

## **WHAT IS THE STANDARD? (John 12:48)**

### **I. There has to be a standard.**

- A. If there is no standard in religious matters, complete subjectivism is the only other alternative.
  - 1. This means that there would be no wrong answer to any question.
  - 2. As br. Warren stated, any answer to any question would be right and true.
- B. There simply has to be a standard.
- C. Some of the biggest arguments between children occur when one of them has made up a game and tries to include others in it.
  - 1. Sometimes it happens because the rules that are known are changed by one of the children involved.
  - 2. When this happens, chaos quickly follows, resulting in a fight or hurt feelings.
- D. God desires that mankind be saved but mankind has to come to God in His way (Luke 6:46).
  - 1. If subjectivism were true, all could call Jesus Lord while doing what they wanted.
  - 2. All they would have to do is define terms their own way.
- E. Jesus didn't come to earth to make people religious, He came to save them and make the right religiously (Matthew 7:21-23).
- F. The only way to do that is recognize the authority of God and submit to His will, which is the proper standard.

### **II. There are false standards.**

- A. How would a police officer who has pulled us over for not wearing a seatbelt respond to our saying to him: "I don't feel that is a fair law?"
- B. How would Jerry Guthrie, our tax assessor, respond to us saying to him, "I had a vision about the standard you use for assessing taxes and I am now not going to abide by your standard any longer?"
- C. We know the response of each; it would be the same as ours.
- D. Yet when we move into the religious world, such things are accepted as fact.
- E. My feelings, or yours, or anyone's, are not the true standard.
  - 1. I wouldn't trade what I feel in my heart for a stack of Bibles or something similar has often been said.
  - 2. The answer to that is found in Proverbs 16:25.
  - 3. If we are right with God we will feel good, but it is a feeling based on knowledge of God's will.
- F. A person's conscience is not the true standard.
  - 1. Jiminy Cricket didn't get his theology from the Bible.
  - 2. God gave us a conscience that has to be trained.
  - 3. It is what is inside us that urges us to act in line with what we believe to be right.
  - 4. Paul lived in all good conscience (Acts 23:1) but he would have

- died lost if he remained in sin.
  - G. Dreams or visions in the night aren't true standards.
    1. People claim to have visions or dreams that lead them to do certain things contrary to God's word and use those visions or dreams to justify their sins.
    2. Galatians 1:6-9.
  - H. Common sense is not the true standard.
    1. First of all, because not everyone has it.
    2. Secondly, Jeremiah 10:23 lets us know this is wrong.
    3. We aren't to lean on our own understanding (Proverbs 3:5-6).
    4. True faith comes only from God's word.
  - I. In reality, anything that is not God's word is not a true standard.
- III. The Bible is the only objective standard.**
- A. The Bible is the only objective standard because it is from God.
  - B. All other books are fallible.
    1. Some place trust in creed books and the like.
    2. These things are updated and amended all the time.
    3. Humans wrote them from their minds so must be updated from time to time.
  - C. The Bible is inspired making it infallible (2 Timothy 3:16-17).
  - D. Authority comes from God.
    1. He is such because He is the Creator.
    2. He has the right as Creator to make conditions which must be met in order to be saved.
  - E. God gave this authority to Jesus (Matthew 28:18-20).
  - F. Jesus delegated this authority to the apostles.
    1. Jesus gave them the Father's words (John 17:8).
    2. He had promised them that they would come through the Holy Spirit (John 14:26; Acts 1:5-8).
  - G. The apostles were inspired to write down the authoritative words from Christ.
    1. The Holy Spirit gave them the exact words God wanted used (2 Timothy 3:16-17).
    2. This is verbal, plenary inspiration.
    3. When we read their words we can have their knowledge (Ephesians 3:3-5).
  - H. Since the death and resurrection of Jesus, man has lived under the New Testament (Hebrews 9:15-17; 10:9).

Much of this material came from a lecture manuscript by Thomas B. Warren.