

Why Didn't It Work?

Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian Church

2 Peter 3:15-16. "And account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you; As also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction."

These verses, along with **Jeremiah 26:2**, **Revelation 22:18-19**, and other scriptures, warn about the danger in trying to change what God has said. It makes no difference what the excuse is, or the supposed reason, for doing it, the person, or persons, who changes the doctrines of God put themselves in direct conflict with God. Nothing could be more dangerous than rebelling against God and disregarding the Lord's commands. It is a battle that man cannot win.

Who would suppose himself to be able, wise, strong, and to

have authority enough to change what God has said? Only the foolish would dare to do so. No matter how many people applauded and praised a false doctrine, it is still false and vain. It, and the people who follow it, will not stand up to God's judgment. I told someone a long time ago that I believed what the scriptures say, I just don't believe what some people say that they say.

If we are a follower of Jesus, and believe that he is truly the Son of God, then we will follow him faithfully. In **Luke 6:46** his question was, "And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?" "If we obey the Lord and go by the Word of God, not some man's ideas, we will be pleasing to God." There was a prophet in **1 Kings 13** who was given a commandment by God. Another prophet gave him a false message which he accepted and thereby disobeyed God. He died for his sin. He failed because he took what sounded good, instead of following what he knew to be the command of God.

Here is an actual story of something that happened years ago. I think it illustrates the principal ideal of what this message is about. A woman asked my wife for a recipe for a certain dish, I think it was a cake.

Later my wife asked her if she tried it and, if so, how did it turn out. "Not so good, she said, it was nothing like what you made." In explaining how she made it, she said that there were some ingredients that she didn't prefer so she left them out. Some things she didn't have so she substituted other things for them. The result was that the dish wasn't what she expected it to be. She seemed not only disappointed, but somewhat confused by the result.

If we leave out the parts of God's Word that we don't find easy to do, or don't really like, we're headed for trouble. Like wise if we change some of what God has said and do differently, we are going to fail. People leave out things like the Lord's Supper, baptism, and other commands because someone told them that it would be alright to do so. Others do them but have changed, both the manner and the reason for doing them. To some baptism is an initiation into a congregation, not into the Body of Christ for the remission of sin. The Lord's Supper might be done once or twice a year, not each Lord's Day as practiced by the early church. If you want it to work right, follow the right instructions.

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This is a dramatized version of facts taken from the Book of Genesis intending to show some of the customs of these ancient and traditional times.

JACOB'S TOIL
BECAUSE THE FLOCKS THAT LABAN GAVE JACOB HAVE INCREASED FASTER THAN LABAN'S FLOCKS, LABAN HAS TURNED AGAINST JACOB IN ANGER, NOW...

WE MUST LEAVE THIS LAND WITH ALL THAT IS OURS!

IF WE DO NOT, LABAN MAY YET TAKE ALL FROM US IN HIS ANGER!

AND WHAT OF OUR INHERITANCE FROM OUR FATHER LABAN, HE HAS USED IT ALL - AND WE HAVE NOTHING!

NEVER-THE-LESS, WE MUST LEAVE BEFORE HE ALSO TAKES THAT WHICH WE NOW HAVE!

I WILL NOT LEAVE WITHOUT SOMETHING AS AN INHERITANCE!

AND RACHEL STEALS THE LITTLE GODS OF SILVER AND GOLD FROM LABAN'S HOUSE!

NOW WE ARE PREPARED FOR THE JOURNEY - LET US LEAVE BEFORE LABAN GETS BACK FROM SHEARING THE SHEEP.

AND JACOB, HIS FAMILY AND VAST FLOCKS, STEAL AWAY WITHOUT LABAN KNOWING THAT THEY ARE GOING...

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