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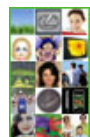
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The Good Tidings

"...I must preach the good tidings of the kingdom of God..." (Luke 4:43)

www.thegoodtidings.has.it
May/June 2007

The Creed That Needs No Revision
by Rufus R. Clifford

If you were to ask a Christian for a copy of the "creed" or "book of rules" of the church of Christ, he could only offer you a copy of the New Testament. The only written creed the church that Christ built has ever had is the New Testament. It was given by the inspiration of God, and is sufficient to furnish the man of God unto all good works (II Timothy 3:16, 17). It meets the needs of the whole world (Mark 16:15). This is the only message we are authorized to use in the conversion of sinners (Mark 16:15, 16; Matthew 28:19, 20).

Jesus taught that the word of God is enduring and that by it we shall be judged (Luke 21:33; John 12:48). The authority of Christ as expressed in the New Testament is the only safe guide for the church. It is sinful for the church to submit to any other authority. The gospel is God's power to save (Romans 1:16). James says it is able to save (James 1:21). Paul writes that it did save the Corinthians (I Corinthians 15:1, 2). The curse of God rests upon the man who preaches another gospel or dares to add to or subtract from it (Galatians 1:8; Revelation 22:18, 19).

In spite of the plain Bible teaching above, we find good, religious people subscribing to human creeds. Even those who subscribe to man-made creeds will not claim for them any saving power. They are but the products of human opinion and stand as barriers to the unity of religious people. Man-made creeds are based upon two wicked assumptions: 1) The New Testament is not sufficient to meet the needs and govern the people of God. 2) This supposed insufficiency can be remedied by weak, fallible, erring man. Without such assumptions there is no excuse for the making of any human creed.

Human creeds are objectionable for a number of reasons.

1. They are not inspired of God.
2. They do not meet the needs of the whole world.
3. They are not perfect.
4. They must be revised every few years.
5. We shall not be judged by them.
6. They set aside and make void the work of God.

7. They teach many things contrary to the New Testament.
8. They keep people divided on the question of religion.

They should, therefore, be laid aside forever, or better still burned and forgotten. As long as a single one of them is in force anywhere, division will exist. They are characterive of divine authority and of the peace, unity, and fellowship that should characterize those who desire to please God and go to heaven when they die.

As simple Christians we take the authority of Christ as expressed in the New Testament as our only rule of faith and practice. It is the one creed that needs no revision. We invite all of you to meet with us on the New Testament in order that we may be united in work and worship.

Any creed that goes beyond the Bible has too much. Any creed that subtracts from the Bible has too little. Any creed that is precisely like the Bible is useless, since we already have the Bible!

"What must I do to be saved?" is the question that was posed long ago to Paul and Silas (Acts 16:30), and has been asked untold millions of times since. Perhaps you have asked yourself the very same question. The correct answer to this vital question will not be found in a catechism, prayer book or creed book. Those are all written by fallible human beings and each give conflicting answers. Only by looking into the New Testament can we find God's answer to that all-important question.

The Bible tells us that to become a Christian, one must:

- Hear the Word of God (John 8:45; Romans 10:17)
- Believe in Jesus Christ (John 3:16; 8:24)
- Repent of your sins (Luke 13:3, 5; II Peter 3:9)
- Confess Jesus is the Christ (Romans 10:9, 10; Acts 8:37)
- Be baptized for the remission of your sins (Acts 2:38; 22:16)
- Live faithfully everyday (Matthew 10:22)

YOUR Religion: Is It from GOD or MAN?

GOD TEACHES

- There is ONE faith (Ephesians 4:5).
- There is ONE body (Ephesians 4:4), which is the church (Ephesians 1:22, 23).
- Called in ONE body (Colossians 3:15).
- Speak the SAME thing (I Corinthians 1:10).
- Seek first the KINGDOM of God (Matthew 6:33).
- We are saved IN the church (Ephesians 5:25, 26; Colossians 1:13, 14).
- "He that believeth and is baptized shall be SAVED" (Mark 16:16).
- Confess CHRIST (Romans 10:9, 10).

MAN TEACHES

- There are MANY faiths. (Where's the Scripture?)
- There are MANY churches. (Where's the Scripture?)
- Called in MANY churches. (Where's the Scripture?)
- Speak ANYTHING you want to believe and agree to disagree. (Where's the Scripture?)
- Seek your DENOMINATION first. (Where's the Scripture?)
- Saved OUT of the church. (Where's the Scripture?)
- He that believeth is saved and MAY be baptized if desired. (Where's the Scripture?)
- Confess FEELINGS. (Where's the Scripture?)

What does YOUR religion teach? If you are interested in learning more about the religion of God, we can help! We can send you either a Bible correspondence course or a series of Bible lessons on DVD, both free of charge! If you live in the Nashville, TN area, maybe you'd prefer a free, no obligation in-home Bible

study? If we can assist you in any way, please contact Michael Willey at mbwilley@yahoo.com.



The Good Tidings is an e-journal of New Testament Christianity sent free to interested individuals via email. Its primary purpose and goal in publication is to "preach the gospel to the whole creation" (Mark 16:16); to teach those outside Christ about the Gospel of Jesus Christ and to edify the faith of New Testament Christians. Subscribers are encouraged to assist us in this effort by forwarding The Good Tidings to all their email contacts and by printing out copies for folks who do not have access to email.

Also, if your email address changes, please notify us so we can update our email list. Thanks!

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