

Some thoughts to consider . . .

The Scriptures Are Our Guide

Two different views exist as to how one comes to a knowledge of God's will. The first view is that one comes to this knowledge by carefully reading and understanding the Scriptures; that Jesus promised His apostles that they would be led into all truth by the Spirit (John 14:26; 16:13); that they, along with other inspired men, wrote that truth in the Scriptures; that when we read what they wrote, we may "understand (their) knowledge in the mystery of Christ" (Eph. 3:3,4); that the Scriptures, consequently, are an all-sufficient guide from earth to heaven.

The second view is that each child of God is led in some direct way by the Spirit in understanding God's will. People are often heard to say, "God is leading me into this understanding," or "God is leading me in this way," and in saying this they mean that He is leading them through some direct guidance. While they do not disregard the Scriptures altogether, they feel that they are led in some additional way into an understanding of God's will, applying John 14:26 and John 16:13 to every "believer."

This writer confesses to holding the first view and would ask those who hold to the second view the following questions:

(1) If, indeed, all believers are led directly into an understanding of God's will, why was it necessary for the first converts to continue "steadfastly in the apostles' teaching" (Acts 2:42)? Would they not have had the same understanding of God's will as the apostles had?

(2) How do we explain the differences in doctrine and practice that exist among those who claim to be led into their understanding directly by the Lord? Differences abound among those who claim direct guidance, while the Scriptures teach only "one faith" (Ephesians 4:4-6). Is the Lord really leading all these people into conflicting ideas? Is He the author of confusion (1 Cor. 14:33)?

(3) If you could accurately communicate to me - either orally or in writing - this understanding into which you have been led, could I place as much confidence in it as I do in the writings of Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Paul, etc? Could I continue steadfastly in your teaching as the early Christians did in the apostles' teaching? If so, how would I know to continue steadfastly in your teaching rather than in the teaching of some person whose understanding conflicts with yours? With all these conflicts, would we not have to go back to the Bible to know what was right? And wouldn't that, in reality, take us to the first view stated in this article, which I already accept?

The truth is -- the Scriptures are God's divine truth (John 17:17). One can read and understand them (Eph. 3:3,4). They are all-sufficient as a guide from earth to heaven (2Tim. 3:16,17). They will provide the basis for our judgment in the last day (John 12:48). Read them carefully and obey them in love.

- by Bill Hall

Religious Freedom

Worshipping God however we would like to worship Him sounds like real freedom to man. Yet, the Bible calls it something different. In quoting from the Old Testament, Jesus Christ said of some of His Jewish brethren, "This people honors Me with their lips, but their heart is far from Me. And in vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men" (Mark 7:6-7).

Man has always sought to replace God's will for worship with his own ideas and agenda. The Scriptures refer to this as "vain worship."

Here is an important question for us all to consider on the matter of worship - Who is it for? If it is for God whom we are seeking to honor, shouldn't we worship the way that He wants us to, the way that is revealed in the Bible? Yet, if we are trying to please ourselves, then by all means we should tailor our religion to suit our personal tastes. The problem with this is that God is the one who deserves our praise. Romans chapter 1 condemns people who worship and serve "the creature rather than the Creator" (vs. 25).

Freedom comes not by doing our will, but the will of our God. When we worship our way, we sin, Sin enslaves; it never liberates.

- by Philip Mullins

Let The Bible Be Your Guide

We have nothing to offer but the word of God. We have no Catechism, no Manual, no Confession of Faith; in short, no creed book of any kind but the Bible. If someone were to ask a member of the church, "What do you believe?" he would hand him a copy of the Bible! If the question were more specific, then the Bible would be opened to those passages that deal with that particular problem.

Our plea to each of you is, let the Bible be your guide. There probably has never been a time in modern history when the need for a return to the Bible has been more critical. There is religious division on every hand. Confusion abounds and honest, sincere people don't know which way to turn. A prophet in the Old Testament cried, "O Lord, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps" (Jer. 10:23). Man can fly to the moon and walk on the ocean floor, but he lacks the ability to find his way to heaven. How desperately we need to open our Bibles and let the Lord tell us what is right.

It would be incorrect to say that the Bible is a guide. The reason? The Bible is THE guide! There is no other! 2 Tim. 3:16-17 tells us that "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works." This passage either states the truth or it does not. If it does not, then the Bible is not reliable. If it does state the truth, then the Bible is all any person needs to go to heaven because it will make him perfect and completely furnish him to all good works!

And so we plead, let the Bible be YOUR guide.

- by Aude McKee

The Simple Gospel Plan of Salvation

- Hear the truth
- Romans 10:17
- Believe the truth
- Hebrews 11:6
- Repent of sins
- Luke 13:3
- Confess faith in Jesus
- Romans 10:10
- Be baptized
- Acts 2:38
- Live & serve faithfully
- Rev. 2:10

***We invite you to visit with us
at your earliest opportunity.***

***We look forward to seeing
you!***
