

RELIGIOUS EXTREMES

Int.

1. Aim: To explain that truth is revealed in the Bible and we cannot change it by going to extremes.
2. We are warned not to add to nor take away from the WORD
 - a. Rev. 22:18-19 "For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall **add** unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: 19. And if any man shall **take away** from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book."
 - b. Add - put something extra
 - c. Take away - remove - subtract, cut off
 - d. Deut. 4:2
3. Illustration of man sending his 2 sons to put the dog on a 50 foot leash out in the yard
 - a. First day one son puts the dog at 75 foot. He adds 25 foot piece. The dog gets into the flowers and destroys them. Father explains that this is not what he told him to do.
 - b. Second day the other son wants to be careful not to go beyond so he puts the dog on a leash of only 25 feet. This way he will not get into the flowers and destroy anything. But the dog was not able to get to the water and food.
 - c. This illustrates the two extremes of people in religion. The truth lies between these two extremes.
4. We must avoid extremes in religion and simply follow the truth of God

Discussion

I. OPERATION OF HOLY SPIRIT

A. Take Away

1. Dead letter
2. No power in these old writings
3. We live in the 21st century and we need modern laws.
4. Therefore men make new religious laws

B. Add

1. This extreme says that we can have the miraculous gifts of the holy spirit even today.
2. Claim to speak in tongues, claim to heal, and do the things the Christians did in the first century.
3. Say that they have the ability to perform miracles

C. God's Truth

1. 1 Cor 13:8-10 "Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away. 9. For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. 10. But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away."
2. Holy Spirit guided the writing of the Bible.
3. He guided the apostles in recording the truth -
4. John 16:13 "Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, [that] shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come."

5. We have the Bible the inspired word - 2 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: 17. That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works."
6. It is still powerful Heb. 4:12 "For the word of God is quick,[alive] and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."
7. We must not change the word- Gal. 1:6-8 "I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: 7. Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. 8. 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."

II. SALVATION

A. Add

1. Faith only = they say: "Accept Christ as your personal savior and you are saved".
2. Baptism only = Salvation by being baptized - Catholics = baptize [sprinkle] babies
-- Last rites = baptize or pray for dying person and they believe that they will be saved
3. These people do not allow and teach and practice all that God commands.

B. Take away

1. Universal salvation
2. Everyone will be saved regardless of what they do
3. These believe that because God is love He could not punish anyone to hell
4. Deny that there is even a Hell

C. God's Truth

1. All men are lost without the gospel - 2 Thes. 1:7-9
2. Every person must be saved by obeying the gospel
3. BRCB Mk 16:15-16 Acts 2:38 1 Pet 3:21 Gal. 3:27
4. III. Combination lock. We must obey all of the commands to have the forgiveness of our sins.

III. BAPTISMA. Add

1. The manner of baptism does not matter to some.
2. Choose: Immersion, sprinkling or pouring
3. To these it makes no difference - any way is ok.

B. Take Away

1. Not essential
2. Many teach that we are saved without baptism and before we are baptized
3. Believe that we can be baptized but not necessary

C. God's Truth

1. Baptism is a burial:

- a. Col. 2:12 "Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead."
- b. Rom. 6:4 "Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life."

2. Baptism Saves:

- a. Puts us into Christ or the church and it does make a difference Gal. 3:27
"For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ."
- b. 1 Pet. 3:21

IV. THE CHURCH

A. Add

1. Moralist - just live a good life - be a good moral person
2. They teach = Treat your fellow man right and that is all that matters
3. These believe that you can be saved outside the church as well as in it

B. Take Away

1. These believe that there are many churches
2. Just choose the church of your choice they say.
3. They believe that you can be saved in any religious organization - that the church is not important
4. Protestant Denominationalism

C. God's Truth

1. Christ established his church Matt. 16:18 "And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."
2. He purchased the church with his blood - Acts 20:28 "Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood."
3. Christ did not establish denominations - he established his church - the one we read about in the N.T. It is his body or church.
 - a. 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."
 - b. Eph. 1:22-23 "And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, 23. Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all."
4. It takes more than morality to save
 - a. Cornelius
 - b. ACTS 10:34-35 "Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: 35. But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him."

V. WORSHIP

A. Add

1. Sincerity is all that counts according to some.
2. Believe that we can Worship any way you want
3. What we do in worship really makes no difference as long as we are sincere according to some.

B. Take Away

1. Occasional
2. These do not believe that worship is necessary
3. You can worship whenever you want to. If you desire to go fishing on the Lord's day then go. If you want to stay home with company that would be all right with these people.

C. God's Truth

1. Sincerity is not enough
2. John 4:24 "God [is] a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship [him] in spirit and in truth."
 - a. Spirit = attitude - sincere
 - b. Truth = according to His Commands
 - c. We must have authority for all that we do in worship to God.
 - d. Nadab and Abihu offered strange fire and they were killed. Lev. 10:1-2 "And Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, took either of them his censer, and put fire therein, and put incense thereon, and offered strange fire before the Lord, which he commanded them not. 2. And there went out fire from the Lord, and devoured them, and they died before the Lord."

3. Occasional worship is not enough
 - a. Heb. 10:25 "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching."
 - b. Acts 20:7 "And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them, ready to depart on the morrow; and continued his speech until midnight."
4. God must have first place in our life
 - a. Pleasure and family cannot come first
 - b. We must seek God first - Mt. 6:33 "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."
 - c. We must put God first or he will not accept us.
 - d. Matt. 6:24 "No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon."

VI. MONEY

A. ADD

1. Fund Raising Events
2. Get money any way you can get it
3. Pie suppers, raffles [gambling], car wash, yard sales, bingo [gambling]
4. Begging on radio and T.V.
5. Tithing - Added from the O.T.

B. Take Away

1. Stingy
2. Covetous type people who will not give to God
3. Only give a small amount

C. God's Truth

1. 1 Cor. 16:2. "Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store, as God hath prospered him, that there be no gatherings when I come."
2. We are to give liberally and cheerfully
3. 2 Cor. 8:2 "How that in a great trial of affliction the abundance of their joy and their deep poverty abounded unto the riches of their liberality."
4. 2 Cor. 9:7. "Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver."

CONCLUSION

1. All extremes in religion are error [Man's will] - the truth of God lies between these extremes [God's will]
2. Being sincere in religion is not enough
 - a. Matt. 15:8. "This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with [their] lips; but their heart is far from me. 9. But in vain they do worship me, teaching [for] doctrines the commandments of men."
 - b. Matt. 7:21-23
3. Pure religion based on God's commands is the only thing that can save us from our sins.