

# WHAT IF SOME BRETHREN HAD WRITTEN THE BIBLE?

By Keith Greer

“Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ.” {Colossians 2:8} Can you imagine how the Bible might read if some of our brethren participated in its writing? It might teach:

**Study and attendance are optional.** “For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food. For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe. But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.” {Hebrews 5:12-14} On many occasions, I’ve been told that attendance at all worship services is optional. Others don’t seem to grow spiritually, and they excuse themselves because they choose not to invest their talent or time. Please read what God says about these matters – 2 Timothy 2:15; 1 Peter 3:15; 2 Peter 3:18; Matthew 5:6.

**The social gospel is part of the church’s mission.** “For the kingdom of God is not eating and drinking, but righteousness and peace and joy in the Holy Spirit.” {Romans 14:17} The Scriptures are clear concerning the spiritual nature of the church’s work; people seem to prefer practicing the SOCIAL gospel instead of the SPIRITUAL. I know this because the calendars for some so-called churches list Starbucks coffee, soda machines, family life centers, recreation halls, and all kinds of social events. These people must have a different version of the Bible! Those who claim to be spiritual have moved the focus of worship away from God and placed it on themselves.

**We should overlook worldliness.** “And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.” {Romans 12:2} God’s book tells us to ignore and reject the world {1 John 2:15-17; James 4:4; 1 Thessalonians 5:22; Philippians 3:20}. Increasingly, so-called Christians are looking more like the world than like people who are distinct and who belong to God. MODERATION is one of the favorite words in their new Bibles. Christians can engage in anything as long as they do not do it to excess. God plainly stated that men cannot hold to the world and love Him {Matthew 6:24}.

**Only preachers and elders are responsible for teaching the lost.** “From whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.” {Ephesians 4:16} Sadly, this belief is very popular with many in the Lord’s church. A study of God’s word shows that EVERY member is to be a teacher of the truth {Matthew 25:31-46; Galatians 6:1,2; James 5:19,20}. The Lord’s church is no stronger than its weakest member.

**We can fellowship error.** “And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them. For it is shameful even to speak of those things which are done by

them in secret.” {Ephesians 5:11,12} Christians are not to do anything that would encourage the continuance of error – no matter who is teaching it or on what subject. Burying our heads in the proverbial sand will not cause error to disappear. It must be exposed and removed from the Lord’s church.

The Bible is God’s last revelation to His creation. It’s infallible and contains everything we need to lead us in life. We are to obey it – not rewrite it! \*\*\*