

DENOMINATIONAL TEACHING IS CONTRADICTORY

By Keith Greer

“But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment. For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned.” {Matthew 12:36,37} Words are a means of communication, and they convey information. When the words are contradictory, confusion reigns. This is the problem with much of what the denominational churches teach. Denominational teaching contradicts God’s word by endorsing:

Belief in the Bible while condoning the use of creeds. “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} Can it be pleasing to God when we claim to believe that His word is inspired, infallible, and inerrant but continue to use creeds developed by men as authority for our religious practices? The one thing we know for certain—there’s no reason to revert to creeds unless the Bible doesn’t authorize the religious practices to which one subscribes. The so-called religious thinkers of our day demonstrate their lack of confidence in God’s word when they leave it behind and subscribe to man-made creeds.

Believing that baptism is not essential for salvation. “There is also an antitype which now saves us—baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.” {1 Peter 3:21} In many churches, when the subject of salvation is taught from the pulpit, baptism is never mentioned. Some claim that it is a good work, an outward sign of an inward grace, but NEVER accept it’s necessity in God’s plan of salvation. Why? According to their teaching it’s a work, and work negates God’s grace. These people need to read Titus 2:11,12. Grace TEACHES us to do some things!

Following Christ according to men’s thinking. “Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.’” {John 14:6} Unfortunately, some put forward the proposition that we can follow God in a number of ways. Following is an example of how they package such doctrine: “We’re all serving the same God but just taking different roads to get there.” Max Lucado, a well-known Christian writer (who claims membership in the church of Christ) used this illustration: “It’s like being on the same ship but being in different compartments.” One thing is missing from both of these teachings—the Bible! According to Christ, men have two—not many—choices. “Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.” {Matthew 7:13,14}

Claiming to be Christians but wearing other names. “And when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. So it was that for a whole year they assembled with the church and taught a great many people. And the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.” {Acts 11:26} Many Mormons with whom I had discussions while I lived in Las Vegas claimed to be Christians. When I asked them if they believe every seed produces after its own kind, they always answered “yes.” Then I asked

how a Latter Day Saint could study and accept the Book of Mormon as God's word and be anything other than a Mormon. The answer—"We are Mormon Christians." There's just one problem with this. The Bible speaks only of Christians.

Other examples could be listed. There is no shortage of examples of "contradictions" accepted as truth by the religions of men! Sadly, all one has to do is open the word of God with an open mind. All confusion will disappear. Why? The beauty of truth—it is not contradictory! ***