

Relying upon man's feelings

Written and typed: 5/13/24

- In this lesson, I want to talk about relying upon man's feelings for spiritual matters for lack of a better term
 - What we do in the worship service
 - What if our feelings contradict what the written word says – is that OK?
 - And things like that
- Christianity is very emotional
- 1 Corinthians 15:1-4
- Ephesians 2:1-10
 - When you realize the state of man without Christ
 - You realize that you are doomed eternally without Christ
 - And when you realize that it was actually you that deserved to be on the cross
 - And that Jesus took your place, the 1 person who walked this earth who didn't deserve the cross, yet He took it for you
 - When you realize that for the first time, you're going to get emotional
 - When you read and study how the Jews in Jerusalem welcomed Jesus into the city – even throwing their cloaks and tree branches on the road (Matthew 21:8) but then just a few days later asked that a murdered be released and shouted "Crucify Him" (Matthew 27:15-26) – again, the one person that ever walked this earth that did not deserve that – yet He was the one who suffered for you and I – the people who do deserve it
 - It is an emotional thing
 - When Jesus was carrying His own cross in front of all those people, most of which were probably thinking "You deserve this Jesus" and Simon was the only one to help carry His cross – you may shed a tear
- Romans 5:6-8 – *"You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."*
 - Why was Christ put through this?
 - Because He knew that you and I can't do this on our own
 - We sin, we're weak
 - He knew if we were left to our own wits, we would be doomed eternally and He wasn't going to let that happen
 - It can make you sad that Jesus had to do this on your behalf
 - Or it could motivate you to serve him to your full ability, because He already did the heavy lifting

- Either way – there’s no denying the fact that emotions are involved
- John 4:24 – *“God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in spirit and in truth.”*
 - There’s a spiritual part of worship – there’s no denying that
 - If when you are worshipping, you are just going through the motions, what good is that?
 - But there’s also a truth part
 - And what is that truth?
 - John 17:17 – *“Sanctify them by the truth; your word is truth.”*
 - There was a time when the world needed the apostles, the ones that Jesus taught and instructed, to tell them what truth was and to assure them with the demonstration of a miracle
 - But that time has passed
 - Because at that time, they didn’t have the completed NT as we do today
 - **1 Corinthians 13:8-13**
 - Prophecies, tongues, miraculous knowledge – there will be a time when all this will pass away
 - Because now (the time that Paul wrote this letter to the Corinthians), we do these things in part
 - Now, it’s like we’re children, it’s like we’re seeing a poor reflection in the mirror
 - But when the perfect comes – the imperfect will disappear
 - We’ll be full grown and see clearly face to face, and know fully
 - So what’s the perfect?
 - James 1:25 – *“But the man who looks intently into the perfect law that gives freedom, and continues to do this, not forgetting what he has heard, but doing it – he will be blessed in what he does.”*
 - The completed new testament – that is the perfect because it contains the gospel of Christ
 - It tells us all those things we talked about just a minute ago
 - How Christ died for lost man because He loved us and wanted us to inherit eternal life with Him
 - We have the truth in front of us and it is so readily available to us – use it
 - Proverbs 14:12 – *“There is a way that seems right to a man, but in the end it leads to death.”*
 - If we don’t use the truth, if we try to worship or serve God in any capacity in our own way – He’s not going to accept it
 - If He would, He wouldn’t have given us the perfect
 - Christianity is a very emotional thing (John 4:24) – but there’s also a truth that goes along with it
 - I say this very lovingly and only because I want nobody to perish eternally and I’m obligated to stand up for the truth – think about why there are so many denominations in existence

- Is it really OK that they all teach slightly different doctrine? When there's only 1 instruction manual? (The Bible)
 - I'm not going to claim to be an expert in what any of these denominations teach – but what I do know of many of these denominations – they are not teaching the full truth
 - In some cases, they are teaching the exact opposite
 - And you may say “Their heart is in the right place” and you may be right – but there's a truth part to this too (John 4:24)
 - We've got to get that right
 - **Matthew 7:21-23**
 - Describes many who thought they were serving the Lord while on earth
 - But they are told “Depart, I never knew you”
 - We've got to get the truth right because our souls depend on it (2 Peter 3:16)
- So allow me to give you some examples of why we cannot simply rely on emotion alone
- Reason 1: God is wiser than man, and He has given us **His** word to follow
 - **James 3:13-18**
 - Bitter envy, selfish ambition – these things are to deny the truth and is the earthly wisdom of the devil
 - There is disorder and evil practice comes from this
 - But God's wisdom is pure
 - Those who live by God's wisdom harvest righteousness
 - **1 Corinthians 2:1-8**
 - Paul did not go to Corinth and teach the Corinthians the wisdom of this world as other philosophers may have done at that time
 - Paul certainly could have – he was certainly well educated
 - But he didn't – because he knew that the only thing that matters is Jesus Christ and Him crucified – that alone can save
 - No amount of calculus, differential equations, physics – none of that is going to save you
 - Only the gospel of Jesus Christ
 - Because the wisdom of this age comes to nothing
 - God's wisdom is so great, that He had a plan to redeem lost man before time began – and man played right into it
 - If Satan had known that it was God's plan to send His Son to the cross, Satan wouldn't have had Him crucified – He'd have made Him an earthly king
 - But Satan didn't realize this – and as such, he paved the way for the execution of God's plan
 - **Isaiah 55:8-9**
 - We don't even understand the infinite wisdom of God
 - In 2 Corinthians 12, Paul describes a man who was caught up to paradise and heard inexpressible things – things that man is not permitted to tell
 - God is infinitely wonderful and infinitely wise – we need to follow His directions

- Reason 2: we have examples of what happens to those who disregard the Lord's instructions – even though their intentions seemed to be pure

- Leviticus 10:1-11

- We all know the story – Nadab and Abihu offered unauthorized fire before the Lord
- And as a result, they were killed
- Why do we think anything different is going to happen to us today?
- God doesn't tell us to use instruments in the NT, but I don't think there's anything wrong with it – the people of the OT used instruments
 - By that logic – do you offer animal sacrifices as well?
 - Or do anything else that the old law requires?
- God tells us numerous times to not add to or take away from His holy word (Revelation 22:18-19, Joshua 1:7-8, and others)
- Be careful what you do – make sure everything you do in a worship service or in your life is in accordance with God's word
- 2 Timothy 2:15 – the man approved of God is the one who diligently studies God's word and knows how to apply it, not the man who relies on his preacher for everything
- But notice what God says after Nadab and Abihu were killed
- Leviticus 10:10 – they must distinguish between the holy and the common, between the clean and unclean, and they must teach Israel to obey the Lord's commands
- Don't weep for these guys – they disobeyed
- They knew the word of the Lord – they knew what they were supposed to do and didn't do it
- They added to the word in this case
- I'm sure God never told them they couldn't offer this fire – but He never told them they could either
 - Think about that – I'll give you a hint – apply it to your singing
- Aaron and his remaining sons were to carry out the work of the priesthood
- And not mourn for those who defied God

- 2 Samuel 6:6-7

- Uzzah had good intentions
- The oxen stumbled – perhaps Uzzah thought the ark was going to fall and he touches it to stabilize it perhaps
- God struck him down – he wasn't supposed to do that
- Numbers 4:15 – God gives specific instructions that nobody is to touch the holy things
- Uzzah was in direct violation of this even though his intentions may have been good

- You may have good intentions with whatever you or the congregation you assemble with do during the worship service or as a group, etc.
 - But if it's not Biblically based, the examples we have proves that God is not going to put up with it regardless of how good your intentions may be
 - Matthew 15:8-9 – *“These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. They worship me in vain; their teachings are but rules taught by men.”*
 - If you are worshipping in a way that is not in accordance with God's word, you're doing so in vain and God is not going to accept it
- Reason 3: False teachers and false teaching is forbidden
 - 2 Peter 2:1-3
 - False teachers exist
 - They are destructive and whether or not their intentions are good or if they're just ignorant of the truth – their teaching is destructive and denies the Lord
 - Swift destruction comes of this
 - They're condemnation is hanging over them
 - Be careful what you teach and be careful what you follow – if it is not the pure, unadulterated word of the Lord – this is what you have to look forward to
- Reason 4: there is only 1 gospel – and it is not open to man's interpretation
 - Galatians 1:6-9
 - If you are teaching anything other than the gospel of Christ – the information contained within the written word of our Lord, what you are teaching is really no gospel at all
 - It's confusion, it's perversion
 - And for those who preach it – let him be eternally condemned
 - A fact so important and so dire, that Paul repeated himself
 - Twice, back to back, he says the very same thing – listen to it
 - Heed this direction
 - Stay true to the word of God
 - Don't add or take away
 - Because the conclusion of the matter is to fear God and keep His commandments – not our own
- The plan of salvation is simple and Scriptural – obey it, why not now?
 - **Step 1: Hearing the gospel** – *Romans 10:13-17*
 - Gospel = Jesus Christ died for our sins, was buried, arose, and appeared to many – *1 Corinthians 15:1-8, Romans 1:16*
 - **Step 2: Believing the gospel** – *Mark 16:16, John 3:16*
 - **Step 3: Confession that Jesus is Lord** – *Romans 10:8-10, 1 John 1:9*
 - **Step 4: Repentance of sins** – *Luke 13:3, Acts 2:38*
 - Repentance: a turning away from sin, disobedience, or rebellion and a turning back to God. Change of mind that produces a change in action.

- **Step 5: Baptism into Christ** – *Galatians 3:27, Acts 2:38, Romans 6:1-10, 1 Peter 3:21-22*
 - Baptism: immerse or submerge
- **Step 6: Live faithfully** – *Revelation 2:10*