



What Makes A Religious Practice Right or Wrong?

Human Thoughts & Feelings May Lead Us Astray

- Man's thoughts not same as God's (*Isaiah 55:8-9*)
 - ◆ What seems right may be deadly (*Proverbs 14:12; 16:25*)
 - ◆ Not in man to direct his own steps (*Jeremiah 10:23*)
 - ◆ Paul thought persecuting Christians was right (*Acts 26:9*)
- Feelings are the result of one's beliefs & thoughts
 - ◆ Thoughts & beliefs of man may be incorrect as noted
 - ◆ We are warned against believing a lie (*2 Thess. 2:10-12*)
 - ◆ Paul did not feel a problem with his conscience, but
“lived before God in all good conscience” (*Acts 23:1*)
- Thus, our thoughts & feelings are insufficient guide

God Has Always Given Pattern

- Those obeying the pattern are pleasing to God
 - ◆ Noah in building the ark (**Gen. 6:13-22; Heb. 11:7**)
 - ◆ Moses in building the tabernacle (**Exod. 25:10-40; 39:32, 43**)
- Those violating God's pattern displease Him
 - ◆ Cain in his offering (**Gen. 4:1-8; Heb. 11:4**)
 - ◆ Nadab & Abihu in offering strange fire (**Lev. 10:1-2**)
 - ◆ Change may seem minor to man, but not to God
- Man is forbidden from altering God's pattern in any way (**Deut. 4:2; 12:32; 2 Jn. 9**)

What Is the Source for Our Pattern of Authority Now?

The
HOLY
BIBLE

Is It the Old Testament?

- Many things commanded in Old Testament worship
 - ◆ Animal sacrifice, Sabbath keeping, physical temple, etc.
- We are not under O.T. law because it was done away in Christ & replaced by gospel
 - ◆ **2 Corinthians 3:12-14** Old law “done away in Christ”
 - ◆ **Galatians 3:23-25** Tutor to bring us to Christ
 - ◆ **Ephesians 2:14-15** Broke down dividing wall (law)
 - ◆ **Colossians 2:13-14** Law nailed to cross = taken away
 - ◆ **Hebrews 7:11-12** Priesthood changed, law changed
- If we justify actions by appeal to old law, we fall from grace going to wrong source for authority (**Gal. 5:4**)

Christ Has All Authority Now

- Jesus Christ is the complete & final source for all authority in religious matters today
 - ♦ *Matthew 17:1-8* (compare with *Acts 3:22-24*)
 - ♦ *Matthew 28:18-20*
 - ♦ *Hebrews 1:1-2*
 - ♦ *Colossians 1:18* (also *Ephesians 1:22-23*)
- Authority of Christ was revealed to man through the word given by inspiration of the Holy Spirit
 - ♦ *John 12:48-50* (see also *John 5:22*)
 - ♦ *John 14:24-26; 16:12-15*

Gospel of Christ Reveals God's Will & Authority for Us

- Revealed truth of gospel is our pattern today
 - ◆ *2 Timothy 1:13*
 - ◆ *2 Timothy 3:16-17*
 - ◆ *Philippians 4:9*
 - ◆ *2 Thessalonians 2:13-15; 3:6*
 - ◆ *Jude 3-4* (compare *Titus 2:11-14*)
 - ◆ *Romans 1:16-17*
- New Testament is fitting pattern today because...
 - ◆ It is complete & final (*Galatians 1:8-9; Jude 3*)
 - ◆ It is objective & understandable (*Eph. 3:1-5; 5:17*)
 - ◆ It is absolute & comprehensive (*Colossians 3:17*)

How Do We Know What Is Right or Wrong in...

Morality Required?

Reality of Heaven & Hell?

Plan of Salvation?

One True Church?

Authorized Worship in the Church?

Any Religious Practice?

The Necessity of Submitting to God

- Result of man walking in his own way is not good
 - **Isa. 65:2** Results in rebellion against God
 - **Prov. 14:12** Man thinks right, but end is ways of death
- Submission to God is foundational to acceptance
 - **Jas. 4:7-10** Begins & ends with subjection / humility
 - **1 Pet. 5:6** Humble self under mighty hand of God
 - **Gal. 2:20** Crucify self & life given over to Christ
 - **Rom. 6:11** Dead to sin, but alive unto God in Christ
 - **Prov. 16:25** Man thinks right, but end is ways of death
- Submission makes service possible (**Rom. 12:1-2**)