

Respect for the Authority Of The Bible

There are a number of reasons we should love, honor and respect the Word of God. The Bible gives us a knowledge of the existence of God, creation, Jesus Christ, salvation, heaven and hell. It gives us a knowledge of God's will for us (Eph. 5:17). The Word of God frees us from sin and all its evil consequences which reach out to grab and destroy us. It frees us from the power of sin (Col. 1:13-14). It frees us from the pollution of sin, i.e. guilt and fear (2 Tim. 1:7). It frees us from the pleasure of sin (Heb. 10:25). It frees us from the old man of sin (Rom. 6:3-4). It offers us heaven where we will be free from the presence of all sin. The Bible tells man of his origin, his purpose of existence, and his destiny (Gen. 1:1; Eccl. 12:13-14; 2 Cor. 5:10). The Bible is the only book that deals sufficiently with the subject of death.

Though God has given us the Bible to guide and instruct man in the way of righteousness, why then is the nation (and the world) so full of sin problems? All one has to do is read the daily newspaper or watch the evening news on television to see that our society is full of crime and sin. Our interest turns to concern when recognizing that God eventually delivers an increasing rebellious people into the hands of its enemies (Neh. 9:26-27).

As an approach to answering the question of why our nation is full of sin problems in spite of the fact most (if not all) in this country have access to the Bible, consider the following facts. Jesus teaches that only *few* will enter heaven while the *majority* of men will enter hell in eternity (Mt. 7:13-14). Why is this the case? A look at

the *first* sin ever committed reveals that Eve violated God's law by eating of unauthorized fruit (Gen. 2:16-17; Gen. 3:1-6). If we can find out the reason Eve committed that *first* sin, perhaps then we can understand the reason that most will be lost on the day of judgment. After all, Adam and Eve were the entire population of man in the Garden of Eden at that moment in time. Yes, it is true that Eve was deceived by Satan (1 Tim. 2:14). But why did she *allow* herself to be deceived? Yes, she fulfilled the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eye and the pride of life (Gen. 3:6; 1 Jn. 2:15-17). But why did she *allow* herself to transgress through these avenues? It is *not* true that she was ignorant of the law of the trees. Note that she revealed her level of knowledge in her conversation to Satan. She even knew she was not to "*touch*" the tree of knowledge of good and evil (Gen. 3:3). The *underlying reason* Eve ate of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil was simply because she disrespected the authoritative Word of God. This is also true with reference to Adam. When tempted to eat of the forbidden tree Eve faced a decision. **She could have chosen to either respect what God had said or to do her own will.** Biblical history clearly reveals that she disregarded the words of God. Figuratively speaking, she spat on the Word of God. Figuratively speaking, she stomped under foot the Word of God. She wanted what *she* wanted and she was going to have it! She had eternal life in her hands and dropped it.

**Not discounting the
Ignorance of the Scriptures,
Disrespect for God's Word
is the greatest reason for the sin
problems in the world.**

Again, why are all the sin problems in existence

in our society such as abortions, homosexuality, immorality, unethical conduct, active euthanasia, humanistic philosophies, religious error, etc.? Why is it the case that *most* will be lost on the day of judgment? The reason is that age-old problem of mankind and that is a *lack of respect* for the authoritative words of God.

What are the five steps which constitute the plan of salvation according to the New Testament? A lost and dying world answers, "*Well, I don't know and I don't care.*" (Rom. 10:17; Jn. 8:24; Lk. 13:3; Rom. 10:9-10 & Acts 2:38). What are the five authorized acts of worship which God accepts in the Christian Age? Again, the answer comes from so many, "*I don't know and I don't care.*" (Acts 20:7; Eph. 5:19; 1 Cor. 14:15; 1 Cor. 16:2 & 2 Tim. 4:2). What does the New Testament teach about faithful Christian living? What is the work of the Lord's church? What is the church authorized to do and not to do? What three ways does the Bible authorize a religious belief or practice? Again, the many say, "*I don't know and I don't care.*" However, the Bible teaches that all men *will* reap what they sow and that God is not successfully mocked (Gal. 6:7-8).

Denominationalism

All the sin problems in denominationalism may be laid right at the door-step of a lack of respect for the Word of God. Who is to have all authority in religious matters? Paul stated that "**He (Christ) is the head of the body, the church**" (Col. 1:18). Jesus himself claimed the right to command and enforce obedience. He stated that "**All power (authority) is given unto me in heaven and in earth**" (Mt. 28:18). This rules out any "Pope" who claims to be the earthly head of the church (the word, pope, is never found in the Word of God). The people in Jesus' day recognized he spoke with the authority of God (Mt. 7:28-29). All today *must* produce New Testament authority for questions relating to salvation, Christianity and religion (Col. 3:17).

Denominationalism is the setting up of man-made institutions with their own peculiar doctrines, creeds, beliefs, and traditions (Mt. 15:7-9). The problem with this arrangement is that it takes Christ off the throne and puts the "Reverend" on it (or some 