

## Some If's Call for A Why

### Int.

1. Aim: To show that certain doctrines are false because of what the Bible says.
2. Jn.1:25 -- **"And they asked him, and said unto him, Why baptizest thou then, if thou be not that Christ, nor Elias, neither that prophet?"**
  - a. If thou be not that Christ WHY are you baptizing people?
  - b. John was being asked this question
  - c. If you are not Christ why are you baptizing all these people?
3. Common way of trying to reason with people and get everything straight. For example:
  - a. If you are full why do you want a piece of cake?
  - b. If you are an honest person why are you cheating on your income tax?
4. Bible Example - I Sam. 15
  - a. Saul was told to completely destroy the Amalekites
  - b. He saved the best of the livestock and king Agag
  - c. He claimed he had obeyed - I Sam. 15:13 **"And Samuel came to Saul: and Saul said unto him, Blessed be thou of the Lord: I have performed the commandment of the Lord."**
  - d. Samuel then asked if you have obeyed then why do I hear the bleating of the sheep and the lowing of the oxen? - I Sam. 15:14 **"And Samuel said, What meaneth then this bleating of the sheep in mine ears, and the lowing of the oxen which I hear?"**
  - e. The truth of the matter was that he had not obeyed!!
5. Some "If's" Demand a "Why?"

## Discussion

### I. IF CREEDS ARE NECESSARY WHY DO WE HAVE THE BIBLE?

- A. Many if not all denominational groups have their instructions in a book made by men
1. Creeds are called - Discipline, Prayer Book, Manual, Constitution etc.
  2. They revise and update these every few years
  3. Creeds contradict the Bible and often contradict themselves especially in revised editions
  4. Creeds are not necessary for salvation and they certainly do not promote unity.
- B. Why have the Bible if we need creeds?
1. II TIM. 3:16-17 **"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."**
    - a. Given by inspiration God = God Breathed / - creeds are by men
    - b. Throughly = completely furnished unto all good works.
  2. II Pet. 1:3 **"According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:"**
    - a. All things that pertain unto life and godliness
    - b. Need nothing else
    - c. If a creed book has more than the Bible it is too much.
    - d. If a creed book has less than the Bible it is too little.
    - e. If it is the same as the Bible it is not needed.
  3. II Jn. 9 **"Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son."**
    - a. Transgresseth - go beyond - creeds go beyond, change what the Bible says
    - b. That is the reason men have creeds, they do not like what the Bible says
4. The Bible is complete - inspired - never needs revising - all sufficient
- C. The TRUTH of the matter is that creeds are not necessary, because we have a God given Bible!!

## **II. IF ONE CAN FOLLOW MEN WHY ARE HUMAN DOCTRINES CONDEMNED ?**

- A. Following men is common
1. Men have set up their own rulers in religion
  2. They have become obedient to some man and his doctrines
  3. Following men is not safe because they could be in error.
- B. Why are human doctrines condemned?
1. Mt. 15:9 **"But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men."**
    - a. Teaching for doctrines [instruction] the views/thoughts of men
    - b. Vain = useless, worthless, unacceptable, to no purpose
    - c. God does not accept it !
  2. Gal. 1:6-10
    - a. Another Gospel, which is not another - there is only one Gospel
    - b. Pervert - changed, changed by adding doctrines of men
    - c. Accursed - doomed to destruction, detestable, an abomination
  3. I Thes. 2:13 **"For this cause also thank we God without ceasing, because, when ye received the word of God which ye heard of us, ye received it not as the word of men, but as it is in truth, the word of God, which effectually worketh also in you that believe."**
    - a. Word of God which they received of Paul
    - b. Not man's word but God's!!
    - c. It has power in those that believe.
    - d. Man's word is weak
- C. The TRUTH of the matter is that we cannot follow human doctrine!

### **III. IF MEN HAVE ANY AUTHORITY WHY DOES CHRIST CLAIM ALL AUTHORITY?**

- A. Men claim to have authority
1. They meet in conventions, synods, assemblies etc. to enact new rules and policies
  2. It is often decided by popular vote of the delegates present
  3. Recent changes include women preachers - accept homosexuals in their sin
- B. Christ claims to have all authority.
1. Mt. 28:18 "**And Jesus came and spake unto them saying, All Power is given unto me in heaven and in earth**".
    - a. Power is translated by the word "authority" in the ASV and NKJV
    - b. The word means = delegated influence:--authority, jurisdiction, liberty, power, right, strength.
    - c. All authority - not part or some or just for a few years
    - d. It was given to Jesus by God
    - e. It extends to heaven and earth
    - f. It has no time limit - still has authority in 21<sup>st</sup> century
  2. Col. 1:18 "**And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence**".
    - a. Christ is the head of the church
    - b. He does not share his authority with man
    - c. Preeminence - to be first
    - d. Eph. 1:22-23 "**And hath put all things under his feet and gave him to be head over all things to the church, which is his body, the fullness of him that filleth all in all.**"
- C. The TRUTH of the matter is that men have no authority in Religion!

**IV. IF WE ARE SAVED IN ANY NAME WHY DOES ACTS 4:12 SAY THAT THERE IS NONE OTHER NAME?**

- A. Most religious people believe that the name is unimportant
1. One name is as good as another
  2. Call the church by assorted names after men or certain doctrines or beliefs
  3. Members are called according to their beliefs
  4. They teach that we are all headed for the same place, and the name doesn't make any difference!
- B. Why does Acts 4:12 say the name is important?
1. Acts 4:12 **"Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."**
    - a. Salvation in none other name -- universal in application
    - b. One and only name by which we can have salvation
    - c. There is no second or third Saviour
    - d. The name does make a difference
  2. Jas. 2:7 **"Do not they blaspheme that worthy name by the which ye are called?"**
  3. I Pet. 4:16 **"Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf"**
    - a. Suffer as a Christian
    - b. Name of the followers
- C. The TRUTH of the matter is that we are not saved in any name, but only in the name of Jesus!

## **V. IF WE CAN BE SAVED OUTSIDE THE CHURCH WHY ARE THE SAVED ADDED TO THE CHURCH ?**

- A. Some teach and believe we can be saved outside the church
1. They say the church is unimportant
  2. Believe one can be saved anywhere - out in the field, driving car, at work
  3. People tell about their experiences when they supposedly were saved
- B. The Bible teaches the saved are added to the Church
1. Acts 2:47 **"Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved"**
    - a. The Lord adds not man
    - b. Added to the Church
    - c. Such as should be saved -the church is the saved
  2. Eph. 5:23 **"For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body."**
    - a. Christ is the head of the church
    - b. Saviour of the Body - body and church are same - Christ saves the church
    - c. To be saved we must be in Christ or the church - Gal. 3:27
- C. The TRUTH of the matter is that no one can be saved outside the church!

### **Conclusion**

1. Some "IF'S" call for a "WHY"
  - a. If creeds are necessary WHY do we have the Bible?
  - b. If one can follow men WHY are human doctrines condemned?
  - c. If man has authority WHY does Christ claim all authority?
  - d. If we can be saved in any name WHY does Acts 4:12 say there is none other name?
  - e. If we can be saved outside the church WHY are the saved added to the church?
2. The TRUTH of the matter is that these "if's" are false because the "why's" explain the error of these beliefs because they are True.
3. Jn. 14:15 "If ye love me, keep my commandments".
  - a. Obey the Gospel
  - b. Walk in the light -I Jn.1:7 **"But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin."**

Sermon by Arthur Pigman -  
Evans Church of Christ  
515 Gibbs Road  
Evans, Ga. 30809  
706-855-1249  
arthurpigman@cybrtyme.com