

God Made, or Man Made?

Christianity is a common enough phrase in our society. Many organizations claim to be "Christian" in doctrine and practice. The question is, "Are they?" Could they not just as well be serving some man-made god under the guise of Christianity? What makes doctrine and practice "Christian"? Is it not "following Christ"? Is it not simple enough to determine what allegiance is being paid by a comparison of doctrine and practice, as is set forth in the Bible?

The apostle Paul once instructed the Corinthian Christians that they should "learn not to go beyond the things which are written" (1 Corinthians 4:6). The danger of apostasy is not only possible but also probable. Paul told the young evangelist Timothy, "But the Spirit saith expressly, that in later times some shall fall away from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of demons, through the hypocrisy of men that speak lies, branded in their own conscience as with a hot iron; forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God created to be received with thanksgiving by them that believe and know the truth" (1 Timothy 4:1-3). In like manner he told Timothy, "For the time will come when they will not endure the sound doctrine; but, having itching ears, will heap to themselves teachers after their own lusts; and will turn away their ears from the truth, and turn aside unto fables" (2 Timothy 4:3-4).

When we look at the religious society within which we live, what do we see? Do we not see many different doctrines and practices? The apostle Paul affirmed that "God is not a God of confusion, but of peace" (1 Corinthians 14:33). Yet, that's what the religious world would have us believe. James affirmed, "For where jealousy and faction are, there is confusion and every vile deed" (James 3:16). Confusion is, "instability, a state of disorder, disturbance, confusion" (Thayer's Greek Definitions). If all the religions of our society that claim to be following Christ were doing so, would there be so much confusion? Confusion is not a product of God's teaching but that of man's. Paul once spoke of his countrymen who "being ignorant of God's righteousness and seeking to establish their own, they did not subject themselves to the righteousness of God" (Romans 10:3). The same is true today. People have a zeal for God, but they have been misled by the religious leaders who "with feigned words make merchandise" (2 Peter 2:3) of them.

What is the basis of your faith? Do you "know" what the will of God is, or do you put your trust in those who lead you? Ross Triplett, Sr.