

Taste Not;
Touch Not;
Handle Not

The Doctrines of Men

“by “the Phoenix” – www.phoenixseven.org

Wherefore if ye be dead with Christ from the rudiments of the world, why, as though living in the world, are ye subject to ordinances, **(Touch not; taste not; handle not; Which all are to perish with the using;) after the commandments and doctrines of men?** - Colossians 2:20-22

What Paul is saying here that if we be dead to the rudiments of the world through Christ, why then are we subject to the ordinances? The traditions of religion. The doctrines and teachings of men.

We are not, for justification is by faith, and has never been properly filled or completed by Mosaic Law and may I add mere RELIGIOUS TRADITION. Nor, the "Doctrines of Men". Not to be confused with Following Christ, for often they are not the same.

Mat 10:34 Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword.

Mat 10:35 For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law.

Mat 10:36 And a man's foes *shall be* they of his own household.

Mat 10:37 He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.

Mat 10:38 And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me.

Mat 10:39 He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it.

We must recall what Jesus was actually saying in these verses from Matthew. He was there actually carving (with a sword) or chipping away at years and years of religious tradition. The Hebrews, or Jews by their New Testament name, were bound by ages of tradition. Think about it.

Such is seen often in "The Church" as a whole today. Many pursue "Doctrines of Men" and not that of God. Once again just as with the Jews 2000 years ago, history repeats itself.

This is why Christ said that He would set a man at variance with his father, mother against daughter, and a man's foes shall be of his own household.

That takes everything pretty close to home, wouldn't you agree?

Jesus went on to say that if a man or woman or child, anyone loved their father or mother or children more than Him, was not (and is still not) worthy of Him. Not worthy of His Atonement and work upon the cross and sacrifice for sins.

And this is the "sword that shall divide the "true" believer from the unbeliever; do you dear reader love him more? Than even the members of your own family? More than the traditions of your denomination?

No Bible teaching by Jesus Christ has been more fulfilled then that of Matthew 10:34-39, and is still being fulfilled today. A tie for close second would be these:

And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.-
Matthew 24:12

But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.- 2 Peter 2:1

To love and stay with a mere religious denominational tradition, contrary to scripture, that is not of the Bible is to DENY JESUS CHRIST.

Many things are taught in the various assemblies and congregations that are not scriptural, are not of the Bible. Oh they may try to be justified by twisting scripture, but it still is not justified. And that really is not justification at all is it Scripture must always be interpreted in light of other scripture, and God's word is perfect and without error.

In a recent email conversation with Bennie Blount, of Bennie Blount Ministries, this subject arose in regard to our religious educational system and denominational (as in teaching) bias. Bias as in not sound biblical teaching:

"As for seminary, I spent 2 years in an Assembly of God Bible college in 1975, one year in a Pentecostal Bible college in 1977, and an year at Ouachita Baptist University in Arkadelphia in 1978. I did learn some good things in all of them, but had to "unlearn" a good portion what I had been taught." - Bennie Blount

Before I continue any farther I would like to make a clarification that must be made. For it has been given to me by God.

Just because an assembly or denomination or "televangelist" say they are "Christian" does not mean they are. He wants you to know that. As He also wants you to know, that to the denominations that embrace the doctrines of men, and not of God, that embrace tradition of their denomination, Judgment has arrived. Remember there are no denominations in the true church, Just Jesus Christ.

His word is perfect "truth". The "Doctrines of Men", the teachings of men are not.

A case in point, The Church of Christ.

The Church of Christ is a denomination that began out of the restoration movement, in 1906. And is a true product of the viewpoints of Thomas Campbell, who was excommunicated from the Presbyterian Church in 1807. Their history can be traced through the Christian assoc. of Washington in 1809, through the Christian Missionary Society established in 1849, to 1906 When the Church of Christ, Disciples of Christ and Independent "Christian" churches split into three separate denominations.

Though "split" (divided, division) into three separate denominations, they still retain many of the teachings of Campbell.

One of the teachings of Campbell was that of instrumental music in services. He felt that due to not being mentioned in the New Testament, it was thus not scriptural. If one examines scripture itself this is not the case at all and clearly is "A Doctrine of Men", or in this instance, one man.

For our answer is within the New Testament itself. Let us begin.

All scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: - 2 Timothy 3:16

Here in Paul's second epistle or letter to Timothy, Paul is instructing Timothy that ALL scripture is given by God's inspiration.

In the original Greek language of the New Testament, the word for inspiration is:

theopneustos

theh-op'-nyoo-stos

From G2316 and a presumed derivative of G4154; **divinely breathed in**: - given by inspiration of God.

Breathed in or given by the Spirit of God.

Let us recall and always remember that although all scripture, both Old and New testament are inspired by God, Paul was referring to that of the Old Testament

when he penned this letter to Timothy. The New Testament had not been completed yet.

Apparently Campbell missed this, as he did the following scriptures as well.

For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed. - Malachi 3:6

God is consistent and the same, He never changes. He like His word has remained the one constant from the beginning of time.

How then is this viewed in light of this inspired scripture from the Book of Psalms, taken from both King James and the Apostle's Bible translations:

Psa 150:1 Praise ye the LORD. Praise God in his sanctuary: praise him in the firmament of his power.

Psa 150:2 Praise him for his mighty acts: praise him according to his excellent greatness.

Psa 150:3 Praise him with the sound of the trumpet: praise him with the psaltery and harp.

Psa 150:4 Praise him with the timbrel and dance: praise him with stringed instruments and organs.

Psa 150:5 Praise him upon the loud cymbals: praise him upon the high sounding cymbals.

Psa 150:6 Let every thing that hath breath praise the LORD. Praise ye the LORD. (KJV)

And now from the Apostle's Bible:

Psa 150:1 Alleluia. Praise God in His holy places; praise Him in the firmament of His power.

Psa 150:2 Praise Him on *account* of His mighty acts; praise Him according to His abundant greatness.

Psa 150:3 Praise Him with the sound of a trumpet; praise Him with psaltery and harp.

Psa 150:4 Praise Him with timbrel and dance; praise Him with stringed instruments and the organ.

Psa 150:5 Praise Him with melodious cymbals; praise Him with loud cymbals.

Psa 150:6 Let everything that has breath praise the Lord.

Clearly the heresy within the Church of Christ denomination, that involves the forbidding of the use of instrumental music is a false teaching. Remember Paul would never had contradicted Holy scripture, and thus have forbid it. And neither

would I. Much of this teaching stems from the Church of Christ's viewpoint that the Old Testament is no longer valid, and is to be used for history purposes only.

Many within the Church as a whole today, would not view this as heresy, tragedy maybe as in withholding praise from God, but not heresy.

Here is the answer to that provided to me by our Lord:

For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed. - Malachi 3:6

He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son. - 1 John 5:10

He that believes a "Doctrine of Men" over that of the word of God, has turned the truth of God into a lie. And thus is making God a liar.

And that dear reader is heresy, and yes that will damn you.

Trust me; I have it from "The Source". Those who embrace this doctrine, as many in the church today that embrace false teaching, have been listening to the wrong voice. And not the "Still Small Voice" of God. For God and His Holy Spirit, will never violate Holy Scripture and perfect Truth. It is impossible.

In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began; - Titus 1:2

By embracing false teaching, the Church of Christ denomination is turning the truth of God into a lie.

You see dear reader, they base their teaching not on a desire to sing praises to God without instruments, as in the beauty of the human voice in praise; but forbid it based upon the false teaching of one man. One man whose doctrine has forbid it. And there is a difference.

The next question is, if they are violating the word of Holy Scripture, by "robbing God" of instrumental praise, and are not listening to "God's still small voice" who are they listening to?

The deceiver. Satan. Think about it. And that is right up his alley so to speak, one that was the anointed cherub of praise, over God's throne. Destroying, deceiving and thwarting praise from God. And as an added bonus, have those question the very word of God himself. God's perfect word. And by turning that truth into the lie, and thus make God a liar; have turned the liar (Satan) into truth. And are

actually through the deception, worshiping the deceiver. This is great stuff, I hope everyone is catching this. Revelation is so cool. Praise the Lord.

I believe you can see what I am saying. And what I am saying is Satan is the destroyer and the deceiver, and he has done his job well. But not well enough.

For some in the church today still hold wisdom and discernment. And that is a gift. Just as all the gifts; of the Spirit.

And as to additional "Doctrines of Men? The following is a excerpt from a three part topical study I conducted on "Make Your Election Sure":

As I have stated many times before, no false teaching or doctrines have done more damage to the Church then those of John Calvin. And English reformist and self proclaimed "elect" (by his own doctrine) during the reformation of the 16th century. Prior to this time period, his doctrines stated below, where never taught. Falling far short from and conflicting with the teachings of Christ and those of the Apostles. This should be a real first clue. Some 1500 years after Christ.

From the false teachings of "Total Depravity of Man", through "Security of the Believer" to the doctrine of "Election" that we will be addressing here. (more on the "Depravity of Man" and Security of the Believer" can be found in their own topical notes section).

Calvin stated in his doctrine of election, that man as a race, being so "totally depraved" would never seek God, and would in turn have to be chosen or elected by God to salvation.

Each person thus would have to be chosen. Some would be chosen and some would be not. Such Heresy.

True, God is Sovereign. However scripture also tells us this:

2Pe 3:9 The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.

If this "election" were true, it thus would eliminate man's free will (being made in God's image with free will, as a free moral agent) and the "whosoever will" of scripture. Luk 9:24, Luk 6:46-47, Mar 3:35, Mar 8:34, Rev 22:17.

Heresy breeds Heresy, or a little bit of leaven leavens the whole lump. Not unlike a cancer that spreads and infects the whole body.

To feed this heresy of the "Totally Depravity of Man" doctrine, the false teachings of "Election and Security of the Believer" or "Once Saved Always Saved" where to accompany this heresy.

Once again, Calvin stated that man as a race and individually (as all men are a part of that race) were so depraved and destitute that they cannot or would not seek God on their own.

Such is more a description of the "natural man" of Darwin's evolution than that of Creation.

Man's history began in the Garden. It was there that through disobedience (sin) he fell. If after the fall, if man were so depraved in his fallen state, Adam and Eve would not have sought God. Nor would have Cain and Abel both sought so hard to please him with their sacrifices. And due to sin and jealousy.. you know the rest of the story. And here again that was really a matter of free will as well.

There is no evidence in scripture that states otherwise. Not from the fall in Genesis to the Book of Revelation.

Physical proof lies in the fact that even in the most remote corners of our globe, and the most remote villages untouched by modern day religion. Modern scholars have always found a belief system in place. A God of worship. True it may not be the God of the Bible, but one has always been found to be in place. Man so totally depraved as to he will not seek God? Rubbish.

Be careful.

The problem with "Security of the Believer" is that you better be careful what you believe.

There is enough wrong theology out there to damn everyone. The "Doctrines of Men".

Man has been created with conscience and free will, and it is a matter of free moral agency. A matter of free choice. Period.

Stick with the perfect truth of the word of God.

The following scripture from the book of Romans, portrays that free agency, than that of the depravity.

For they are without excuse. If it were a matter of depravity and election, they would have just that. An excuse. Romans 1:21 tells us that when they knew God, they glorified Him not as God. Free Will.

Rom 1:18 For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;

Rom 1:19 Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them.

Rom 1:20 For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:

Rom 1:21 Because that, when they knew God, they glorified *him* not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

Rom 1:22 Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools,

Rom 1:23 And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things. (Idolatry)

Rom 1:25 Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen

The only depraved, are those that continue to willfully live in sin. And choose not to follow God. Or shall say to follow Jesus. By free will.

To support the doctrine of depravity, Calvin must have support of other doctrines as well.

Perhaps this timeline of sorts would better prove my point.

Total Depravity: Man due to his sin nature cannot or will not seek God on His own.

Election: Because man is depraved and will not seek God, God must extend to him salvation on an individual basis. God must choose for man will not.

Once Saved Always Saved: Because a man is elected for and chosen by God for salvation, he must always remain in that saved state and cannot fall, stumble, or err from the faith, because he is elected to salvation.

This example may be a bit rough, but I believe you can see my point. Heresy breeds Heresy. (additional study see Landmarkism)

And to Security of the Believer- A twist of Once Saved Always Saved, but still part of the same dance.

The problem with security of the believer is that you had better be careful what you believe. The problem is, most place the emphasis on security and not the faith part, that by faith we are justified. Ask the Church from Galatians chapter 5.

Cause and effect: You have a bunch of elect counterfeit christians running around not following Jesus. Notice that's "christians" with a small c.

For scripture tells us they really are not Christians after all.

Are they? No they are not.

Mat 22:14 For many are called, but few *are* chosen.

From the notes of John Wesley:

Mat 20:16 - So the last shall be first, and the first last - Not only with regard to the Jews and Gentiles, but in a thousand other instances. For many are called - All who hear the Gospel; but few chosen - Only those who obey it. Mat 19:30; Mat 22:14.

Election as in those that obey the Gospel, the FULL Gospel of Jesus Christ.
These are the elect.

So dear heart, dear reader, make your election sure:

2Pe 1:10 **Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall:**

2Pe 1:11 **For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.**

I would just no like to add a clarification, from our Lord. Never confuse the message with the messenger. The messenger delivers the message.

I think you will be able to understand that. To explain it in my own words, just because I deliver the message don't hate me. I am just the servant. But then again history is full of that, as well as disbelief of the message. Look at Noah. Elijah. Even Christ himself.

Maybe now you get the point.

Nothing new...just history repeating itself.

Now in closing dear heart, I wish to leave you with this thought. It is not your flesh and blood I fight. It is the power and deception of the dark one. I fight not against you, but for you. For your souls. For you.

And what price do you place upon a human soul? You cannot for each and everyone is priceless.

You see it is all about Love. No, let me take that back. ALL is to finite. It is likened unto putting God "In a Box". This is vastly more infinite and yes more intimate. Deep.

For as Paul wrote in the letter to First Corinthians:

- 1Co 13:1** Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but have not love, I have become as sounding brass or a clashing cymbal.
- 1Co 13:2 And though I have *the gift of* prophecy, and know all mysteries and all knowledge, and though I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but have not love, I am nothing.
- 1Co 13:3 And though I give away all my possessions to feed *the poor*, and though I deliver up my body to be burned, but have not love, it profits me nothing.
- 1Co 13:4 Love is patient, love is kind; love does not envy; love does not boast, is not puffed up;
- 1Co 13:5 does not behave disgracefully, does not seek its own, is not provoked to anger, thinks no evil;
- 1Co 13:6 does not rejoice over unrighteousness, but rejoices with the truth;
- 1Co 13:7 bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.
- 1Co 13:8 Love never fails. But whether there *are* prophecies, they shall pass away; whether there *are* tongues, they shall cease; whether there *is* knowledge, it shall pass away.
- 1Co 13:9 Now we know in part, and we prophesy in part.
- 1Co 13:10 But when that which is perfect has come, then that which is partial shall pass away.
- 1Co 13:11 When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I thought as a child, I reasoned as a child; but when I became a man, I put away the things of the child.
- 1Co 13:12 For now we see through a mirror by reflection, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known.
- 1Co 13:13 And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

Dear heart...it is not all. **It is only the beginning.**

May the Grace of God and our Lord Jesus Christ, guide you into understanding. And above all, love.

It is God's Greatest gift to us. Not only in His great Love for us, the Love that took Jesus Christ to the cross, but a love and increase in our ability and capacity to love one another.

And in all love I pray...

That you may not:

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The Doctrines of Men.

But dear heart, always follow Truth.

"the Phoenix".

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