

MEN'S SAYINGS VS. GOD'S WORD (2)

By Keith Greer

Creed Books Make the Bible Plainer. Many different religions rely on extra books, in addition to the Bible. They say these books help make the Bible easier to understand. Mormons have the Book of Mormon; Jehovah Witnesses have the Watchtower Society publications; and Roman Catholics have their Catechism. Others have rules and regulations that have been drafted at their conferences or conventions.

The Bible says, "All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work." {2 Timothy 3:16,17}

God's inspired word instructs us and provides all the information about EVERY good work. "As His divine power has given to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue." {2 Peter 1:3} God gave us ALL THINGS that pertain to life and godliness.

"Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints." {Jude 3} According to Jude, the truth was ONCE (one time for all time) given to the saints. It appears that God gave us all the information we need to enable us to know Him and obey Him. Once again, man's wisdom strikes out.

Salvation Is by Faith Only. Some have a much different theory concerning salvation. **"Man is saved by faith only; plus nothing, and minus nothing! He is saved at the very point of faith!"** To make this wisdom even simpler to understand, I quote from one of the creed books: "That we are saved by faith only is a very wholesome doctrine and full of comfort." Television evangelists tell their audiences to recite the sinner's prayer and be saved on the basis of their personal faith.

It all sounds simple, but the larger question is, does it agree with God's word? "But do you want to know, O foolish man, that faith without works is dead? Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered Isaac his son on the altar? Do you see that faith was working together with his works, and by works faith was made perfect?" {James 2:20-22} Earlier in this text, James wrote that we show our faith by our works {James 2:18}.

What did Christ tell Saul to do after he learned that he was guilty of persecuting Him? "So he, trembling and astonished, said, 'Lord, what do You want me to do?' Then the Lord said to him, 'Arise and go into the city, and you will be told what you must do.'" {Acts 9:6} Why go into Damascus? To receive instruction regarding what he MUST DO! Saul was not saved by seeing the Lord; he was not saved by fasting and praying for three days; he was saved after he received "words" from Ananias. Saul

immediately obeyed those words and was baptized for the remission of his sins {Acts 22:16}. Once again, man seeks to alter and amend God's instructions and replace them with his own.

We could give other examples, but I hope you are seeing the problems with men's sayings. Human wisdom will never please God. God knows His own mind which He revealed to us by the work of the Holy Spirit {1 Corinthians 2:9-13}. Can man's wisdom be greater, better, and more correct than the wisdom found in God's book? Are you willing to risk your soul on it? ***