

## An Error

Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian Church

I was talking with a brother recently who said he had talked with a minister about what he preached. Some of what he had heard was not according to the bible and he wanted to know where he and his church came up with their doctrines. He was told that they took a liberal view of the scriptures. This is a fancy way of saying that they didn't care what the bible says, so they change it to suit themselves. That is a popular view in this day. One way to do this is to take one verse and build a whole doctrine on it.

How about taking a passage like **Romans 10:9-10**, "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation," and saying that there is nothing else beyond believing? In **Acts 16:31** Paul told the jailer to believe, but then he preached to him, and his household, then took them and baptized them before morning. Although repentance, confession, baptism, and living faithful to the Lord were not specifically mentioned, I have no doubt

that they were included in the message. To take any one verse by itself is in error. Almost from the beginning, man has felt little fear in leaving out, adding too, and twisting the Word of God to suit his purpose. Has there been a greater example of this than baptism? Jesus preached it, the apostles, and the early church taught, and practiced it. Why? Because the Lord said to do it. Then someone said that was too much trouble, sprinkling would do instead of immersion. Another decided to not do it at all. Along the way someone changed it from baptism for the remission of sins (**Acts 2:38**), to just a church initiation. If you read the bible through from **Genesis 1 to Revelation 22** you can not find a place where God said that any one has the right to change his commands. (**Rev. 22:18-19**), **Matt. 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 alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen."

Someone asked recently, "Why can't people just take what the bible says, and do it?" Good question, everyone needs to realize that God isn't going to change his word for you, me, or anybody else. **1 Corinthians 2:13-14**, "Which things also

we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual. But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned." The natural man changes doctrines to suit himself, and those like him, but the saved knows better and desires to please God.

Some think that robes, collars, big church buildings, and elaborate ceremonies mean that they are close to God. These, along with works, ease the conscience, but don't save anyone. Check the gospels, the Pharisees felt the same way. **Matthew 7: 21-23**, "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity."

**Matthew 15:8-9**, "This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men."

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HER NAME APPEARS ONLY ONCE IN THE BIBLE—BUT...

DORCAS (OR TABITHA - THE ARAMAIC FORM OF THE NAME) A FEMALE DISCIPLE OF JESUS, LIVING IN JOPPA. SHE WAS KNOWN FOR HER GOOD WORKS SUCH AS MAKING COATS AND GARMENTS FOR THE POOR. WHEN SHE DIED, HER FRIENDS PREPARED HER FOR BURIAL AND SENT FOR PETER, WHO HAPPENED TO BE IN NEARBY LYDDA AT THE TIME...

...WHEN PETER ARRIVED HE SENT THE MOURNERS OUT OF THE ROOM AND PRAYED EARNESTLY. THEN HE BADE THE YOUNG WOMAN TO ARISE - AND SHE OPENED HER EYES AND DID! NEWS OF THIS ACT SPREAD ABOUT JOPPA AND INSPIRED MANY CONVERSIONS TO THE NEW CHRISTIAN FAITH. (ACTS 9: 36-42)

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