

Does Everyone Have A Right To His Own Belief?

TEXT: “Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.” (Jn. 14:6)

THESIS: Just because God gave us the ability to read and write and understand the mind of God, does not give him the right to altar or change God’s word to suit ourselves.

INTRODUCTION:

1. Satan has impressed many, that anyone, is considered one’s own standard.
 - a. What I mean by this is that, **Does Everyone Have A Right To His Own Belief?**
 - b. Does anyone have an idea, feeling or impression of their own that determines what is right in life?
2. This can make it very difficult to determine what is right and what is wrong because while one says it is good, another may say that it is bad . . . there must be some standard of authority.
 - a. Thus, while one may have a legal or personal right, we must see that God’s law is not determined by civil law or one’s conscience.
 - b. His law is not one that is up for debate or discussion . . . It is what he made it to be which is complete and accurate in every since of the word and is the eternal map for mankind.
3. Therefore, man needs to look at the Bible and let the Bible determine what is best for man.
 - a. Because, man often incorporates his own wisdom from his own thoughts and indicates to the world that he is righteous.
 - i. However, “The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge: but fools despise wisdom and instruction.” (Prov. 1:7)
 - b. Therefore, being righteous in the eyes of man, does not make us righteous in the eyes of God.
4. Thus, this morning, I would like to look at the Bible to determine:
 - a. Reasons one does not have a spiritual right to his or her own belief.
 - b. Bible examples showing one does not have such right.
 - c. Some things in which we have no personal right.

DISCUSSION:

- I. REASONS ONE DOES NOT HAVE A SPIRITUAL RIGHT TO HIS OR HER OWN BELIEF.
 - A. First, Christ is absolute in authority.
 1. “And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, **All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.**” (Matt. 28:18)
 2. And, it was God the Father who said to hear him.
 - a. “And there was a cloud that overshadowed them: and a voice came out of the cloud, saying, **This is my beloved Son: hear him.**”

(Mark. 9:7)

- b. In addition, “Moses truly said unto the fathers, A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren, like unto me; him shall ye hear in all things whatsoever he shall say unto you. And it shall come to pass, that every soul, which will not hear that prophet, shall be destroyed from among the people.” (Acts 3:22, 23)
3. And therefore, one does not have a spiritual right to their own beliefs, for we all must only do the will of God!
 - a. Because God in the flesh said, “Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity. **Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock:** And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. **And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man,** which built his house upon the sand: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it.” (Matt. 7:21-27)
 - b. And therefore, Jesus, “being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him;” (Heb. 5:9)
- B. Thus, since all things are to be in the ways of God, he forbids variation or change.
 1. God does not accept additions to what he has already commanded.
 - a. Which is why the Holy Spirit had Paul write, “And these things, brethren, I have in a figure transferred to myself and to Apollos for your sakes; that ye might learn in us not to think of men above that which is written, that no one of you be puffed up for one against another.” (1 Cor. 4:6)
 - b. Likewise, “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.” (2 Jn. 9)
 2. However, not only are we forbidden by God to add to his words, we are also commanded not to use subtractions or deduct from what God has already commanded.
 - a. For, “Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you.”

(Deut. 4:2)

- b. Furthermore, the apostle John writes, “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: 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.” (Rev. 22:18, 19)
- C. And therefore, there are not many sources of authority, there is only one and that one authority does not come from a man or a woman . . . it comes from God.
- 1. For, “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.” (2 Tim. 3:16, 17)
 - 2. Now more specifically, we are not commanded to adhere to both the Old and the New Testament.
 - a. For the Hebrew writer said, “Then said he, Lo, I come to do thy will, O God. He taketh away the first, that he may establish the second. By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.” (Heb. 10:9, 10)
 - b. So, the Old Law is no longer in effect and therefore, it cannot be the authority for our salvation today.
 - 3. And since the New Law is written by the hand of God, no changes are allowed.
 - a. Now today, we have a national constitution, by which it has been changed and converted to include or delete many things.
 - (1) Thus, notice that the apostle Paul had to deal with Christians who were trying to change and convert the law of God to include and delete many things.
 - b. However, he told the church at Galatia that they did not have the authority to change anything and said, “I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. 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. As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.” (Gal. 1:6-9)
- D. So, the reason why one does not have the right to his or her own spiritual belief is because:
- 1. Christ is the absolute authority and unless Christ comes and changes his law (which he would not do), there cannot be a change of the law that is in

effect (meaning the New Law and not both Laws).

2. And since his law is in effect, there cannot be any addendums or changes to his law and there cannot be any other law to be concluded side by side with his law.

II. BIBLE EXAMPLES SHOWING ONE DOES NOT HAVE SUCH RIGHT

- A. When we read the book of Genesis, we discover the brief story of the man named, Cain especially when it came time for him to give to God that which God told him to give.
 1. “And in process of time it came to pass, that Cain brought of the fruit of the ground an offering unto the LORD. And Abel, he also brought of the firstlings of his flock and of the fat thereof. And the LORD had respect unto Abel and to his offering: But unto Cain and to his offering he had not respect. And Cain was very wroth, and his countenance fell.” (Gen. 4:3-5)
 2. So, when looking at Cain, we read that God would not even look at the offering that Cain gave and because he looked at Abel and his offering, Cain felt very upset.
 - a. Cain felt that his offering was just as good as Abel which is why Cain was furious and very angry which brought upon his shame as his countenance or face fell.
 - b. Cain had thought that his opinions would be approved.
 3. Which leads us to the age old questions of opinion vs. faith . . . which one is accepted or does it matter?
 - a. Well, we know what happened with Cain and we know that it was God who prescribed the worship.
 - (1) For, “By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, by which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts: and by it he being dead yet speaketh.” (Heb. 11:4)
 - (2) However, in the New Testament we read, “So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.” (Rom. 10:17)
 - b. Cain substituted his own belief and rejected God’s commands.
- B. But, then let us notice the story of Nadab and Abihu.
 1. “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. And there went out fire from the LORD, and devoured them, and they died before the LORD.” (Lev. 10:1, 2)
 - a. Now, God did not tell Nadab and Abihu that they could not offer strange fire before the Lord.
 - b. However, GOD DID NOT HAVE TO for if God had to tell us every little thing to do and not to do, we would be more like robots

and would eliminate faith.

- c. Thus, when God says to do this or that, we need to obey him and do this or that and not something else.
 - d. For when we do something else that is contrary to God's Word, we are essentially telling the perfect and complete God that he made a mistake in his word and we (meaning man) can write it better than him!
- 2. This puts man in a very lost and wrong state because once God says it, we just need to do it!
- C. But, then let us notice Saul of Tarsus and how he lived.
- 1. Saul was a man who followed own conscious.
 - a. This was contrary to Christ.
 - b. However, Paul said, "Which knew me from the beginning, if they would testify, that after the most straitest sect of our religion I lived a Pharisee . . . I verily thought with myself, that I ought to do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth." (Acts. 26:5, 9)
 - 2. So, we read that Saul did things contrary to God's command and even murdered or had murdered innocent Christians, "And Paul, earnestly beholding the council, said, Men and brethren, I have lived in all good conscience before God until this day." (Acts 23:1)
 - 3. Thus, just because you have a clear conscious of something that you have done, does not in any way mean that it is in accordance to God's will.

III. SOME THINGS IN WHICH WE HAVE NO PERSONAL RIGHT

- A. We have no right to choose what name we shall wear in religion.
 - 1. The name that we wear is not Jehovah Witness, Catholic, Baptists, Methodists, or any other such names because they were not given by Jehovah. Thus, only the name that Jehovah gives can we be called by.
 - a. For, "Even unto them will I give in mine house and within my walls a place **and a name better than of sons and of daughters**: I will give them an everlasting name, that shall not be cut off." (Isa. 56:5)
 - b. In addition, "And the Gentiles shall see thy righteousness, and all kings thy glory: **and thou shalt be called by a new name**, which the mouth of the LORD shall name." (Isa. 62:2)
 - c. Furthermore, "And when he had found him, he brought him unto Antioch. And it came to pass, that a whole year they assembled themselves with the church, and taught much people. **And the disciples were called Christians** first in Antioch." (Acts 11:26)
 - 2. Thus, only the name, "Christian" is divinely given which means that any other name is wrong.
 - a. And, "if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf." (1 Pet. 4:16)

- B. So, not only can we not determine the name to be called by, we cannot determine what church to belong.
1. Now, some will have baby dedications or ceremonies. However, it is impossible for a physical infant to choose his family.
 - a. With this said, it can also be said that no one can be physically born into God's family.
 - (1) Paul said, "But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth." (1 Tim. 3:15)
 - (2) In addition Luke wrote, "Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved." (Acts 2:47)
 2. So, not only can we not change these things, we also have no right to join another.
 - a. John wrote, "And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues." (Rev. 18:4)
 - b. Now some may say that there are Christians in denominations or other religious bodies.
 - c. However, God says that if they are part of another body, he never authorized the other bodies and thus it is wrong and sinful.
- C. So, not only are we unable to choose what name or what church, we also cannot determine our personal course in Christian service.
1. For Christians belong to Christ.
 - a. "For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's." (1 Cor. 6:20)
 2. And, we cannot be accepted by God unless we are living Holy lives.
 - a. For, "Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this, To visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction, and to keep himself unspotted from the world." (Jam. 1:27)
 - b. Furthermore, "Lay hands suddenly on no man, neither be partaker of other men's sins: keep thyself pure." (1 Tim. 5:22)
 3. We also cannot choose who or how to worship.
 - a. For we are to worship in spirit and truth (Jn. 4:24)
 - (1) Thus the Scriptures state, "Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth." (Jn. 17:17)
 - b. Furthermore, not all worship is acceptable despite what man teaches.
 - (1) For many are, "in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men." (Matt. 15:9)
 - (2) Just as Paul said, "For as I passed by, and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, TO THE

UNKNOWN GOD. Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, him declare I unto you.” (Acts 17:23)

- D. Now, since we have no personal rights in these things, we also have no personal rights on how we shall be saved.
1. Solomon said, “There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.” (Prov. 14:12)
 2. For, “He that trusteth in his own heart is a fool: but whoso walketh wisely, he shall be delivered.” (Prov. 28:26)
 3. Thus, God’s plan is the same to all.
 - a. For as Peter opened his mouth and said, “. . . Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him.” (Acts. 10:34, 35)
 4. And therefore, all must obey the same.
 - a. For, “without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.” (Heb. 11:6)
 - b. “And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent:” (Acts. 17:30)
 - c. Which is why, “Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.” (Acts 8:37)
 - d. Therefore, “Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.” (Acts 2:38)

CONCLUSION:

1. So, while it is true that a man is a free moral agent, we must all realize that there are only two choices to make in this life:
 - a. Accept God’s Word.
 - b. Reject God’s Word.
2. There is nothing in between that God will allow.
 - a. We read how Cain was rejected using his own opinions.
 - b. We read how Nadab and Abihu altered the worship and was condemned.
 - c. We read that Jesus said that there are those who claim to be his disciples, who teaches and practices deceit.
3. And while we may think to ourselves that our conscious will not fail us in being righteous before God, know this, that Saul in all his power, was sinfully wrong even though his conscious said he was right.
 - a. But, God teaches us through his word that there is only one way . . . HIS WAY.
 - b. It is his authority, his name that he chose, his church, his plan for mankind and we are not allowed to change or alter it in any way, shape or form!
4. We do not have any spiritual rights except to obey God and if we decide to altar these

rights to suit our own lifestyles or choices, we are spiritually dead and our beliefs will make us unfit for the glory of God!