

## **“IT IS TOO MUCH”, #3**

### **INTRODUCTION**

- I. In two previous lessons on the subject of, “It is Too Much,” we noted two things.
  - A. 1<sup>st</sup>, we noted how Jeroboam first USED that argument to keep the Ten tribes away from Jerusalem to worship God, by saying “It is too much for you to go there.”
    1. He changed the OBJECT of worship from God to golden calves in Dan and Beersheba.
    2. He changed the PLACE of worship from Jerusalem to Dan and Beersheba where the golden calves were located.
    3. He then changed the PRIESTHOOD from the Levitical order, to his own order he devised.
    4. Then, he changed the DAY of worship from the 7<sup>th</sup> month and 15<sup>th</sup> day to the 8<sup>th</sup> month and 15<sup>th</sup> day.
  - B. 2<sup>ndly</sup>, we CHALLENGED religious neighbors to truthfully see 2 things: (1) It is too much to ADD human doctrines to the Bible, and (2) it is too much to ADD instrumental music to the singing in worship.
- II. Today, we continue our challenge to the denominational world in 2 more ways “it is too much.”

### **DISCUSSION**

#### **I. 1<sup>st</sup>, we say, “It is too much” for you to JUSTIFY YOUR EXISTENCE.**

- A. When Jesus built HIS “church”, it was His will that IT be the only religious body to exist.
  1. He built only ONE institution, the church. Matt. 16:18
  2. He had inspiration to record it’s ONENESS. Eph. 1:22-23; 4:4; 1 Cor. 12:13
- B. Paul, by inspiration, CONDEMNED denominational-ism, or separate religions.
  1. Denominational-ism is simply an attempt to justify DIVISION in the religious world.
  2. Paul, by inspiration, says we are to have “no divisions.” 1 Cor. 1:10
    - a. This involves “speaking the same thing.” 1 Cor. 1:10; 1 Pet. 4:11A
    - b. It involves staying IN the doctrine of Christ, as recorded in the N.T. 2 John 9
    - c. The sinful, divided state of the religious world, consisting now of 58,000 separate, distinct denominations, cannot be justified.
    - d. They exist because they are “no longer” **with** those follow only the N.T. as the will of God. 1 John 2:19
  3. People today often “thank God” for the many denominations to give them a choice since they believe different things, BUT it is GOD’S choice that we all be ONE. John 17:20-21

#### **II. 2<sup>nd</sup>, we say, “It is too much” to wear HUMAN NAMES IN RELIGION.**

- A. The ONLY name by which we are to honor God is the name “Christian.”
  1. God revealed this name right after the Gentiles were offered salvation and brought into the church. Isa. 62:5; Acts 10:48; 11:15-18
  2. Peter said THIS name, the name “Christian”, is **THE NAME** we are to wear that glorifies God for those in HIS church. 1 Pet. 3:21; 4:16 (cf KJV and ASV)
- B. The N.T. plainly teaches that we are to wear “no other name.”
  1. In Acts 4, Peter (the same apostle who **said** we are to wear the name “Christian”, ALSO said we are to have “no other name” than that which involves Christ (as is seen in the name “Christian.” Acts 4:11
    - a. Now, we are to understand that it is the **authority** of Christ that is under consideration in this verse.
    - b. However, **in principle**, the expression “no other name” also applies to the name we are to wear to glorify God.
  2. In talking with someone in religious matters you may ask, “What are you religiously?”

- a. Without hesitation, they will answer by giving the NAME OF THEIR DENOMINATION, with which they are affiliated.
- b. THEN, when YOU say in response (when they then ask YOU what you are religiously) that you say, **“I am a Christian.”**
- c. At that point they IMMEDIATELY come back with the statement, “Oh, I’m a Christian TOO, but I am affiliated with such and such denomination” that they had already named.
- d. **Question: Why didn’t they say that in the first place?**
- e. **The Answer: The REASON is, because they basically think MORE of their denominational name than they do the divine name “Christian.”**
- f. They are wearing one name too many, and we say “It is too much” to wear a human name in religion, and they need to give it up.

**CONCLUSION**

- I. It is the ONLY **safe, indisputable** and **right** way to follow only the N.T. in Christianity.
  - A. Are you following only the word of God in the matter of salvation? Acts 2;36-38
  - B. Are you following only the word of God in the matter of worship? Acts 2:42
  - C. Are you following only the word of God in the matter of Christian living? Tit. 2: 11-12
- II. If you are subject to the invitation of Lord, you are invited to respond as we stand together and sing the invitation song.

Don Tarbet