The Erosion of Respect for Bible Authority

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Matthew 28:18—“And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, all power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.”

Colossians 3:17—“And whatsoever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.”

I Peter 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 praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.

In the Church’s past history it seemed that most if not all preachers and brethren would definitely stand against anything that was contrary to the word of God. This was a showing of respect for the “Word of God.” Today however, this respect has turned into too many personal beliefs, too much “STUDY,” thus, showing a total disrespect for the Authority of God.

Today instead of being biblically correct, brethren are more worried about being politically correct.

Christians and people of the world today are more concerned about whether their worship makes them feel good as opposed to whether or not they are worshiping in spirit and truth.

The Church today is increasingly slipping away from the truth because of lack of study of the scriptures. Today one of the biggest slips concerns introducing instrumental music into worship service.

Initially denominational preachers such as Martin Luther, John Calvin, John Wesley, and many prominent leaders in the Baptist church opposed instrumental music.

Charles Spurgeon, who at age twenty took over as “pastor” of the New Park Street/Baptist Metropolitan Tabernacle in London and preached for thirty-eight years and never allowed an instrument into the worship services.

Spurgeon wrote on the Forty Second Psalm “What a degradation to supplant the intelligent song of the whole congregation by the theatrical prettiness of a quartet, the refined niceties of a choir, or the blowing off of wind from inanimate bellows and pipes. We might as well pray by machinery as praise by it.”

In his thirty-eight years as “pastor” his congregation grew from 232 members to 5,311. During his tenure over 14,460 members were added to his church.

Maybe we as Christians need to learn a lesson from Spurgeon. Although I would not endorse denominational doctrine, I would approve of his thoughts on instrumental music. Many in the church today think that by adding instrumental music to the services that we are bridging gaps to the young people and others who believe that instrumental music is okay to be used in the worship service.

The problem we see today with congregations adding instrumental music to the worship services is that the so-called leaders say they have studied the scriptures for many hours and days and have concluded that by adding the instrument to services it will be all right. However you do not see them say that after hours of study that they have concluded that before adding instruments to the service that they were worshipping wrong or that their worship was right according to scripture. The sad thing about this is when you can add one thing to worship because you have “studied,” then you can study so more and add other things that are not authorized as well.

Many of the modern day congregations that are currently having instruments in their services also have a service without instruments in order for those who do not believe that instrumental music is right, can worship.

We cannot worship with or accept these congregations that do this and they must be marked.

Congregations that we know of that espouse the use of instruments are:

The Richland Hills Church –The Hills Church of Christ—Rick Atchley-Fort Worth

Oak Hills Church of Christ—Max Lucado—San Antonio

Quail Springs Church of Christ—Oklahoma City

The Monterey Church of Christ—Lubbock

Farmers Branch Church of Christ—Dallas

The Highland Church of Christ—Abilene

The University Church of Christ—Tuscaloosa

Stones River Church of Christ—Murfreesboro (they also confess to being a denomination)

North Atlanta Church of Christ

Matthew 22:37-38—“Jesus said unto them, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, (38) This is the first and great commandment.”

John 14:15—“If you love me, keep my commandments.”

I John 5:3—“For this is the Love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.”

LET US ALL KEEP GOD’S COMMANDMENETS AND STUDY TO SHOW OURSELVES APPROVED UNTO GOD.