

NO NEED TO TIP TOE AROUND THE TRUTH

Often members of the Lord's church are asked by people, "don't you folk teach that you're the only ones going to heaven?", or some other wording along the same lines. And then, all too often members of the Lord's church begin to tip toe around, trying to get out of saying that what the person said is true, but at the same time not saying they think that those who are not a member of the Lord's church are going to heaven.

There is really no need to do all this tip toeing around. It is most likely that the one asking also believes that one must be a member of the Lord's church in order to be saved. Just go ahead and ask them! Just ask them if they think one can be a member of a church other than that of the Lord Jesus Christ and still be saved, and if so whose church is it that they think one can be saved in, other than the Lord's?

Most of the time when people ask such a question, they do not seek the truth, but an excuse to reject what you might have to say. Once it can be agreed that it is the church that belongs to the Lord that provides salvation, one is a step closer to getting that person to see the truth on a lot of other issues.

Often our differences are not the same as what we are arguing. For instance; most that one will meet will say that they believe that man is saved by faith. Well, the fact is, he is (Eph. 2:8-9; Rom. 5:1). It is not a question of whether man is saved by faith or not, the question is "when is man saved by faith?" That is the question that must be addressed. It is relatively easy to show from God's word that faith saves at the point faith obeys (James 2:21-24).

Sometimes, the difference in what the Bible teaches and what those we encounter teach is simply a matter of words being used that are the wrong word for that which they mean. For instance, most who speak of "witnessing" are actually talking about teaching the Bible to others. The problem is they are using a modern man-made meaning for a word that is used differently in the New Testament as well as the original meaning of the word in a dictionary.

The point is, we have no need to fear discussing the Bible with anyone. No matter how many degrees they may have, the Bible still says the same as it does to one without any degrees. Next time, rather than tip toe around, why not just go right ahead and boldly say what the Bible says and leave it up to them to refute it.

Tilis

THE BIBLE ONLY MAKES CHRISTIANS ONLY AND THE ONLY CHRISTIANS

A whole book has been written by the above title. Yet, in the brief space we have here we wish to examine the above statement. Some, even within the Lord's church have attempted to refute the truthfulness of it. Let us consider it.

Let us start with the phrase "Christians only". The religious world around us has produced what can be called hyphenated Christians. The view is that all the denominations are made up of Christians thus there are Baptist-Christians, Methodist-Christians and so forth. However, the very definition of a Christian is one that is a believer and follower of Christ. This being the case, all Christians are following the same set of guidelines for Christianity, the gospel of Christ. However, since all the denominations have their unique doctrines and practices, they cannot all be truly following the gospel of Christ. This being the case, they are not really Christians. Something other than the gospel of Christ has to be consulted in order for one to become a member of any of these denominations. It may be some man-made book called a discipline, manual, confession or any of a number of other names, but it is an addition to and contrary to the simple gospel of Christ. Whatever else is used, something has to be added in order to make something other than simple Christians. Those who obey and abide by the Bible only will be nothing but a Christian, thus Christians only.

Now let us address the part about being the only Christians. As the above truths have revealed, those who have subscribed to the teachings and practices of some other source than the Bible have become something other than a Christian only. The question then arises, can one be something other than a Christian only and still be a Christian. As noted above, a Christian is one that has obeyed the Bible and the Bible only. Therefore, those hyphenated "Christians" are not Christians at all. They may be Baptist. they may be Methodist. They may be one of any of a number of religious groups, but they are not Christians. Therefore, the Bible only makes Christians only and the only Christians.

There is no mention whatsoever in the entire New Testament of any denominations of the church. There are individual congregations meeting at Ephesus, Corinth, etc, but no denominations. Division is condemned in the New Testament (I Cor. 1:10).

Robert