

Teaching Them to Observe All Things

Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian Church

Matthew 28:18-20, "And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen."

The Lord charged his followers to teach all nations in his name. What they were to teach were the things that he had taught them, and they were told to teach it all. When, where, and how did it come about that man started to change what Jesus had said? It had a starting point, where someone added man's thoughts to what Jesus had commanded. One such example is baptism, where it was changed to sprinkling from immersion for the remission of sins. Someone said that it was started because it was easier to do. It is a willful disobedience

to the command of God.

As you can see in **verse 19** above people are to be baptized in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost. Jesus never said to do it in the name of a domination, or of a local church. It is not set forth as an initiation into a church, but for the remission of sins. Also, some churches teach it as a matter of choice. I saw in an old 1949 manual from a denomination that the convert could be immersed, sprinkled, poured, or none of the above, whatever the person wanted to do. I guarantee that you will not find such foolishness in the Word of God. To this very day false teachings like this continue.

If we take the Word of God, and what else do we have, we see that the early church came together on the first day of the week to break bread. They didn't do it once a month, or every three, or six months, or once a year, but on the Lord's Day. I have heard stories of churches who do it with coffee and donuts, hot-dogs and cokes, or other items that they choose. Why do it at all, if the purpose is to belittle and mock the teaching of the Lord?

Granted, there are several things in the scriptures that are difficult to understand. I surly don't claim to know everything, but why are so many things that are clearly stated in the bible practiced in various ways, if at all? It is not just baptism, or the Lord's Supper, that are changed, or left out, but many other doctrines as well.

How about holiness? I don't see how anyone trying to live a Christian life can teach that a person can live in sin and still be acceptable to the Lord. I have heard some teach this and it is totally against the Word of God. **Hebrews 10:28-29**, "He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses: Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?" This is only one section of scripture that speaks of this. You may disagree with me, and if you do, my answer is this - you hold to your opinions, I'll hold to the Word of God.

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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.

The Blind Prophet
JEROBOAM'S SON HAS FALLEN ILL AND NOW, SINCE HE HAS BECOME KING OF ISRAEL, JEROBOAM KNOWS HE HAS SINNED AND CAN NOT TURN TO A PROPHET FOR HELP...

...WHEN I HAVE SINNED?!

WHEN I BECAME KING OF ISRAEL, DID I NOT FORBID THE PEOPLE TO GO TO THE TEMPLE IN JERUSALEM?!

IN THIS I DID SIN!

I WAS AFRAID, IF THE PEOPLE WENT TO WORSHIP GOD IN JERUSALEM, THEY WOULD RETURN TO REHOBOAM, SON OF SOLOMON, KING OF JUDAH, AND I WOULD NO LONGER BE KING!

I BUILT A TEMPLE IN BETHEL AND ONE IN DAN AND SET GOLDEN CALVES IN THEM AND TOLD THE PEOPLE, "HERE ARE THY GODS, O ISRAEL, WHICH BROUGHT THEE OUT OF THE LAND OF EGYPT!"

BUT OUR SON MUST HAVE HELP - LEST HE DIE!

HA! WE SHALL YET RECEIVE HELP FROM THE PROPHET - FOR HE WILL NOT KNOW!

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