

SERMON NOTES –Bible Authority

Unfortunately, in many of our religious discussions with others, whether friends, co-workers, family members or any others that may come into contact with on a regular basis, it doesn't take long to realize that we "as a people" continually put ourselves in a very dangerous position. This is not unique to our city, our state, or even our country. This is a problem in virtually every part of our world. Men, through their own logic and reason, have of their own initiative placed themselves on an equal level with God.

When discussing the Bible, Religious Doctrine or Practices, we are constantly confronted by people following doctrines that are outside the teachings we find in God's Word. They most often use justifications such as:

- It is a "good work" isn't it?
- It enhances our worship service and makes our worship more fulfilling
- It would create more impact and result in more souls being saved
- It will bring **others in to hear** the gospel that might not otherwise hear it
- If it is a "good thing" what does it hurt? Or why is it wrong?

Ladies and Gentlemen, I hope to present to you tonight, that this is neither a **new thought process**, nor is it one that will result in our spending eternity in heaven with our Lord and Savior. Throughout history this line of reasoning and justification for our actions has consistently brought God's disappointment and wrath upon man. Since the beginning of time, God has made it perfectly clear what our role is to be. We see in the book of Genesis, as early as the first chapter, that God has established himself as;

- *The creator and we are the created/creation
- *The Lawgiver and we are to obey
- *As the Sovereign Lord of all things
- *As the King and we are the subjects

He has also made it clear in passages such as **1Cor. 2:11** that we can not know, understand nor comprehend the mind and thoughts of God. Turn with me if you will and let's read this passage.

1 Corinthians 2

¹¹For what man knows the things of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so no one knows the things of God except the Spirit of God.

We also read many Old Testament passages such as **Isaiah 55:9** that tell us that God's ways are higher than our ways and his thoughts are higher than our thoughts. And passages such as **Jeremiah 10:23** tell us that is not within man's realm of authority nor ability to direct his own footsteps. **1 Cor. 3:20** contains a quote from the Old Testament that tells us that God considers even the thoughts of the wisest men to be futile.

The scriptures are full of examples of the consequences of man trying to place his wisdom and thoughts over God's. Just like today, these are examples of men who had "good ideas" or thought that since something was a "good thing" or would "be better" or "create more impact" it wouldn't matter or couldn't hurt.

Let's consider a few of these examples:

- **Eve (Gen 3:6)** After being warned specifically by God what **NOT** to do, Eve saw the fruit was good for food and desirable for gaining wisdom. Ans do she chose her own thoughts/ideas. In the

following verses we read of the tragic outcome of her actions and God anger.

- **Moses (Num 20:1-12)** We read in this passage where Moses was told what **TO DO** and when he substituted his own thoughts/actions, God’s wrath was stirred to the point that Moses was not allowed to enter the land to which he had led the Children of Israel.
- **Saul (1 Sam. 13:7-14)** We read in this passage where Saul was told specifically what **TO DO** and when he substituted his own thoughts, however well intentioned, God’s wrath and judgment came upon him
- **Uzzah (2 Sam 6:1-7)**-Raised his hand to steady the Ark and was struck dead
- **Peter (John 18:10)**-Drew his sword to protect Jesus in the Garden and was rebuked
- **Paul (Acts 22:1-21)**-Acting in “good faith” and zealous for God, but rebuked by the Lord on the road to Damascus for persecuting him.

Ladies and Gentlemen, I tell you this evening that when we place our thoughts and our own ideas of “**good things to do**” into doctrine or practice we are placing ourselves on a level that we dare not go. We place ourselves on a path that stirs God’s anger and will bring upon us his righteous punishment. There was a thought shared with us in a lesson, a while back by Scott’s father Lewis, when he was here. This was a very simple yet very profound thought and it has stuck with me almost daily ever since that time. When people place before us their justification of good ideas, although our choice of words may be different but our thought process should be:

It doesn’t matter what “YOU” think is a good idea. We are not worshipping “YOU”. If we were, I would be concerned about what “YOU” thought was a “good idea”. BUT, because God has declared himself the Almighty God of all creation and the one and only Sovereign Lord, I care what “HE” thinks is a “good idea” I should care more about what “HE” thinks and expects and has commanded of us as his children.

So the question becomes, how can I know what God thinks is a “good idea” and what “HE” desires. He has to tell me. So, how does he tell me?

The answer to this question is right here (HOLD UP BIBLE!) Through his word (Bible). So, let’s turn to the Bible to understand what it is that God has designed for us. When we look to his word, we find that God has expressed his desires and commands to us in various ways. In many instances we have Direct Commands for specific actions/service. In many other instances we are given examples of the apostles and early Christians that are approved of by God as righteous.

Examine the scriptures with me tonight, if you will, to see what God’s plan or desires for man are. I ask you not to take my word or the word anyone else, but I do ask you to accept what God has laid out before us in the scriptures.

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| <p>Pray</p> <p>Sing</p> <p>Assemble Together</p> <p>Preach the Word</p> <p>Teach Others</p> <p>Be Baptized</p> <p>Obey</p> <p>him</p> <p>Lord’s Supper</p> <p>Rebuke False Teachers</p> <p>Be Like Minded</p> <p>Giving/Benevolence</p> <p>Reading of Scripture (1 Tim. 4:13)</p> <p>Study</p> <p>Love each Other</p> | <p>(Luke 18:1; Eph. 6:18-20; 1 Thes. 5:17-18)</p> <p>(Eph. 5:19-20; Col. 3:16; James 5:13)</p> <p>(Matt 18:20; Heb 10:25; Acts 2:42-47, 1 Cor. 14:26)</p> <p>(Acts 8:4; Mark 16:15, Matt. 28:19-20; 1 Tim. 4:13, 2 Tim. 4:2)</p> <p>(Col. 3:16; 1 Tim. 4:11, 2 Tim. 2: 24, Titus 2:1, 15)</p> <p>(Acts 2:38,41; Mark 16:16; Acts 10:48; 1 Cor. 12:13; Gal. 3:27)</p> <p>(John 15:10; 1 John 1:7, 2:28) The Lord’s commands if we love</p> <p>(Matt. 26, Mark 14, Luke 22, Acts 20:7) First day of the week</p> <p>(1 Tim. 1:3; 2 Tim. 2:25; Titus 2:15) Boldly and long suffering</p> <p>(Phil. 1:27-28, 2:1-2; 1 Cor. 1:10) one spirit/purpose</p> <p>(1Cor 16:1-2; 2 Cor. 8:1-5, Acts 2;42-47) First day of week</p> <p>Devote to the reading of the word</p> <p>(2 Tim. 2:15; Acts 17:11; 1 Pet. 2:2) Crave spiritual food</p> <p>(John 13:34, 15:13, 1 Pet. 1:22) As the Father has loved us</p> <p>-believers (1 Pet. 2:17)</p> <p>-the truth (2 Thes. 2:10)</p> <p>-God (Mark 12:30-33, 1 Cor. 16:22)</p> |
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-Enemies (Luke 6:27)
(Heb 10:24) Spur one another toward love and GOOD
WORKS
Care for Each Other (Rom. 12:10-honor one another; Gal. 5:13-serve one another;
-1Pet. 3:8-9 be sympathetic/compassionate to one
another
Called Christians (Acts 11:26)

“THESE” are the things that God has revealed to us through his word. **“THESE”** are the things that **“GOD”** desires and commands of us. Through **“HIS”** word, he has revealed to us what **“HE”** wants, desires and expects from us. **“THESE”** are his **“good ideas”**

As we discussed earlier, when I (man) begin to inject my thoughts or version of a **“good idea”** into religious doctrine or practice, I place myself on a level that the Bible says I don’t belong, nor am qualified to be on. I place myself in a position of **“Lawgiver”** not subject.

Again, God has made his thoughts on this matter VERY CLEAR from the beginning of time. Even outside of the examples we discussed earlier, as far back as the book of Deuteronomy, God shares his view of such a practice.

Let’s turn to **Deut 4:2**

You shall not add to the word which I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you.

Let’s also turn to **Deut 12:32**

³²“Whatever I command you, be careful to observe it; you shall not add to it nor take away from it.

****God repeats his position on this subject again in the NT.**

Let’s consider **Gal. 1:8-10**

⁸But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed. ⁹As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed.

Let’s also look to **Revelations 22:18-19**

¹⁸ For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; ¹⁹and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.

So you see, when we consider our doctrine and practices as Christians, we should follow the directions of God. We are told in **1 Pet. 4:11** and when we speak, **“let us speak as the oracles of God.....”**

This lesson was not designed to teach you the first principles of becoming of Christian, but because the scriptures tell us we can not know the mind of God, we can not know when he will decide to bring an end to this physical world. When he will either reclaims us as his children and bring us to his bosom to spend eternity with him or sentence us to a life in a very real hell as we read in the scriptures. So we don’t want to let an opportunity pass to send out a plea (invitation) for any who may not have taken the steps necessary to ensure their salvation, so we want to do that tonight.

There is a story about a young man in a village in Mexico some years ago by the name of Carlos. You see, Carlos as a young man, was strong headed and full of his own ideas, which unfortunately, were in

contradiction to those his loving and concerned father has set for their household. Carlos became so hard headed and convinced that his ways and ideas were better than those of his “old fashioned” father, that he eventually ran away from home. Carlos lived on the streets for some time and his father patiently waited for him to return. When he had not returned, his father diligently set out to look for him. Carlos was somehow always able to elude being found. Still his father waited patiently and earnestly sought him day in and day out. Finally, his father thought to create a handwritten flyer that he placed all over town with only the name “Carlos” on it, it read, that he loved him dearly and pled with him to come home. The next evening, there were 13 young boys named Carlos roaming the streets, that headed home to loving fathers, convinced that the plea was for them.

If you have wandered away and relied on your own ideas, your name may not be Carlos, but **“YOUR”** Father **“IS”** calling. He’s pleading with you to come home tonight. Won’t you do so while we stand and sing.