

WHAT ABOUT DOCTRINES OF MEN? (Galatians 1:6-9)

I. We need to be careful in this life what we obey.

- A. Matthew 7:15.
 - 1. We need to be careful of people who preach.
 - 2. We should always apply the test that the inspired apostle John instructed his readers to use - 1 John 4:1.
 - 3. Just because someone is in a pulpit, in front of a class, on TV or the radio doesn't mean we have to believe them.
 - 4. Just because someone has been to seminary, preaching school, theological school or graduate school doesn't make them infallible.
- B. Paul warned Timothy that there would be those who came preaching with a seared conscience (1 Timothy 4:1).
 - 1. These people have become so ingrained in their false doctrine that they will never change.
 - 2. They will also teach that which they know is false because it has become ingrained in them.
- C. Notice Romans 16:17-18.
 - 1. There is only one doctrine, or one faith, and we are to avoid those that teach differently.
 - 2. What determines if something is right or not is not the church of Christ, some preacher, me or anyone or anything else but the Bible.
- D. When we look around and see all the conflicting doctrines we need to remember the Bible is always right.
- E. If there is religious confusion, it is our fault (1 Corinthians 14:33).
- F. You and I can know and understand the will of God (Ephesians 5:17).
- G. We need book, chapter and verse for everything that is taught and practiced in the name of religion.

II. Five reasons to avoid the doctrines of men.

- A. Titus 1:14 - they turn you from the truth.
 - 1. There is only one truth (John 8:32).
 - 2. When we turn from God's word to doctrines of men we are in our sins.
 - 3. Everyone needs to put what we've obeyed to the test because if you die in sin, then you can't go to heaven.
- B. 2 John 9 - we don't have God.
 - 1. You only have God when you abide in the doctrine of Christ.
 - 2. The word "whosoever" is inclusive isn't it?
 - 3. That means me, you and everyone who lives.
 - 4. It includes every religious group.
- C. Galatians 1:6-10 - if you leave the gospel of Christ, you have left Christ.
 - 1. If any preacher, or an angel, preaches something that is not in the Bible he is going to be accursed.
 - 2. What Paul taught was the gospel of Christ.
 - 3. If God said it, that settles it.

- D. Matthew 15:9 - our worship will be in vain.
 - 1. It is possible to be sincere, honest and in vain.
 - 2. If what we have obeyed is not in scripture, then we need to change because no one wants their efforts to be in vain.
 - 3. Vain means empty or useless.
 - 4. Could you imagine your life of service to God being empty and useless, just wasted years?
 - 5. If we heard that the bank in which our money was being held was going bankrupt, how fast would we get it out?
 - 6. When our money is involved we move quickly, but we believe just about anything when it comes to our souls.
- E. Matthew 15:13-14 - that doctrine will be rooted up.
 - 1. Some say God won't hold me accountable for obeying what my preacher said.
 - 2. Did you read the verse - every plant?
 - 3. We have got to put to the test everything we obey.
- F. If we have obeyed false doctrine we have turned from the truth, we don't have God, we have left Christ, our work and worship is in vain and we are going to be rooted up.

III. Are these doctrines from God or men?

- A. We want to put a few doctrines to the test now: let's prove some things (1 Thessalonians 5:21).
- B. Some say that it is alright to wear the title reverend - from God or men?
 - 1. Psalm 111:9 - this is in connection to God's name.
 - 2. His name is to be elevated or put on a pedestal.
 - 3. What are preachers to be called?
 - a. 2 Peter 3:15 - brother Paul.
 - b. 1 Corinthians 16:12 - brother Apollos.
 - c. Hebrews 13:23 - brother Timothy.
 - 4. Not reverend or pastor, just brother.
- C. Some say any religious name will do - from God or men?
 - 1. I believe it matters to God (Isaiah 62:2 - God gives the name).
 - 2. It would be an everlasting name (Isaiah 56:5).
 - 3. Cornelius was a sincere but unsaved man (Acts 10:1-4).
 - 4. He needed to hear words to be saved and he did (Acts 10:44-11:1).
 - 5. He was the first Gentile convert: the new name would be given when the Gentiles were brought in.
 - 6. This is exactly what happened (Acts 11:18, 26).
 - 7. Give book, chapter and verse for any other name than Christian.
 - 8. 1 Peter 4:16 - if you are suffering under any other name then your suffering is in vain.
- D. Some sat that as long as you are sincere, you will be saved - from God or men?
 - 1. This sounds wonderful but is it in the Bible?
 - 2. Matthew 7:21 - we must obey Jesus just as we are told (Hebrews 5:9).

3. If we haven't obeyed Jesus we are in sin.
4. The Ethiopian was sincere - had traveled from Africa to Jerusalem - but was lost (Acts 8:26f).
 - a. Why did they go into the water?
 - b. God removes sin when we obey the doctrine of Christ (Colossians 2:12-13).
5. Saul was sincere and good but not saved (Acts 9:4-5).
 - a. Saul thought he was saved but that didn't make it so.
 - b. We also learn that God won't tell someone directly, because if He won't do it for Saul He won't do it for you either.
 - c. Saul still had to obey (Acts 22:16).
6. Some say preacher, I've got you - the thief on the cross wasn't baptized.
 - a. Friends, he was told he was going to be in paradise before Jesus died, which means the old law was still in effect.
 - b. Once Jesus died, then one needed to be baptized because His testament was in force only after death (Hebrews 9:16-17).
7. Others point to the jailer who was told if he believed he would be saved.
 - a. He had to believe on Jesus before He was baptized - he knew nothing about Jesus.
 - b. Once he believed he could then be baptized.
8. Find me book, chapter and verse for not having to be baptized.
- E. If we would put things to the test we would know if the doctrine was from God or men.
- F. We must test everything (1 Thessalonians 5:21).

From a sermon by Sam Jones