**Unholy Cows** by J L Littlejohn – Overseer of One In Christ Ministries

Merriam-Webster defines sacred cow: someone or something that has been accepted or respected for a long time and that people are afraid or unwilling to criticize or question. In 1Thessalonians we are told to test or examine everything, hold on to what is good but stay away from every form of evil. If we take these commands seriously, we will not allow any non-biblical sacred cows within Christian discipleship. Trash is to be thrown away, not worshipped or even considered acceptable.

Sacred Cows are only propped up myths. Many become completely irrational when they think their sacred cows are attacked, defamed, defanged or exposed. Our faith is supposed to be in The Lord Jesus the Christ, not in exalted erroneous interpretations. Beware of those that alter, edit, reconstruct or invent doctrines that are inconsistent with actual biblical teachings. Whether it’s the so-called rapture of the church, or KJ0 beliefs, or once saved always saved, or that everyone has to speak in tongues, or that you have to pay anyone any money to be a Christian or to be blessed, or “name and claim” witchcraft trying to force their will on God, or the papacy, or praying even paying to get dead people out of a purgatory that does not exist - what they propose are not innocent cows - it’s bull. Many devote their lives to such made up monstrosities that could cost their eternal souls. The Lord Jesus warned everyone - whoever does not deny themselves and take up their cross, daily, cannot actually be His disciples.

Even Aaron the high priest, Moses’ brother, made a golden calf at the urging of the people but in direct violation of the real God’s command. Even though they all actually knew better, they chose the false comfort of an idol instead of actually trusting their present yet visually invisible God. Regardless of who all that may endorse, accept or promote any sacred cow; none of them have any merit or value in the real kingdom of God.

Concerning 1 and 2 Thessalonians (we have posted the whole bible study series on our website: 1inChrist.com), there are many whacky invented doctrines that get passed on to unsuspecting undiscerning religious consumers. One of those invented yet imposed doctrinal errors is the pre-tribulational rapture of the church.

In the scripture (1 Thess 4:13-18). Paul is actually answering a question from the congregation. They were expecting the Lord Jesus Christ to return right away, so they were confused about what would happen with their deceased loved ones. The simple answer is that they will rise first at the Lord’s return. Using well known imagery of their day, Paul pictured the scene for them. Yet biblically uninformed or deceived people, groups, schools and denominations have propped up this sacred cow in our midst. While pretending to know what they are talking about, they go on to misinterpret the millennial terminology at the end of the book of Revelation, with which they compound their error.

Utilize cows in ways God allows, but do not worship them.