

GOD'S WORD IN WRITTEN FORM

When God gave Moses the instructions concerning the building of the tabernacle, he did not leave it up to Moses to figure a way to build it in accordance to God's pattern. God told Moses, "See, I have called by name Bezaleel the son of Uri, the son of Hur, of the tribe of Judah: And I have filled him with the spirit of God, in wisdom, and in understanding, and in knowledge, and in all manner of workmanship...And I have give with him Aholiab, the son of Ahisamach, of the tribe of Dan: and in the hearts of all that are wise hearted I have put wisdom, that they may make all that I have commanded thee" (Exo. 31:2-3, 6). When the Lord departed this earthly realm, He left behind the apostles to carry out His will in the establishment of the church and the proclamation of the instructions for it. (Acts 1:8). He told them to go into all the world and preach the gospel (Mark 16:15). But again, He did not leave it to the mere memory of man to remember all those instructions. He sent the Holy Spirit, the Comforter to bring all things to their remembrance and to reveal things to them that they had not yet heard from the mouth of the Lord (John 14:26; 15:26; 16:12-13).

Oh what a blessing it is for us to have that God sent, Holy Spirit delivered and apostle spoken word in written form, that we might be able to search the scriptures, meditate upon the scriptures, study the scriptures and "know the truth" which will make one free (John 8:32). The apostle Paul tells us that the very words that he used in revealing to us those things were revealed to the apostles (I Cor. 2:9-13). But, not only did Paul and these other inspired New Testament writers speak the words of God (I Thess. 2:13), they wrote the words of God as well. Paul told the Corinthians, "If any man think himself to be a prophet, or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord" (I Cor. 14:37). He told Timothy, "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works" (II Tim. 3:16-17).

In this day and age wherein we live, owning a copy of the inspired word of God is taken for granted. For just a few dollars one can possess the greatest message that one can possess; the gospel of Christ which is the power of God unto salvation (Rom. 1:16). *Robert*

TO WHOM SHALL WE GO?

I often answer the above question, even when people do not ask it. Peter once asked the question and then answered it as well. When many of the disciples of Jesus went back and walked no more with him, Jesus asked the apostles, "Will ye also go away?" (John 6:66-67). Peter responded, "Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life" (John 6:68). Since the Lord's word will lead to eternal life, obviously that is to whom we must go if we desire eternal life. Paul said that the gospel of Christ was the power of God unto salvation (Rom. 1:16) and that we will be judged by it (Rom. 2:16). It is our only guide to eternal life--our only source of authority.

However, the answer to the above question really depends upon where it is that you wish to go. True, if one wishes eternal life, the word of the Lord is the only way. But, some seek something else, and for them, that which they follow as their guide must be different. For instance, some would have desire to be Mormons. Now they have need for another source of authority, for the word of the Lord will not show them anything about how to live as a Mormon. That's why the Mormons have the Book of Mormons, Pearls of Great Price and other books. If one desires to be a member of some denomination (any denomination), they have need for some other source of authority than the word of the Lord, for the Bible nowhere teaches Christians to be divided up into groups, wearing differing names, teaching differing doctrines and practicing different practices. In fact, the word of the Lord condemns such division (I Cor. 1:10). One would have to seek something like the Methodist Discipline or other denominational books as their source of authority, if they desire such division in the name of Christianity.

It would seem an easy task to read the New Testament and come to the same conclusion that Peter stated about "to whom we should go". And, it would seem reasonable that most of those who are practicing that which has another source as its authority, in reality, desires that eternal life that Peter spoke of. These two things being true, it would behoove all those who are a part of a "divided Christianity" to cast aside all "other" sources and embrace the word of the Lord only. Paul said, "But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed" (Gal. 1:8).

Robert