
BIBLE TALK

This week the question is: **Why should people question their religion?**

- You would probably agree with me that people who are **head-hunters in New Guinea** should re-examine their religion.
- Most people think the so-called "**Jehovah's Witnesses**" need to re-examine their religion.
- A few less would think the "**snake-handling,**" **Pentecostal churches** should re-examine their religion.
- A fewer number think the **Mormons** need to re-examine their religion.

A long, long time ago, John Calvin and Martin Luther thought Catholics should re-examine their religion. They became known as Protestants and they left the Catholic church to start their own religious movements which seemed, to them anyway, to be closer to the Bible's teachings.

Today, we're living in a time when not many people think they need to re-examine their religion. It is thought that only those religious groups who are "really far out" should reconsider things. The problem is, no one views themselves as being "really far out." The Mormons, Jehovah's Witnesses, Pentecostals, and Catholics think they're just fine and that everyone else is messed up.

One time I was going door to door with brother Johnny Elmore and we knocked on the door of a Baptist woman. We asked her to have a Bible study with us about the New Testament church and God's plan for saving man. She informed us that she didn't need such a study as that, but she said, "*Why don't you go next door and speak to my neighbors. They're Jehovah's Witnesses.*" To my way of thinking, it's sad when people condemn one religious group when they themselves are members of a religious group that cannot be read in the Bible.

- Did you know you cannot read of the "Baptist Church" in all of the Bible?
- Did you know you cannot read Baptist doctrine in all of the Bible?

Neither can you read about a "Community Church" which teaches Baptist doctrine. You cannot read about the "United Pentecostal Church."

It seems to me that if these churches were the church of the Lord Jesus Christ, we ought to be able to read about them in the scriptures. We ought to be able to read about their doctrines in the Bible. But no one can find any scripture for any denomination or for the doctrines taught by denominations.

When Jesus said, "Upon this rock I will build My church" (Mt. 16:18), He did not mean He would build a denomination. He meant He would build His own church – period – end of statement. He prayed that all the members of His one church would be united (Jn. 17:21). He condemned anyone for teaching anything differently than what the apostles wrote down in the scriptures (Gal. 1:8-9). He wanted all the congregations to worship the same, teach the same, and practice the same (1 Cor. 1:10). The Lord told us to "examine ourselves to see if we are in the faith" (2 Cor. 13:5).

My friend, you must be interested in God if you called this program. I am asking you to seriously reconsider your religion – your church. Ask yourself:

- Can I read about my church in the Bible?
- Is my church doing everything the Bible says?
- Is my church doing some things which the Bible never authorized?
- Is my preacher teaching some things which the Bible never taught? For example, does your preacher teach that sinners can be saved before baptism? Does he teach sinners can be saved without baptism? Does he teach that once a sinner is saved, he can never be lost again?

This is just the "tip of the iceberg" so to speak. You need to think about these things.

I am glad to say that I can read about the church of which I am a member (Rom. 16:16). I'm thankful (not proud) that the church I attend preaches that sinners are saved by being baptized for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38). I'm thankful (not boastful) that the church I attend teaches men to be careful lest they "fall away" and become lost again (1 Cor. 10:12). I am thankful that the church I attend observes the Lord's supper every first day of the week (Acts 20:7). I am thankful that the church I attend, though it is not large, is the body of Christ which He died for (Acts 20:28).

My friend, you owe it to yourself and to your family to re-examine your religion. Do not continue on in a religion that is not of God. If it were of God you could read it in the Bible – remember that. Jesus said:

Matthew 15:13-14

13 But He answered and said, "Every plant which My heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted.

14 "Let them alone. They are blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind leads the blind, both will fall into a ditch."

He also said:

Matthew 15:7-9

7 "Hypocrites! Well did Isaiah prophesy about you, saying:

8 'These people draw near to Me with their mouth, And honor Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me.

9 And in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.'"

Don't wait till Judgment Day to start checking if you are in the right church. It makes a difference what we believe. It makes a difference what we practice. It makes a difference what church we are members of – for the Lord will only save His Own church when He comes again (Eph 5:23).

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*.