

Weekly Devo

(For the Week of August 25, 2019)



**In order to help our Sunday Sermons “stick,”
here are lessons to go over together for better “adhesion.”
(Wednesday & Saturday are omitted for class and Family time respectively)**

"Are 'Man-Made' Churches Sinful?"

MONDAY

Reading: John 14:26; 17:20; Eph. 2:19-20, Acts 14:23; 1 Tim. 3:1-7; Acts 6:2-3; Phil. 1:1

Questioning the Text:

1. Is John 14:26 given just for the apostles or for everyone? Justify your answer.
2. Why do you think God used qualifications for the men to meet before allowing them to serve; weed out undesirables? Make it difficult? Determines their maturity? OR...?
3. Jesus said, "*The greatest in the kingdom will be a servant?*" Matt. 20:26. But the apostles said it "*wasn't desirable for them to [serve].*" Is this religious pride/arrogance, or what?
4. Why do people today believe they can change God's qualifications or even the name and nature of those who govern the church, and yet believe God is okay with these changes?

Applying the Text:

1. How would you talk to someone who belongs to a church which is not governed in the same manner as the church in the New Testament is governed?
2. What do you think would be the best way to train our children, i.e. to begin the qualification process, so they could later serve in a leadership position in the church?
3. What do you think of the saying, "It's not about who's right, but what's right"? If you agree with it, how could you use it in a religious discussion?
4. What are some ways we could make the work of the church leaders easier for them and better for me and the rest of the church?

Prayer: Father, from Your word and my experience, being a leader of Your people is not an easy task. Bless them, Father, with all they need to effectively serve You!"

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TUESDAY

Reading: John 4:23; 17:17; Eph. 4:23; Acts 20:7; Ex. 12:3; 20:8 (continues on Thursday)

Questioning the Text:

1. Jesus makes a radical claim; there are "*true worshipers.*" Today people believe worship is a matter of style/preference. Why? How would you convince them otherwise?
2. Describe in your own words what the phrase, "*...worship in spirit and in truth*" means.
3. In what ways are the Passover and the Lord's Supper similar? In what ways different?
4. Is John 4:23 only applicable to people in Jesus day, or is it still true for us? Justify.

Applying the Text:

1. What are some things you can do which will help you "*worship in spirit*"?
2. In Sunday's lesson we used Old Testament passages to help us understand New Testament ones. Is this always appropriate to do? When might it not be appropriate?
3. The Jews were told to "*Remember the Sabbath, to keep it holy.*" Should we say the same thing today, "Remember the 1st day of the week, to keep it holy"? Why or why not?
4. You will sometimes here a brother say, "We now come to the most important part of worship (i.e., communion)." Would you agree/disagree with this? Why/why not?

Prayer: Father, You knew that Your people would always need to be reminded of important things. Help me not to become distracted by non-important things so I can keep You in mind.

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THURSDAY

Reading: Col. 3:16; Gen. 6:14; Lev. 10:1-2; 2 Chron. 29:25; Eph. 5:19; 2 Tim. 4:2-4; Gal. 1:9

Questioning the Text:

1. Do you agree/disagree with the Law of Exclusion, "When God commands 1 thing, He is automatically excluding everything else"? Give examples of when its true & not true.
2. What are some Old Testament practices which are not carried over into the N.T.? Why do people never mention these when they say we should worship with instruments?
3. When Hezekiah wanted to restore the Temple worship, how did he go about it? If people want to restore New Testament worship, how should they go about doing it?
4. What are some things God is concerned about regarding preaching? What are some things God does not seem to be concerned about re: preaching?

Applying the Text:

1. What are some reasons people give regarding why they don't sing during worship? How would you respond to their reasoning? How do you think God would respond?
2. We saw how God responded to Nadab & Abihu when they offered worship which He "had not commanded." Although people continued in both the O.T. and N.T. to worship in ways He had not commanded, why do you think He did not repeat the "fire"?
3. How do you feel when you learn God will eternally condemn false preachers; does this make you glad to know they are getting what they deserve, or sad that it had to happen?

Prayer: Father, I know that worship should be focused on You. But too many today make it about themselves. Help me, Father, to know the right things to say to others on this topic.

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FRIDAY

Reading: Heb. 5:9; Mk. 16:15-16, Acts 8:12; Lk. 13:3, Rom. 10:17; Mt. 7:21-23; 2 Thess. 1:6-9

Questioning the Text:

1. Jesus saves only those who obey Him. What would you tell someone who asked you what they need to "obey" specifically, in order to be saved?
2. Jesus tells us that not all "believers" will be saved on the Day of Judgment. What were these believers "counting on" in order to be saved? What should they have been doing?
3. At the Lord's Second Coming, we read of two groups who will receive God's "retribution." What does this word mean? Who are the two groups who receive retribution? What must we do in order to avoid receiving it?

Applying the Text:

1. Do you know how to teach someone the gospel so that they can be saved? If yes, are you doing this as the Lord commands (Mk. 16:15-16)? If no, what are you doing in order to become better equipped so that you may be able to teach them?
2. How would you answer the question at the top of this page? Why did you answer it this way? If someone does not know God's will, does God overlook their rebellion (see Acts 17:30-31)? If someone does know God's will but doesn't do it, will God overlook their rebellion (see James 4:17)?

Prayer: Father, Satan has done a better job of evangelizing people to his ways, than Your people have by evangelizing people to You! Forgive us for our apathy!