

# “WISE IN YOUR OWN OPINIONS”

By Keith Greer

In his writings to the church at Rome, Paul wrote, "For I do not desire, brethren, that you should be ignorant of this mystery, lest you should be wise in your own opinion, ..." {Romans 11:25} In the context, Paul was speaking of the grafting in of the Gentiles with the Jews. Yet, I believe the warning Paul gives here needs to be heeded today.

So many people today in the church have contacted this "sickness", or "security blanket." What brethren have done is exchange truth for something far, far less. Please, allow me to explain where I'm coming from.

**"WE HAVE NO NEED FOR AUTHORITY."** Some would have us believe that we are capable of knowing what "direction" the church needs to be moving in. "O Lord, I know the way of man is not in himself; It is not in man who walks to direct his own steps." {Jeremiah 10:23} If man does not need authority, how far can he go? Answer, they have no established limits or boundaries. Therefore, man's direction is in his own hands! Spiritually speaking, WHO CAN BELIEVE IT!?

**"WE ARE NOT UNDER LAW."** Others believe we have no "divine standard", nothing by which to measure. How can this be true, if we are to understand the words of Paul? "Because the law brings about wrath; for where there is no law there is no transgression." {Romans 4:15} If this is so, we need to stop teaching mankind. Man is not under law, he has no sin! "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." {Romans 3:23} WHO CAN BELIEVE IT!

Today, many have the same concept the nation of Israel had under the Judges. "... everyone did what was right in his own eyes." {Judges 21:25} "If it feels good do it! I'm not hurting anyone else." All this is wishful thinking, but is not supported in the scriptures.

**Does God have a law?** Do we need Bible authority for what we do? Allow me to give you some scriptures to consider:

"And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him." {Colossians 3:17} "If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. If anyone ministers, let him do it as with the ability which God supplies, that in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom belong the glory and the dominion forever and ever. Amen." {1 Peter 4:11} "My little children, let us not love in word or tongue, but in deed and in truth." {1 John 3:18} Many other passages could be given but I think you see the point—yes there is a standard to follow.

Did Noah build the ark according to his own opinion? Did Moses build the tabernacle according to his opinion? Did Saul build the temple according to his opinion? No, **ALL FOLLOWED A PATTERN!** God did not leave it up to man to determine what his "opinion" might be in the matter. God had a law, and man needed authority in order to act! He still does today!!

One more point, some of my brethren need to be careful not to make “**their opinions**” equal to the law of God. Do you remember that was the problem with the Jews when Jesus came on the scene? “Saying: the scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat. Therefore whatever they tell you to observe that, observe and do, but do not do according to their works; for they say, and do not do. For they bind heavy burdens, hard to bear, and lay them on men's shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers.” {Matthew 23:2-4}

One can have a personal conviction, about a matter of judgment or conscience, but let us be careful not to seek to bind that personal scruple on others. Sadly, many churches have endured difficulty, even to the point of division, over one being “**wise in their own opinion!**”\*\*\*