

The Proper Attitude Toward the Bible

Introduction

1. **It is so vitally important that we have the proper attitude toward the Bible because religious error will condemn men.**

Galatians 1:6-10

Matthew 7:21

2 Thessalonians 2:1-12

2. **The New Testament tells us that Jesus has ALL authority.**

Matthew 28:18 And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.

3. **We must realize and understand that scriptural authority is established in three ways:**

- A. **By Direct Command**

Acts 10:48 And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord....

- B. **By Approved Apostolic Example**

Acts 20:7 Now on the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread....

- C. **By Necessary Inference – A place to meet is implied in the text of Hebrews 10:25:**

Hebrews 10:25 not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.

4. Let us look at how we establish scriptural authority with regard to the partaking of the Lord's Supper:

A. By Direct Command

1 Corinthians 11:23-24 For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you: that the Lord Jesus on the same night in which He was betrayed took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "Take, eat; this is My body which is broken for you; do this in remembrance of Me."

B. By Approved Apostolic Example

Acts 20:7 Now on the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread...

C. By Necessary Inference

- 1) Every first day of the week. Let us compare that with the keeping of the Sabbath Day:**

Exodus 20:8-11

5. The expediency involved (the when) in this matter is, the hour of the first day of the week or the containers used for the distributing of the Lord's Supper.

A. Remember this – in order for something to be expedient, it must first be authorized (lawful).

6. Unless we find a thing taught in the Bible in one or more of the ways mentioned here, we certainly do not have God's authority to practice or teach such things.

7. Now, let us examine some of the false bases of authority that is presented by men in religious matters.

Personal Desire and Taste

1. **Many people do what they like to do in religion.**
2. **That was the very same problem that the Israelites were guilty of many years ago.**

Judges 21:25 In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone **did what was right in his own eyes.**

Jackson Brown Jr. said:

I've learned that if you give a pig and a boy everything they want, you'll get a good pig and a bad boy.

3. **Man cannot and will not be saved, nor can they please God, by doing what they want to do and like to do.**

Jeremiah 10:23 O LORD, I know the way of man is not in himself; It is not in man who walks **to direct his own steps.**

Isaiah 55:7-9 Let the wicked forsake his way, And the unrighteous man his thoughts; Let him return to the LORD, And He will have mercy on him; And to our God, For He will abundantly pardon. **"For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor are your ways My ways,"** says the LORD. "For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways, And My thoughts than your thoughts.

4. **As a result of this, there are now hundreds and hundreds of differing religions in this country alone — and each has its own belief — but WHY?**

Tradition

1. Most all religious traditions that are believed and practiced have no basis in the New Testament of the Word of God.

A. For Example:

- 1) Religious holidays (Catholics have about 45 of these)**
- 2) Tithing**
- 3) Burning Incense**
- 4) Sprinkling or pouring water on a person for baptism.**
- 5) Baptizing babies**
- 6) Religious titles such as Father, Reverend, etc.**
- 7) Mechanical Instruments of music in worship**
- 8) Prayers offered for the dead**
- 9) Wearing of special clothing**
- 10) Customs that make up a religious holiday**

2. It would do us good to read what Jesus Himself says about the traditions of men.

Mark 7:1-13

Jaroslav Pelikan said:

Tradition is the living faith of those now dead. Traditionalism is the dead faith of those still living.

3. If God's Word does not authorize a belief or practice in religion, then it is of no value — no matter how long it has been believed or practiced.

Conscience

1. **Many people just let their “conscience be their guide” when it comes to religious matters.**

Author Unknown:

The trouble with the advice, "Follow your conscience" is that most people follow it like someone following a wheelbarrow--they direct it wherever they want it to go, and then follow behind.

- A. **Is “following our conscience” a reliable standard when it comes to the Bible?**

2. **Look at what Paul says:**

Acts 23:1 Then Paul, looking earnestly at the council, said, "Men and brethren, I have lived in all good conscience before God until this day."

Acts 24:16 This being so, I myself always strive to have a conscience without offense toward God and men.

- A. **Yet, in good conscience Paul had killed Christians, put them in prison, and persecuted them from city to city.**
Acts 8:1-3; 9:1-2; 26:9-11

3. **People can believe error, worship vainly, and sin against God — all in good conscience**
Matthew 7:15-23
Matthew 15:9

H. C. Trumbull: Conscience tells us that we ought to do right, but it does not tell us what right is — that we are taught by God's Word

4. **The bottom line is this: Our conscience is only as good as what it has been taught.**

Parents

1. **Most people have an inherited religion. They know little or nothing of God's Word, nor of their parent's religion.**

Human Leadership

1. **Blindly following men has caused many to fall into the pit.**

Matthew 15:13-14 But He answered and said, "Every plant which My heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. Let them alone. They are blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind leads the blind, both will fall into a ditch."

Tony Evans: Leadership in the local church should be determined by spirituality, not notoriety

Feelings and Thoughts of the Heart

1. **Notice what Naaman said in regards to what he thought he ought to do in order to have his leprosy cleansed:**

2 Kings 5:10-12

2. **The apostle Paul said:**

Acts 26:9 "Indeed, I myself thought I must do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth.

Feelings come and feelings go, And feelings are deceiving;
My warrant is the Word of God, Naught else is worth believing.

Religious Councils

1. Many people are prone to want to put religious authority into the hands of a group of men — contrary to what the Bible says.

A. Jesus said that He has ALL authority (Matthew 28:18).

Proverbs 12:5 The thoughts of the righteous are right, **But the counsels of the wicked are deceitful.**

The Majority

1. Most people just can't believe that the majority of religious people can be wrong – therefore, the minority must be wrong.

If 50 million people say a foolish thing, it is still a foolish thing

A. Jesus taught that the majority are going by the way of destruction (an eternal hell).

Matthew 7:13-14 "Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are **many who go in by it.** Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are **few who find it.**

Conclusion

1. It is so vitally important that we understand that the Word of God is the only basis of religious authority.

1 Peter 4:11 If anyone speaks, **let him speak as the oracles of God.**

Matthew 17:5 While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and suddenly a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. **Hear Him!**"

Hebrews 1:1-2 God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days **spoken to us by His Son**, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds;

2. We can ONLY please God when we have a desire to please Him.

A. We must allow Him to tell us what we must do and then respond to His Word, doing His will and not our will or another man's.

Hebrews 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who **diligently seek Him.**

