

The Oologah Informer

August 31st , 2014

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Service Times

Sunday

Bible Class: 9:30 A.M.
Worship: 10:30 A.M. & 5 P.M.

Wednesday

Bible Study: 7 P.M.

Preacher:

Russ Earl

AM Sermon:

A Faith that's not for the Weak
(Isa 53:12)

PM Sermon:

Guest Speaker: Chuck Northrop

Sunday AM Bible Class:

The book of Joshua – D. Jackson

Wednesday Bible Class:

Summer Series – Dan Fredman

In SEARCH of the Lord's Way

Tulsa KWHB TV 47
Sunday mornings at 7:30am

Radio Program

"The Minister's View" on
KTTRadio.org on Tuesday's at 9
am with Russ & Vance.

Bible Authority

Jerry Brewer

The religious world largely ignores Biblical authority, choosing to live by the philosophy of human reason instead of what the Bible says. But what we do in religion must be authorized by the Bible, or it is sin. "Whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, giving thanks unto God and the Father by him" (Colossians 3:17).

To do a thing "in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ" means He has authorized us to do that thing. We cannot simply pick out a practice that suits us and say, "this is in the name of Christ." Unless Christ has authorized what we preach and practice, we are not acting in his name. Jesus has all authority (Matthew 28:18), and for one's religion to be right, his preaching and practice must be ordered by the word of Christ. To do otherwise brings God's wrath upon us. "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" (Galatians 1:8).

The silence of the Scriptures do not constitute religious authority. That philosophy says, "we can do anything in religion, so long as God didn't say not to do it." Two men in the Old Testament lost their lives because they did something which God hadn't specifically forbidden. "Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, took either of them his censer, and put fire therein, and offered strange fire before the Lord, which he commanded them not. And there went out a fire from the Lord, and devoured them, and they died before the Lord" (Leviticus 10:1-5).

They were authorized to offer incense in the tabernacle because they were the sons of Aaron, of the tribe of Levi. Their offering had to be done "in the name of God" or by His authority. But the scripture says they offered strange fire which "God commanded them not." God had commanded the fire to be taken from the altar of incense which stood before the veil in the tabernacle. They reasoned that fire was fire, and its source was unimportant. That is true according to human reasoning. The fire they used would burn the incense as efficiently as the fire from the altar. But the principle involved is one of obedience to God's expressed command.

As a result of following their own reasoning, they were killed. They may have been honest, reasoning that "God didn't say not to use fire from another source." The lesson is that when God specifies a certain thing, that excludes all else. These men are examples of modern thinkers who believe they can do anything in religion, so long as it isn't specifically forbidden. That attitude violates Colossians 3:17 and 1 Peter 4:11.

While Nadab and Abihu lived by what God didn't say, we have an example of a man who lived by what God did say and saved his family from destruction. In Genesis 6, God instructed Noah to build the ark. Specific instructions regarding its construction were given in Genesis 6:14-16. God specified a certain kind of wood — "gopher wood" — and gave the dimensions by which Noah was to construct the ark, and verse 22 says, "Thus did Noah

according to all that God commanded him, so did he.” Noah could have reasoned — and rightly so — that “God didn’t say not to use pine or oak in the ark. But Noah understood a fundamental principle that we need to learn today. When God specifies a certain thing, that excludes everything else. God didn’t have to say, “Don’t use oak or pine.” His specification of gopher wood excluded all others. The silence of the Bible authorizes nothing. Man must live by what God has said, not by what He didn’t say.