
“THAT’S THEIR PROBLEM”

Steve Vice, Forest Park, GA

Once I was talking with a young Christian lady about the way she dressed because she often wore short skirts and short shorts. I explained how that such attire could entice some men to sin by lusting after her. She replied, “*Well, that’s their problem, not mine!*” Is such a response in keeping with the spirit of Christ? Can a mature Christian be so nonchalant about being the source of another person’s sin?

Soon after the creation of mankind Cain spoke words that demonstrated a lack of care toward his brother. “Then the LORD said to Cain, “Where *is* Abel your brother?” He said, “I do not know. *Am* I my brother’s keeper?” (Gen.4:9). These words have become a proverb for all who shirk their responsibility toward their fellow man. But God expected otherwise from Cain. In fact it was God who demonstrated genuine concern toward Abel. Cain failed to do his brotherly duty. Paul taught this principle in 1 Corinthians 8:12-13: “But when you thus sin against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, you sin against Christ. Therefore, if food makes my brother stumble, I will never again eat meat, lest I make my brother stumble.” Well, what do you think Paul would say about wearing immodest clothing that causes your brother or sister to lust and sin?

Paul answered: “In like manner also, that the women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with propriety and moderation, not with braided hair or gold or pearls or costly clothing, but, which is proper for women professing godliness, with good works” (1 Tim.2:9-10). Professing godliness is not only heard in our words. It is also seen in our dress, and in our actions.

As Christians we must profess the ways of God at all times. Summer time is around the corner, and with it the immodest bathing suits, short shorts and mini skirts. Immodesty may also be defined as tight, revealing clothes (for men as well as women), plunging necklines that show off cleavage, or dressing in a provocative manner such as the modern pop stars are doing. Immodesty can also be seen in the clothing with writing designed to draw the eyes to certain parts of a person’s anatomy, writing with a double meaning, or out-right profanity. The Bible speaks of the adornment of harlots (Gen.38:14-15; Hos.1 & 2). Proverbs 7:10 speaks of a woman “with the attire of a harlot.” Each of these situations brought shame and the punishment of God. Yet, it reminds me of the modern style today where the showing of underwear is the common dress of the pop and hip-hop cultures. Is God glorified in such? Certainly not.

Remember the admonition of the Spirit of God: “Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life” (Galatians 6:7-8). Modesty in dress, in words, and in action is the mark of a mature Christian. And if a Christian is unconcerned whether or not his or her dress, words and/or actions could cause another person to sin then it is a clear sign that such a person is falling short of a genuine Christ-like spirit. If you dress immodestly it is your problem, not someone else’s problem.

EDITORIAL

MEEKNESS

What comes to mind when you think of the word meek or meekness? Maybe it conjures up images of an innocent little lamb. Maybe you think of an elderly man or woman who is soft-spoken and mild-mannered. The world has its own idea of what makes one meek. Society largely looks upon meekness as weakness. It is often thought that one is meek because he has to be. Perhaps an individual cannot “stand up for himself,” and so he is meek because he cannot help but be otherwise. The Biblical idea of meekness is not an attitude of reservedness born out of cowardice. The Greek word translated “meek” or “meekness” in the New Testament carries with it the idea of a wild animal being broken or tamed. While the animal still possessed all the strength and power of a wild animal, it had been brought under the control of its master. What a beautiful idea of what meekness should mean to humanity! The meek individual is one who, though still possessed of the ability to promote self and to seek his own self-interest, has brought his will under the control of the Master. In the Old Testament, the idea of meekness often included the willingness of one who had been wronged to allow God to right these injustices. The Scriptures pronounce special blessing upon the meek. “Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth” (Matthew 5:5). “The meek shall eat and be satisfied: they shall praise the LORD that seek him: your heart shall live for ever” (Psalm 22:26). “The LORD lifteth up the meek: he casteth the wicked down to the ground” (Psalm 147:6). With this understanding, it behooves each of us to, “Seek ye the LORD, all ye meek of the earth, which have wrought his judgment; seek righteousness, seek meekness: it may be ye shall be hid in the day of the LORD'S anger” (Zephaniah 2:3).

The Scriptures provide us with numerous examples of those who were meek. It is said of Moses, “Now the man Moses was very meek, above all the men which were upon the face of the earth” (Numbers 12:3). Here was one who was chosen by God to lead His chosen people. Moses certainly had numerous opportunities to exalt himself, to promote his own selfish interests. Consider the fact that he was also the son of Pharaoh's daughter, but instead of choosing the riches of Egypt, he

chose rather to suffer affliction with the people of God (Hebrews 11:24-26). Moses exhibited meekness in that he allowed God to direct his life rather than following selfish ambition. Abraham also exhibited meekness in his life. Abraham and his nephew Lot had both grown very wealthy, and had increased in herds and flocks (see Genesis 13). Because of this increase, there was strife between the herdsmen of Abraham and Lot over food and water for the animals. Here would be a perfect opportunity for Abraham to assert himself, to seek his own best interest. After all, he was chosen by God to bring the Messiah into the world through his seed. He was a wealthy patriarch, and could simply have commanded Lot to find food and water for his flocks and herds elsewhere. However, Abraham exhibited meekness in allowing Lot first choice of grazing land. One cannot discuss the quality of meekness without of course considering Jesus Christ. He is the meekest of the meek. Here was the very Son of God, with power to accomplish any desire of his own heart. He could have changed the stones into bread to satisfy his hunger (Matthew 4:3), but he did not. He could have called twelve legions of angels to set him free from the burden of the cross (Matthew 26:53), but he would not. He had the power, but Jesus had resigned his will to the will of the Father. He sought always to do the God's will above his own (“not my will, but thine be done”). Jesus is the perfect example of meekness (see Matthew 11:28-30; 21:5; 2 Corinthians 10:1).

Meekness is absolutely essential if one desires to be saved. “For the LORD taketh pleasure in his people: he will beautify the meek with salvation” (Psalm 149:4). “When God arose to judgment, to save all the meek of the earth” (Psalm 76:9). One who longs for the mercy and grace of Almighty God, he will allow himself to be led by the word of the Lord. “The meek will he guide in judgment: and the meek will he teach his way” (Psalm 25:9). “Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls” (James 1:21). Those who are haughty and proud, those who are desirous of fulfilling self-interest and long for self-exaltation God will resist (James 4:6).

Not only is meekness essential in being saved from past sins, it is also necessary to keep the saved saved. Once one has made that initial decision to follow God's will, he must continue to manifest that same spirit throughout his walk with God. Meekness must ever characterize the child of God. It is a quality that a Christian must constantly work to maintain and nurture. Meekness helps to maintain unity in the body of Christ: "I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you that ye walk worthy of the vocation wherewith ye are called, With all lowliness and meekness, with longsuffering, forbearing one another in love; Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace" (Ephesians 4:1-3). It is a characteristic that must be continually added to our lives: "Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering" (Colossians 3:12). It is a glorious virtue that we must pursue: "But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness" (1 Timothy 6:11). Meekness must also characterize our efforts to instruct others in the will of God. The Bible commands Christians to teach others (Matthew 28:18-20). It also tells us the attitude with which we are to instruct others. "But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear" (1 Peter 3:15). We must not teach others for the purpose of self-exaltation, or out of a desire to fulfill self-interests. We must instruct others in a spirit of meekness, for the best interest of those we teach, and for the glory of God. This attitude must also extend to the instructing of erring Christians. "In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth" (2 Timothy 2:25). "Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted" (Galatians 6:1).

Does meekness characterize your life? Meekness is not weakness. The meek are those who have given their wills over to the will of God. Have you done that? Will you humble yourself, and endeavor to do God's will no matter the cost? You, too, can be saved by giving up your selfish desires, and following the will of God. The Lord asks that you have faith in Jesus Christ as the Son of God (John 8:24), repent of your sins (Luke 13:3), confess your faith in Jesus as the Son of God (Matthew 10:32,33), and be baptized in order to be saved (Mark 16:16). Will you, in meekness, do these things?

WOT

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GPS—GOD’S PLAN OF SALVATION

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I had thought that I might enjoy having one but I never dreamed that someone would give me a GPS but they did. Much to my surprise, some of my children gave me a GPS for a Christmas present. A son took charge of getting the thing ready for me to use in my car. He put the address of a local business into the GPS and this lady’s voice instructed me when and where to turn in order to get to my destination as I looked at a map where I was to travel. In case you might not be familiar with this gadget, here is a brief definition: *“The Global Positioning System (GPS) is a satellite-based navigation system made up of a network of 24 satellites placed into orbit by the U.S. Department of Defense. GPS was originally intended for military applications, but in the 1980s, the government made the system available for civilian use. GPS works in any weather conditions, anywhere in the world, 24 hours a day.”* Theoretically I should never get lost while traveling when I use my GPS.

In the beginning of man’s existence on earth he was in a safe place and in a perfect relationship with Jehovah God. In a sense man was not saved because he had never been in a lost condition. But he became estranged from his God and in a lost condition because of his disobedience to the commands given to him from God (Genesis 2:15-17; Isaiah 59:1, 2; Romans 5:12). However, in the darkest day of man’s existence in the beautiful Garden of Eden, God’s plan for man’s salvation is found in Genesis 3:15 when the *“seed of woman”* was mentioned. The *“seed”* is also referred to as being the *“seed”* of Abraham. The apostle Paul defined that *“seed”* as being Jesus Christ (Galatians 3:19, 16). The fact is, Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God was referred to by John in Revelation 13:8 as being *“slain from the foundation of the world.”* The Lord God, in His infinite wisdom, foreknowledge and marvelous grace and love, planned aforetime to provide salvation for mankind through the death of His beloved Son (Hebrews 2:9; Ephesians 2:5, 8) John 3:16). Throughout the Old Testament there is the theme that ‘someone is coming’ and that being the promised Messiah who would bring salvation to the human race. Isaiah, the messianic prophet, prophesied hundreds of years before the coming of the Savior: *“Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel”* (Isaiah 7:14); and His name was to be called Jesus *“for He will save His people*

from their sins” (Matthew 1:21). Jesus, in answering Thomas who asked Him, *“Lord, we do not know where You are going, and how can we know the way?”* said, *“I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me”* (John 14:5, 6). The roadmap that leads to salvation and to the Father is found in the person of Jesus Christ. He is the only way (Acts 4:12)! So He says to all who would be His disciples, *“If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me”* (Matthew 16:24). The way that Jesus leads us is *“narrow”* and *“difficult”* but the reward is eternal life (NKJV, Matthew 7:13, 14). God has given us the perfect and complete directions in His Holy Word that will lead us to Jesus Christ and salvation (Psalms 119:105; John 6:44, 45; 2 Timothy 3:16, 17; 2 Peter 1:2-4).

God’s plan of salvation certainly involves man’s response. A person must believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God (John 8:24); repent of sins (Acts 17:30) and based upon a confession of faith in Christ, be immersed in His name for the remission of sins (Romans 10:9, 10; Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38). Following in the steps of the Savior we will never stray from the way that is infallibly safe and secure and that leads to *“the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ”* (2 Peter 1:10, 11). May our attitude always be as found in the song, *“Where He Leads Me I Will Follow”*.

WOT

GOD'S LIBRARY

Mike Benson, Hattiesburg, MS

"And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God **and books were opened...**" (Revelation 20:12).

This may sound a bit difficult to believe at first, but God is a reader. Although he knows all things (Colossians 2:3; 2 Chronicles 16:9, he owns an impressive library and pours over each volume. The Almighty is not merely a book owner, but he is an avid reader and is minutely acquainted with the text of every page of every publication within his holdings.

You may ask, "What selections can be found in God's library?" Here is but a partial listing of the more popular works:

1. **The Bible.** The most fascinating book in God's library is the one that he authored (1 Corinthians 2:12; 2 Timothy 3:16; 2 Peter 1:20,21) over a period of 1400 years. It is a perennial best-seller and has been translated into more languages and dialects than any other book ever written. Actually, it is a library in itself although it is only one book. It is sixty-six books, but it is one book in terms of its unity. It contains "the mind of God, the state of man, the way of salvation, the doom of sinners and happiness of believers. Its doctrines are holy, its precepts are binding, its histories are true, its decisions are immutable...It is the traveler's map, the pilgrim's staff, the pilot's compass, the soldier's sword, the Christian's charter. In it paradise is restored, heaven opened, hell disclosed. Christ is its grand subject, our good its design, God's glory its end...It is a mine of wealth, a paradise of glory, a river of pleasure...It involves the highest responsibility, rewards the greatest labor, and condemns all who trifle with its holy contents. It is a book of laws, to show the right from the wrong; a book of wisdom that makes the foolish wise; a book of truth, which detects all human errors; a book of life, which shows how to avoid everlasting death. It is the most authentic and entertaining history ever published, an unequal narrative, a perfect body of divinity, a book of biography, a book of travels, the best will ever executed, the best deed ever written. It is the learned man's masterpiece, the young man's best companion, the school boy's best instructor, the ignorant man's dictionary, everybody's directory..."

It is noteworthy that God will open this particular book at the Last Day and employ it as the standard for our judgment (John 12:48; 8:32; 17:17; Acts 17:31; Psalm 119:172; Romans 2:16). "So speak and do as those who

will be judged by the law of liberty" (James 2:12).

2. **Accounting books.** God's library contains a three-volume series of books pertaining to the life-details of all the people who have ever lived, who are living, and who will ever live. "So then each of us shall give account of himself to God" (Romans 14:12; cf. Matthew 12:36; 1 Peter 4:5).

Volume one records our deeds. "And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books" (Revelation 20:12; cf. Matthew 16:27; Romans 2:6; 2 Corinthians 5:10; Jude 14,15; Revelation 2:23; 22:12).

Volume two records our words. "But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment" (Matthew 12:36).

Volume three records our secrets. "For God will bring every work into judgment, including every secret thing, whether it is good or whether it is evil" (Ecclesiastes 12:14).

Each of us writes our own biographical life-history, and God acquaints himself with that which we compose (Psalm 1:6; 44:21; 94:11; Luke 16:15). "But he knows the way that I take..." (Job 23:10).

3. **The book of life.** This book is specifically mentioned seven times in the New Testament -- once in Philippians (4:3), and six times in Revelation (3:5; 13:8; 17:8; 20:12, 15; 21:27; 22:19). It is also alluded to in other Old Testament passages (Exodus 32:32f; Psalm 69:28; Isaiah 4:3; Daniel 12:1; Malachi 3:16) and is reminiscent of the genealogical register which the Jews maintained of their fellow citizens (Nehemiah 7:5,64; 12:22, 23; Isaiah 4:3; Ezekiel 13:9). As long as one was living, his name was kept in this special record. But following his death, the individual's name was therewith removed. In a similar way, the book of life is God's roll of the righteous. It is a unique log of all of those who enjoy his special favor. Our names are added to this ledger when we are born into the family of God and remain there unless we reject this heritage (Revelation 3:5).

You might say that God is "book-oriented." What about you, dear friend (Revelation 1:3)?

WOT

DO MANY RELIGIONS LEAD TO ETERNAL LIFE?

Tim Childs, Baldwin, MS

Often there is more than just a slight distinction between what God says and what men say. Let's take for instance the following example:

The world says there are many ways a man may travel to ultimately see God, to arrive in heaven, to experience eternal life. The Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life conducted a U.S. Religious survey in 2007. This was a survey of more than 35,000 Americans. Among the statements in the summary the organization found that "Most Americans agree with the statement that many religions – not just their own – can lead to eternal life. Among those who are affiliated with a religious tradition, seven-in-ten say many religions can lead to eternal life." (See <http://religions.pewforum.org/reports#>)

So, 70 percent of religious Americans do not believe their religion is the only way to eternal life.

Is it true there is no exclusive religion that leads to eternal life? Is that what God says? Is that what the Bible teaches? Is that what the Holy Spirit-filled Apostles of Jesus Christ taught? In great contrast to the opinions of the majority, the Word of God clearly teaches there is only one avenue to the Father. Let us consider the following: God's messengers, the prophets, who lived during the Old Testament era spoke and wrote of the days when God would send his Son, Jesus of Nazareth, to lead men to the Heavenly Father. Following the healing of a lame man in the city of Jerusalem, Luke records an address Peter, an Apostle, made in Acts chapter 3. Peter referred to Moses, the prophet and ancient law giver, and what he had said to the fathers centuries before. Hear the testimony of Moses, a man who was faithful as a servant in the Lord's house:

"For Moses truly said unto the fathers, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever he shall say unto you. And it shall come to pass, *that* every soul, which will not hear that prophet, shall be destroyed from

among the people. Yea, and all the prophets from Samuel and those that follow after, as many as have spoken, have likewise foretold of these days. Ye are the children of the prophets, and of the covenant which God made with our fathers, saying unto Abraham, And in thy seed shall all the kindreds of the earth be blessed. Unto you first God, having raised up his Son Jesus, sent him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from his iniquities" (Acts 3:22-26, KJV).

Peter shows God had fulfilled his promise to Abraham in the person of Jesus of Nazareth. Jesus is of the seed of Abraham who would bless "all the kindreds of the earth." Jesus blesses all of our lives in turning us away from our sins and iniquities which lead to eternal spiritual death. The day following Peter's address recorded in chapter 3, Peter and John stood before the Sanhedrin at which time they were asked by what authority they had done their works. Peter replied, "Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, *even* by him doth this man stand here before you whole. This is the stone which was set at naught of you builders, which is become the head of the corner. Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved" (Acts 4:10-12).

A majority of men are continuing to set the stone (Jesus Christ) at naught, but God, in contrast, continues to honor him as the chief corner stone (cf. 1 Peter 2:4-8). "Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; and that every tongue should confess that Jesus is Lord, to the glory of God the Father" (Philippians 2:9-11). A couple of chapters earlier in Acts 2, Luke had recorded Peter's gospel sermon on the great Jewish feast day of Pentecost. Peter explained that they were witnessing the unfolding of prophecy. Peter did not preach the wisdom of men, but rather he

preached Jesus Christ and him crucified. But, God had raised him up on the third day. With the realization of their guilt, they were convicted and asked Peter what to do. "Then Peter said unto them, 'Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost'" (verse 38). In this passage we should observe there is an indispensable connection between Jesus Christ and the authority he holds on the one hand, with the remission of sins and the reception of the gift of the Holy Spirit on the other. Jesus has been given all authority by his Father. He has been made the head of God's family of people.

You see, my friend, Satan has cast a stumbling block before each of us. The problem of sin is the roadblock you and I face that seeks to prevent us from going to the soul's eternal home. If you question this statement investigate further by reading Isaiah 59:1 and 2; additionally you may study the context of John 8:21 where Jesus said, "I go my way, and ye shall seek me, and shall die in your sins: whither I go, ye cannot come." Only Jesus of Nazareth, the Son of God has the exclusive solution for man's sin problem. No spiritual guru has the answer. Jesus truthfully affirms, "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me" (John 14:6). Men may not like it, but Jesus is the exclusive means to eternal life. A philosophy of life, or a moral code delivered by even a magnificent spiritual leader is inadequate to save men from their sins and give them access to God, heaven, and eternal life. If such were possible, the Law of Moses would have served nicely and God could have spared his Son. What is superior to any philosophical guide a spiritual leader may conjure in his mind is the new covenant God has entered into with his chosen people, the spiritual Israel, the church. Jeremiah wrote of this new covenant in Jeremiah 31:31. The Hebrew writer discusses this new covenant and how it is superior to the old one (the Mosaic Law). Jesus has been anointed of God. The heavenly Father has made him Prophet, Priest, and King. He is greater than the angels on high.

Friend, by his grace, God has provided for us the gospel of Jesus Christ. God has provided the exclusive means for our reconciliation, our justification, yes, our salvation from sin and death. Without hesitation or embarrassment Paul wrote, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek" (Romans 1:16). If other religions may give us eternal life, it was totally unnecessary for Jesus to come, live among men, and go to the cross bearing our guilt and shame. It necessarily follows Jesus died for us in vain. God

could have equally saved you and me through some other means if even one other religion could give eternal life. In conclusion, neither God, Jesus, the Holy Spirit, the prophets of God nor the Holy Spirit-filled Apostles ever taught one shadow of a hint that there would be many diverse religions that could lead to eternal life. The Holy Spirit informs the entire world for all time until Jesus comes in his glory: "And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God" (1 John 5:11-13). Every knee shall bow before Jesus, the Son of God. May the whole world come before him and do so now before it is eternally too late.

WOT

PLEASE SUBMIT CHANGE OF ADDRESS!

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ASK A BIBLE QUESTION

QUESTION: What are the basic teachings of the Church of Christ?

ANSWER: It is necessary in all things for Christians to develop the mind of Christ (Phil. 2:5) and seek a New Testament concept of the church (Matt. 6:33; Col. 3:1-4). Christ reserves the right to regulate what the church does and what it teaches (John 12:48; 2 Tim. 3:16-17). We must strive to do Bible things in Bible ways. Salvation as taught by our Lord expects men to obey to be saved (Heb. 5:9), consisting of faith in Christ (Jn. 8:24); repentance from sins (Lk. 13:3); confession of faith in Christ (Matt. 10:32-33); and baptism for the removal of sins (Acts 2:38; 22:16; 1 Pet. 3:21). Worship consists of singing (Col. 3:16); praying (Acts 2:42; 1 Tim. 2:8); studying God's word (2 Tim. 4:2-3); taking the Lord's Supper (1 Cor. 11:23-30; Acts 20:7) and giving of our monies (1 Cor. 16:1-2). The organization of the church involves Christ as the head (Eph. 1:22, 23) and having elders and deacons as servants (Phil. 1:1) in each local congregation (1 Tim. 3:1-13; Titus 1:5-11; 1 Pet. 5:1-3). The work of the Church is evangelism (Matt. 28:19), edification (Matt. 28:20) and benevolence (Jam. 1:27; Gal. 6:10). God expects members of the church to live soberly, righteously, and godly while denying ungodliness and worldly lusts (Titus 2:11-12). A departure from these simple guidelines, would constitute the teaching of "another gospel" (Gal. 1:8, 9); adding to or deleting from the scriptures results in eternal consequences (Rev. 22:18, 19). The wise man will hear, heed and obey the Bible, not the ideas of men (Acts 5:29)! All things must be done according to the pattern laid down by God (Heb. 8:5). Most of all, Christians must be "steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord" (1 Cor. 15:58). Cf. John 4:34; 6:38; Titus 3:1.

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