

STRANGE THINGS SAID ABOUT THE CHURCH OF CHRIST

Int.

1. Aim: To explain some misunderstandings that some have about the church.
2. The church in the first century had some strange things said about it.
 - a. "But we desire to hear from you what you think; for concerning this sect, we know that it is spoken against everywhere." Acts 28:22 NKJV
 - b. Acts 17:6 Thessalonica "And when they found them not, they drew Jason and certain brethren unto the rulers of the city, crying, These that have turned the world upside down are come hither also;"
 - c. Acts 18:13 - Paul at Corinth "Saying, This fellow persuadeth men to worship God contrary to the law."
 - d. The church of Christ today is often misunderstood and many times people present a weird and distorted picture of the church.
3. Here are some of the things you hear:
 - a. They don't believe in the O.T.
 - b. They don't think we are saved by grace
 - c. They don't believe in music
4. Let's notice some of these strange things being said about the church today.

Discussion

I. DO WE BELIEVE THE OLD TESTAMENT ?

A. Many accuse us of not believing the O.T.

1. They are amazed when we use an O.T. text
2. They do not understand our emphasis on the N.T.

B. The truth about the O.T.

1. The O. T. is inspired

- a. "knowing this first, that no prophecy of scripture is of private interpretation.
21 For no prophecy ever came by the will of man: but men spake from God,
being moved by the Holy Spirit." 2 Pet.1:20-21 ASV
- b. It claims inspiration for itself with such statements as "God spoke" or "Thus saith the Lord" [415 times in 413 verses]

2. The O.T. is profitable

- a. Rom. 15:4 "For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope." - learning = instruction [the function of information]
- b. 1 Cor. 10:11 ASV "Now these things happened unto them by way of example; and they were written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages are come."

3. The O.T. is not in force today

- a. The law ended at the cross - Col. 2:14-16 "Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross; 15. And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it. 16. Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holy day, or of the new moon, or of the Sabbath days:"
- b. Heb. 8:6-11
- c. Mt. 5:17 "Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil."

C. The denominational position regarding the O.T.

- 1. They say "We take it all, the whole Bible, both the O.T. and the N.T."
 - a. If they mean by "take" to practice it then they do not do it.
 - b. They do not offer animal sacrifices [burnt, meal, peace, sin, guilt] - Leviticus
 - c. They do not observe the Sabbath day or the Feast Days
- 2. They go to the O.T. for what they want and leave everything they do not want.
- 3. Those who use instrumental music try to use David as an example!
- 4. It is impossible for us to live by the O.T. law and the N.T. law at the same time
 - a. If you go back to the law for one thing you must do it for all!!
 - b. Gal. 5:1-4
 - c. In V. 4 he says "Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; yea are fallen from grace."

D. We believe in the O.T.!

1. But it is not for us to live by today.
2. 2 Tim. 2:15 "Handling aright the word of truth" ASV
3. We can learn from it and we must study it, but we live by the N.T. today.
4. You cannot properly understand the N.T. without a knowledge of the things revealed in the O.T.
5. But the commands and rules and regulations of the O.T. do not apply to us today.
6. We live under the law of Christ in the N.T.

II. DO WE BELIEVE WE ARE SAVED BY GRACE ?

A. Salvation by the grace of God is plainly taught

1. Rom. 3:24 "Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:"
2. Eph. 2:8 "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:"
3. Our singing declares it "Amazing Grace"

B. Grace is clearly understood

1. Grace is unmerited favor. God saved us from sin when we did not deserve it.
2. Grace is love
 - a. John 3:16
 - b. Rom. 5:8 "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."

- c. Grace is mercy - Tit. 3:5 "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;"

C. Grace does not exclude conditions for the sinner

1. Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord
 - a. Gen. 6:8 "But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord."
 - b. Yet he was told to build the ark - Gen. 6:14 "Make thee an ark of gopher wood; rooms shalt thou make in the ark, and shalt pitch it within and without with pitch."
2. Ruth obtained her food by grace, yet she had to glean it. Ruth 2:2-3 "And Ruth the Moabitess said unto Naomi, Let me now go to the field, and glean ears of corn after him in whose sight I shall find grace. And she said unto her, Go, my daughter. 3. And she went, and came, and gleaned in the field after the reapers: and her hap was to light on a part of the field belonging unto Boaz, who was of the kindred of Elimelech."
3. Salvation is by grace but not by grace alone
 - a. Paul was saved by Grace - Gal. 1:15 "But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb, and called me by his grace,"
 - b. But he had to be baptized to wash away his sins - Acts 22:16 "And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord."
4. Some teach that a person is saved by grace alone. When we understand the Bible teaching of grace we learn this is incorrect.

5. God's grace is extended to all
 - a. Tit. 2:11 "For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,"
 - b. But it must be accepted by obedience to the Gospel or else all would be saved!
- D. All who will be in heaven will be saved by the Grace of God!

III. DO WE BELIEVE IN MUSIC ?

- A. Quite often we are branded by the title: "They are the group that doesn't believe in music."
 1. Some accuse of us not liking music since we do not use instrumental music in our worship.
 2. There are two kinds of music.
 - a. Vocal and instrumental - Singing and Playing
 - b. Then there is a combination of both
- B. The N.T. scriptures refer to vocal music in our worship.
 1. Eph. 5:19 - psalms and hymns = it says singing
 2. Col. 3:16 Psalms and Hymns = it if means playing then we would all need an instrument and could not worship without it.
- C. We believe in music
 1. But the music in the N.T. is vocal and that's the type we should use
 2. Since the N.T. is silent about instrumental music we have no right to add to vocal music and include an instrument.

D. We must respect the silence of the N.T.

1. It is silent about instrumental music
2. We do not have the right to add it
 - a. Does not say "thou shalt not count beads"
 - b. Does not say "Thou shalt not use instrumental music"
3. A recipe tells what to include - not everything to be left out
4. Deut. 4:2 "Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish aught from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you."
5. Prov. 30:6 "Add thou not unto his words, ..."
6. 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."
7. 1 Pet. 4:11 "If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen."
8. 1 Cor. 4:6 ASV "Now these things, brethren, I have in a figure transferred to myself and Apollos for your sakes; that in us ye might learn not to go beyond the things which are written; that no one of you be puffed up for the one against the other."
9. God Commanded Singing

CONCLUSION

1. 1 Pet. 3:15 "But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:"
 2. Study your Bible and be able and willing to correct any wrong idea that may be in people's mind about the cause of Christ.
 3. Strange things said about the church of Christ: They do not believe...
 - a. In the Old Testament
 - b. We are saved by grace
 - c. In music
 4. The truth about the church of Christ is that we do believe:
 - a. In the Old Testament
 - b. We are Saved by Grace
 - c. In music.
 5. Let us study and give answers to people who make incorrect statements about the Church.
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