

WHO GIVES WISDOM?

By Keith Greer

"For the Lord giveth wisdom: out of his mouth cometh knowledge and understanding."
(Proverbs 2:6)

Every week I receive papers, periodicals, or bulletins from other parts of the country. In reading through some of the articles that are written, I greatly fear that many have forgotten this Bible truth that we can read in Proverbs.

When I read titles such as "What About Hand Clapping As A Part Of Worship?", "Our Saturday Morning Communion Service ...", "Preaching for Popularity", or "Acceptance of Non-Christians in Fellowship, Why Not?" or "Come to our Sunday Evening Andy Griffith Ministry.", I have to wonder... what has happened to Bible authority?

In 1 Peter 4:11, we are told, "If any man speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God; ..." We are seeing more and more brethren trying to come up with "new schemes and ideas". Why? Quite simply, they are trying to use man's wisdom instead of God's wisdom to spread the gospel.

In New Testament times, we know that men were being taught God's ways for "... they that were scattered abroad went everywhere preaching the word." (Acts 8:4) We also know that many were being added to the church, and we have an example in Acts 18:8 when "... Crispus, the chief ruler of the synagogue, believed on the Lord with all his house; and many of the Corinthians hearing believed, and were baptized."

The apostle Paul told the Corinthians that "For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written: I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, And bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent. Where is the wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the disputer of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe." {1 Corinthians 1:18-21}

"It is not in man that walketh to direct his steps." (Jeremiah 10:23) How do we think that we can change God's pattern and still be pleasing to Him? True wisdom comes from God, and His wisdom and knowledge cannot be improved upon by men. God knew what we would need to live in this life and be prepared for eternity.

Today we hear some of the Lord's churches say things like, "preach the man and leave the plan alone," "preach more love and less commands," "leave the negative alone and only preach the positive," or "I'm not getting anything out of the worship services." What is happening to us? I'm afraid we are losing our spiritual appetite for "book, chapter and verse" preaching that makes application to what is presented! Far too many today want a softer or more gentle approach to the scriptures. Too many churches are into gimmicks and trying to fine a more

positive way to “repackage the gospel message!” Questions— is the world getting more godly or ungodly?

“... Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls.” (Jeremiah 6:16) God’s word turned the hearts of the sinner away from sin and toward the cross in the first century. God’s people went everywhere with that gospel and multitudes rendered obedience to the message of truth! Are men still dying in sin? Do men still need Christ and grace in their lives? Dear reader, I’ll stick with the pure, simple, powerful and effective gospel-- that’s the wisdom the word needs and nothing added or subtracted!***