

TELL US WHY
Mt.15:1-9
Ed Dye

I. INTRODUCTION

1. Read the text and explain
 - a. Jesus did not deny the charge but strikes at the evil by showing that their human traditions led them to violate God's written law and thus to be guilty of sin.
 - b. He said, "In vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men," V.9.
 - c. This rebuke of the Pharisees who had added to the law of Moses many traditional, human precepts and innovations of men applies equally to all modern religionists and/or denominationalists as well as digressive brethren who have modified or added to the doctrine of Christ and the gospel the apostles preached.
 - d. The devout servant and worshipper of God must go straight to the N.T. for his faith and practice and reject every ordinance or precept that it not found there.
2. When the Lord was questioned in V.2 about the practice of his disciples, he answered (V.3) and said unto them, "Why do ye also transgress the commandment of God by your tradition?"
 - a. In other words, he turned it around and handed their question back to them. You asked me why! Now you tell me why!
3. It is this principle we wish to emphasize in this study; for, like the scribes and Pharisees of old, people of today often say:

II. DISCUSSION

A. TELL US WHY:

1. You do not use instrumental music in worship. Or tell us why you have "no music" in your worship services.
2. You teach there is only one church belonging to the Lord.
3. You say the believer **must** be baptized in order to be saved.
4. You will not fellowship the Denominational churches or certain churches of Christ.
5. You do not solicit money from outsiders to carry on the work of the church.

6. You do not teach the necessity of tithing.
7. The church of Christ does not operate various business concerns for a profit to carry on the work of the church.
8. The church of Christ of which you are a member does not provide entertainment for the young people and kitchens in the meeting house for church socials.
9. You do not have Missionary Societies, Benevolent Societies (Institutional Orphan Homes), Edification Societies (Church supported Bible Colleges), Organized Sunday Schools and Church Seminaries through which the local church carries on its work.
10. You do not call your preachers by religious titles; such as: Reverend, Father, Pastor, etc. See Psa.111:9; Mt.23:8,9.
11. You do not have woman preachers.
12. You do not celebrate Easter Sunday and Christmas religiously.

B. YOU TELL ME WHY

(I, like Jesus, turn the question around and ask, “Why do you use these things?” “Why do you teach and practice these things?” “Why do you transgress the commandment of God by your tradition?”

Illustrate by the story of the grave-digger who was reported to be afraid of nothing. Some pranksters decided to test him. They knew his habits of coming from town at night going home always passing through the grace yard. They dug a grave this dark, stormy night across the path he would always take and left it open so he would fall into it. Then hid and waited. When he did, they ran up and demanded, “What are you doing in my grave?” His immediate answer was, “That is not the question. The question is, What are you doing out of it?” So –

1. You tell me or tell us why you say there is MORE THAN ONE CHURCH belonging to the Lord, when the Bible says: Mt.16:18; Eph.4:4; 1:22,23; 5:23-27; Col.1:18,24; 1Cor.12:20,27.
2. You tell me why you say ONE IS SAVED THEN MAY JOIN THE CHURCH OF HIS CHOICE, when the Sacred Text reads: Ac.2:47; 1Cor.12:13.
3. You tell me why you say ONE IS SAVED BY FAITH ONLY OR AT THE POINT OF FAITH BEFORE AND WITHOUT FURTHER ACTS OF OBEDIENCE, for the word of God says: Jas.2:24; Mt.7:21; Heb.5:8,9; Ac.2:36-41

- a. By faith, yes! Faith only, no! Eph.2:8; 1:13; Ac.18:24-19:5; Eph.5:25-27.
- 4. You tell me why you say OBEDIENCE IS NOT NECESSARY IN ORDER TO BE SAVED, when the Lord says: Mk.16:15,16; Ac.10:5,6; 11:14; 10:33-35,47,48; Eccl.12:13; Rom.1:16,17; 2Th.1:6-10; 1Pet.1:22
- 5. You tell me why you say BAPTISM HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH ONE'S SALVATION, that it is not for the remission of sins, or is not unto the remission of sins, since the scriptures plainly declare that it does; that it is, Ac.2:38 (Cf. Mt.26:28); 22:16; 1Pet.3:21; Mk.16:15,16.
- 6. You tell me why you say that ONE ONCE SAVED CANNOT FALL FROM GRACE, when the Bible:
 - a. Warns of the possibility, 1Cor.10:12; Heb.12:14,15; 2Pet.2:20,21
 - b. Says that some did, Gal.5:4; 1Cor.10:1-10; Heb.3; Ac.1:25.
 - c. Tells us how to keep from it, 2Pet.1:5-11; 1Cor.15:58; Rev.2:10.
 - d. Tells us what to do when we sin, 1Jno.1:9-2:2; Ac.8:19-21.
 - e. Tells us that the believer can cease to be a believer, Heb.3:12,19; Lk.8:13; 1Tim.4:1; Psa.106:12,24; Heb.4:3,11; 3:12-19.
- 7. You tell me why you use instrumental music in worship in this dispensation, for the only authority we have is for vocal music, Eph.5:19; Col.3:16; thus God has specified what he wants, just as he specified that Noah build an ark and use gopher wood, etc.
 - a. Cf. 1Cor.4:6; 1Pet.4:11; Rev.22:18,19.
- 8. You tell me why you do solicit money from outsiders to support the work of the church of which you are a member; there is no authority for it; Bible authority for giving; for the local church raising its money is simple: 1Cor.16:1,2; 2Cor.9:6,7.
- 9. You tell me why you teach the necessity of tithing or bind it in this dispensation; tithing was an O.T. institution, not a N.T. one

III. CONCLUSION

- 1. Now tell me why you fail to obey when you know what the truth is, or when you see these things are contrary to Bible teaching; taught only by the authority of men. See Prov.14:12; Jer.10:23; 1Pet.4:11; 1Cor.4:6; 2Jno.9.
- 2. I realize it difficult for people to learn to apply the distinction between serving God as God wished to be served, and serving him according to our own wishes; but it must be done if we are to gain heaven.