

Give Me the Bible

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In a world where religious confusion is rampant, it is refreshing to read and study the Bible. In an obvious effort to elevate himself, man has so complicated religion that what most people seek to pass off as devotion and service to God has no similar at all to what is written in the Bible. It is appalling to hear today's theologians as they seem to justify such things as abortion on demand, homosexuality, social drinking, and many other fleshly gratifications. And it is disgusting to hear those who claim to have spent a lifetime studying the Bible go through the motions of giving "scriptural approval" to such things as women pastors and ministers of the gospel. And how much more discouraging to hear those who for years have contended for a "thus saith the Lord" openly avowing that we have no need to offer book, chapter and verse for all that we do, or that we have done things for years for which there is no authority, or that approved apostolic examples are not binding today.

I say "Give me the Bible." Give me the Bible instead of:

Human Creeds. Human creeds are just that—human. They did not originate in the mind of God and are thereby merely inventions of men. Peter says (I Peter 4:11), "If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God." Any doctrine which cannot be shown to be approved of God cannot be embraced with any degree of certainty. Man is finite. Any thing he concocts is fine, for he cannot rise about himself. It is, in fact, impossible for man to devise the means for his own salvation, no matter how smart he is, (Jeremiah 10:23; I Corinthians 2:9), and so he cannot afford to trust other than God for it. Human creeds are divisive and confusing; they breed discord and perplexity. Give me the Bible, not human creeds.

Human wisdom. Wisdom defines as properly applied knowledge. Human wisdom is dependent on human knowledge for its existence. It is either human in knowledge or human in application, and neither of the two is of any spiritual benefit for mankind. Paul says (I Corinthians 2:1-7) that the superiority of God's wisdom over that of man is necessary so that "that your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God." We cannot afford to put our confidence in our own wisdom, for there is no assurance of the effectiveness of it to meet our needs. Human wisdom is short-sighted and paltry when compared with the wisdom which is from above. Give me the Bible, not human wisdom.

Human tradition. As a general rule, tradition is very comfortable since it is most often derived from convenience. The religion of father and mother is most likely the easiest to embrace because of its nearness and familiarity, as well as its approval by those closest to us. But human tradition cannot be trusted, because it demands so very little of us and allows so much. It is most likely evolved not from faith in God's word, but from a desire to be right with parents, friends and relatives. Man often feels the need to worship, but

he wants to do it in a way that is not inconvenient. If convenience is what religion is all about, why any religion at all? Religion is not inherited; it is a heart-involved and very personal submission to the commands of God. Human traditions are best left alone in matters of religion (Matthew 15:1-9). Give me the Bible, not human tradition.

Human opinion. "Every man has the right to his own opinion." It's a common expression. But it does not apply in religion, even if it can be shown to be true otherwise. Opinion is a proposition held as true, but which falls short of being provable. As such, it cannot be a safe guide. In fact, if opinion is to be used as the standard for religious actions and worship, everyone who holds any religious opinion is approved of God. How foolish. But that's the very concept promoted by the religious world which exclaims loudly, "it doesn't make any difference what you believe, so long as you are honest and sincere." One who holds a certain opinion can never be sure that what he is doing has the approval of God. But the word of God takes any proposition out of the realm of opinion and shows whether or not God approves. And so, Give me the Bible, not human opinion.