing it and so can we

- A. Not content with God's way 1Sam 8:4-7, 19-20
- B. "Look at what the denominations are doing"
 - 1. Some have to be like them or perish (Such will perish)
 - 2. Churches can have reputations of greatness but really be dead because they go beyond gospel of Christ Rev 3:1-3

VII. LOSING TOUCH WITH REALITY - I'd rather do it wrong than not do it at all

- A. Would this logic work in sports? 2Tim 2:5
- B. Another alternative: God's work in God's way
1Cor 15:58

CONCLUSION:

- A. All of these philosophies put more value on man's own thoughts & desires than on what God says Jer 10:23; Prov 14:12
- B. The NT is our authority, we must have NT authority for every belief, teaching & practice, or...give it up to be right with God