

YOUR CHURCH AND THE BIBLE, No. 2

INTRODUCTION

- I. When two people, or 2 “churches” disagree, the easiest approach to establish truth, is to go to the book of Truth, and find the truth, and then agree to let that resolve the matter. 1 Cor. 1:10
 - A. If some folks were stranded on an island, and had **only** the Bible, what church would they start—the Mormon Church, the Baptist Church or the Pentecostal Church?
 1. A good preacher friend of mine told me he was once playing golf with a Baptist preacher.
 2. He asked him how could they start a Baptist Church if they had nothing but the Bible, and the preacher got so angry that he quit the game and went home.
 3. “BAPTIST CHURCH OF CHRIST”. A few years back, I was in Oklahoma City and passed a church building with this sign in front. I stopped my vehicle, and went inside to inquire about that “name.” The black Pastor explained to me that they were fundamentally “Baptists” in belief and practice, but decided they wanted something scriptural to identify them otherwise, so they chose to ADD “church of Christ” to their name. Though not directly stated, he was implying that Baptist practices were not necessarily scriptural, but their name would be. Reminds me of Matt. 15:8-9. Now wish I had more time and could visit with him more.
 - B. We must be open-minded and receive the truth, for **it** will be the only standard of judgment in the last day, and **not** some creed book or manual. Acts 17:11; John 12:48
- II. Now let’s focus on two areas of interest, (1) WORSHIP, and (2) SALVATION.

DISCUSSION

I. FIRST, THE MATTER OF WORSHIP.

- A. Worship conveys the idea of adoration and homage paid to another, and the Other is GOD, our heavenly Father.
 1. Through His Son Jesus, God has expressed that worship be directed **to** Him. John 4:23; Rev. 19:10
 2. An awesome God is to be respected, and **not** offer some worship that He does not ask for, or desire.
- B. How did the first century church “worship” God? Acts 2:42, 47
 1. 1st, the teaching and preaching of the apostles’ doctrine, as inspired by the Holy Spirit, was part of their assemblies. Acts 2:42; 20:7
 - a. The preaching must be based upon the word of God. 2 Tim. 4:1-2; Rom. 1:15-16
 - b. This must not include the doctrines of men. Matt. 15:9
 2. 2nd, the observance of the Lord’s supper. Acts 2:41; 1 Cor. 11:23-26
 3. 3rd, the act of giving or honoring God with what He has done for us.
 - a. In the Old Testament, the Jews were to “honor” God with their “substance.”
 - 1) The word “substance” refers to their material wealth or possessions. Prov. 3:9
 - 2) In the New Testament, we are to use our substance or material blessings to honor God. 1 Cor. 16:1-2
 - b. Listed in Acts 2:42, is the word “fellowship”, which in context, appears to be referring to their “giving”, for later Paul uses the word to describe the giving and receiving of money with reference to fellowship in supporting the spreading of the gospel. Phil. 1:5; 4:15-16
 4. 4th, the offering of prayers to God. Acts 2:42; 12:5
 5. 5th, the singing of “praises” to God from the heart through their words. Acts 2:47; Heb. 13:15
 - a. Singing was **not** accompanied by **any** kind of mechanical instruments, but only the use of the voice with music originating in the heart. Eph. 5:19

- b. All New Testament references to singing do **not** include anything but singing.
- c. It was nearly a thousand years after the beginning of the church, before the apostate church in Rome began using mechanic music, and such was later incorporated into the worship of human denominations.

II. SECOND, THE MATTER OF SALVATION.

- A. Salvation, or forgiveness of sins, was offered through the “gospel.” Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2:14, 37-38, 40, 47
- B. During the beginning of Protestant denominations, the doctrine of salvation by “faith only” came into existence.
 - 1. Martin Luther, a Catholic priest, began to advocate that salvation was only by faith, but obviously intended to emphasize that salvation was by the gospel (the system of faith and what it requires), rather than the meritorious works required in Catholicism.
 - 2. The term, “faith only” was never used in the New Testament to suggest “faith” in the heart, to the exclusion of repentance and baptism, but such is condemned in the New Testament. Jas. 2:24
- C. Then, from the preaching of Billy Sunday, Billy Graham and the so-called “Christian Campaigns”, the “**Sinner’s Prayer**” came into existence, to hastily handle the many who responded to the call for response by the evangelists.
 - 1. This prayer is to be offered **to** Jesus and closed in the name of Jesus, with a request for Him to come into the hearts of alien sinners, and save them immediately from their sins.
 - 2. Yet, the expression “sinner’s prayer” is never found or alluded to in the New Testament, and absent from any and every example of salvation as recorded in the scripture.

CONCLUSION

- I. If you want God’s salvation from sin, you need to submit to His terms of salvation, rather than some human system not even mentioned or stated in the New Testament.
- II. You can enjoy true salvation in the church that **is** revealed in the Bible.

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