
BIBLE TALK

This week the question is: **Why are some churches not good?**

Jesus prayed to His Father:

John 17:17

¹⁷ "Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.

"*Sanctify*" means "*to set apart*." Jesus is praying to God the Father and asking Him to set His people apart from the rest of the lost world. What separates God's people from the lost world? Jesus said it was God's word – and He said God's word was truth.

The scriptures are truth. Since the scriptures are truth, anything different from the truth is false. Furthermore, the scriptures contain **all truth**. There is not one single truth left out of the scriptures:

2 Peter 1:3

³ as His divine power has given to us **all things that pertain to life and godliness**, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue,

2 Timothy 3:16-17

¹⁶ All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness,

¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.

By putting this information together, we learn that the scriptures contain all truth and equip God's people for every good work that can be done. If a proposal is made by anyone and that proposed work cannot be found in the scriptures, then it is not a good work. If it were a good work, it would be in the scriptures – for, as we have already seen, the scriptures contain "every good work."

The simple truth about your denomination is that it is not good. If it were good, you could turn to a passage in the scriptures and read about your church, but you cannot. You cannot read of any denomination in all of the Bible. Not one. You can only read about the Lord's church. For example:

- If the Lord's church was **the Baptist Church**, then why can't people turn to some passage in the Bible and read about the Baptist Church. Surely, if the scriptures contain "*every good work*" and if they contain "*all things that pertain to life and godliness*" people ought to be able to read about the Baptist Church. If people cannot read about their church in the scriptures, that alone should be an indication that something is wrong. The Lord's church is mentioned in the scriptures, but the Baptist Church is not mentioned. The conclusion is: The Baptist Church is not the Lord's church.
- **The Pentecostal Church** is not mentioned in the Bible. Why not? If it is the Lord's church, why isn't it mentioned in the scriptures somewhere?
- **The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints** is not mentioned in the Bible. This is because it is not the church of the Lord Jesus Christ. No one ever heard of such a church until the days of Joseph Smith in the 1830s.
- Community churches are not mentioned in the Bible. For example, "**Seminole Community Church**" is not mentioned in the scriptures. Why not? If the Bible contains "all truth that pertains to life and godliness" and if the scriptures contain "every good work," why aren't community churches mentioned in the Bible?

The simple truth is, no denomination is mentioned in the scriptures. All denominations are divisive – they divide the would-be followers of Christ into different sects. Sectarianism is sinful (Rom 16:17-18). Everyone who participates in such sinful sectarianism is guilty of dividing the body of Jesus Christ (2 Jn 9-11).

You need to investigate the "*church of Christ*." You can read about this church in the Bible (Rom 16:16). Everything the "*church of Christ*" does can be read in the scriptures. If you are interested, we would be happy to study with you about these things – either in person, over the phone, or in writing.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Well ... thanks for listening to our message this week. We invite you to visit our website 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**.