
BIBLE TALK

This week the question is: **What is the most difficult Bible principle to learn?**

I'm convinced that the most difficult Bible principle for people to learn is this: ***Something is only right if it is authorized in the written word of God.*** Here's what I mean by this.

Irven Lee, in his book, Preaching In A Changing World, wrote this: ***"It is very hard to get a man to question something that he thinks is right."***

Isn't this true? When someone thinks something is right isn't it difficult to get them to even question the practice – let alone to change?

Consider the following Bible issues:

ONLY IF AUTHORIZED

We have the right to do only those things which are authorized in the written word of God.

Colossians 3:17

17 And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him.

This means that everything we teach and everything we do must have the stamp of approval of the Lord Jesus Christ. If He did not teach something or authorize something, then it is spiritual forgery to place His name on that thing.

Matthew 15:1-3

1 Then the scribes and Pharisees who were from Jerusalem came to Jesus, saying,

2 "Why do Your disciples transgress the tradition of the elders? For they do not wash their hands when they eat bread."

3 He answered and said to them, "Why do you also transgress the commandment of God because of your tradition?"

Traditions which conflict with the commandments of God are wrong. Jesus had a difficult time trying to get these Pharisees to see that their traditions were wrong. Why was this such a difficult thing? Because *it's difficult to get a man to question something he thinks is right.*

APPLICATION

Let's apply this:

1) It's difficult to get people to question their salvation, because they think they are already saved - without baptism.

Most people have been taught they are saved by faith in Christ and then praying the "sinner's prayer." What we want you and all others to do is to question this. Did Jesus or any apostle teach anyone to only have faith and say the "sinner's prayer"? The answer to that question is NO, they did not. Jesus Himself said:

Mark 16:16

16 "He who believes and is baptized will be saved; ...

The inspired apostle of Christ said this:

Acts 2:38

38 ... "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; ...

2) It's difficult to get people to question their salvation, because they have been taught "once saved, always saved."

The idea is that salvation cannot be lost. But this just simply is not true. What we want you and all others to do is to question this. Did Jesus or any apostle teach that people cannot fall from grace? Absolutely not. Listen to Jesus:

Matthew 5:13

13 "You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men.

The Lord's apostle wrote this:

2 Peter 2:20

20 For if, after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the latter end is worse for them than the beginning.

3) It's difficult to get people to question the way they worship God.

The common idea is the only thing that matters to God in worship is how you feel in your heart. It is difficult to get people to see that God has never authorized most of what churches do in worship. It's difficult to get people to even think about this – because they think it is right. But my friend:

- Where did Jesus or any apostle authorize women speaking in the assembly of the church? In fact, we are told specifically they must remain silent (1 Cor. 14:34-35).
- Where did Jesus or any apostle authorize mechanical instruments of music? In fact, we are specifically told to make the melody "in our heart" (Eph. 5:19).
- Where did Jesus or any apostle authorize Sunday School classes where people are segregated into groups and publicly taught in a divided assembly of the church? In fact, we are specifically told to gather the people together into one place for all the public teaching of the word (1 Cor. 14:23-37).
- Where did Jesus or any apostle authorize communion at weddings, funerals, Christmas Day, and any other time we may personally feel disposed to do so? In fact, the church is specifically told to have the communion on the first day of each week (Acts 20:7).

My friend, we are not trying to anger anyone, but we plead with you to consider some of these things. Just because the majority of people believe something or practice something does not make it right. You need to search the scriptures as if it were a road map. Make sure you're really on the "strait and narrow way." We close with this important passage:

2 Corinthians 13:5

5 Examine yourselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves. ...

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Well ... thanks for listening to our message this week. We invite you to visit our web site www.WillOfTheLord.com. There you may download the notes and the audio file of the message you just listened to.

Call again next week when we consider a new subject on *Bible Talk*.