

The Prattmont Church of Christ is just what the name suggests, a church that belongs to Christ. We are not a denomination; we are simply a group of Christians trying very hard to practice the teachings of our Head, Jesus Christ. The New Testament offers a complete pattern for what each local church should be like—its organization, its worship, its work, etc. We are committed to following that pattern. We cordially invite you to attend our services. We would also welcome any comments or questions about this bulletin.

TIMES OF SERVICES:

Sunday
 Bible Classes.....9 A.M.
 Worship 10:00 A.M.
 Worship/Bible Study..5 P.M.

Wednesday:
 Bible Study..... 7:00 P.M.



Weekly Bulletin
 December 29, 2024

False Standards of Truth

by Robert Turner (*Plain Talk*, February 1964)

Some say they “have the truth” when they can’t even give chapter and verse for their “truth.” I wonder how they know they have the truth? When Jesus said, “Thy (God's) word is truth” (John 17:17), He stated the dependability of God, and the accuracy and integrity of His teaching. In a sense, people are “set apart” by false doctrines and practice (sectarianism), but Jesus prayed for the apostles to be set apart by their acceptance and adherence to TRUTH.

All who have access to the word of God “have the truth”—to learn, believe, obey. But many seem satisfied to hold aloft this “Holy Bible”—the outward aspect of truth, yet give little attention to the contents of the book. By reading a verse now and then, and making use of a little Bible terminology, they suppose their doctrines are “based on the Bible.”

A thing is neither wrong nor right because we have always done it. Can we safely assume our forefathers were infallible? “Always” is used rather loosely when we refer to a practice of

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thirty, fifty, or even one hundred years. The gap between the early church and the practice of the church today is spanned, not by succession, but by the seed which is the word of God (1 Peter 1:25).

A thing is neither wrong nor right because “denominations” do it. We may wisely hesitate to adopt a procedure common among those in error. But some brethren have developed a negative philosophy—a thing is not good, or a thing is wonderful, on the basis of the conduct of the opposition. There is a much safer shortcut to the solution. Let God's word determine the right or wrong, period.

A thing is neither wrong nor right because of the supposed “end.” May we assume to infallibly predict the end? God alone sees the whole picture, and His plan is certain to bring about an “end” He desires. When we leave His plan for our “more efficient” scheme, we presumptuously cast reflection upon divine wisdom.

A thing is neither wrong nor right because it evokes either opposition or acclaim, from the people. Paul said, “Do I seek to please men? For if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ.” (Galatians 1:10) A preacher once told me he knew a certain action was right, but that if he took a stand on the subject it might “cause trouble.” I agree unnecessary trouble should be avoided, but if his analysis of the situation was correct, “trouble” already existed. The time had come to “reprove, rebuke, exhort.” The majority has usually been wrong in matters religious, and neither one nor many have ever constituted divine authority.

A thing is neither wrong nor right because “good” or “bad” men do it. What makes a man “good”? Jesus said, “None is

good, save God”—i.e., we must acknowledge God as the source of good, and the things of God alone as being truly good. A man “does good” with reference to a given problem when he acts in keeping with God's will. This is applicable to preachers and elders, as well as to any others. A good action does not make or precede “truth;” on the contrary, “truth” precedes the good action, and the act is good because it is in keeping with truth. Remember, God's word is truth.

No Man Loves Truth Who Shows Disrespect for God’s Word

Write that on your samplers, teach it to your children, shout it from the housetops, and apply it to your own religious practices now and then. What egotism, what unmitigated gall is this that allows one man to use the pulpit, radio, or journals to challenge another for his authority to—to let us say, use mechanical music in the worship—and then hold me in contempt if I ask him for his authority to support human institutions from the church treasury? Is God's word the standard for TRUTH only when it suits our purpose?

A Plea for Truth Seekers

God give us men of courage—honest men, men hungry for TRUTH. Banish selfish concern, creed-bound fumbblings after truth; and help us to search thy word prayerfully, convinced that therein are the answers to our problems. Open our eyes that we may see, our ears that we may hear, and our hearts that we may understand.

“All flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withers, and its flower falls away, but the word of the Lord endures forever. Now this is the word which by the gospel was preached to you” (1 Peter 1:24-25).