



May 22, 2005

They That Forsake The Law

We may like to think of ourselves as good and doing what God desires. In light of what the word of God states it is important that we realize the attitude that God has toward those who deviate from his word. Why do we place so much emphasis on this? The reason is brought out in the writing of Solomon and clarifies the consequences and importance of letting God determine all things related to how we serve him.

“They that forsake the law praise the wicked: but such as keep the law contend with them.” (Prov 28.4). It is unthinkable to believe that we would condone evil. In this passage, however, Solomon equates a departure from God’s law as being just that. An endorsement of evil. We need to think about what God sees as being evil. The common idea is that this is some criminal or destructive attitude and behavior that causes harm to others. This thinking is correct but the idea should be expanded to include the harm done by teaching and practicing false doctrine. Christ stated that in the last day we will be judged by the word that he had spoken (**John 12.48**). Excuses are made for not adhering to what we find in the New Testament by claiming that the Gospel is not a law. The fact that Christ stated that we will be judged by his word is an indication that the Gospel is a law by which we should live. Later we find that the later revelation of the word of God to the apostles is referred to as the apostles doctrine (**Acts 2.42**) in fulfillment of the promise that Christ made that he would send the comforter who would then guide them into all truth (**John 16.13**). In this revelation and recording of the words revealed by the Spirit we are told that he will ***“reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment...” (John 16.8)***. The word of God, which Paul states is the power of God unto salvation (**Rom 1.16**), is the revealed word, the law if you please by which we shall be judged and our lives held in comparison. Failures to meet the conditions stated in the word of God cannot be negotiated or changed, nor will the good things that we have done in this life save us if we have neglected true obedience. By teaching and living in the way that God would have us to live we therefore stand for truth, God’s truth, and therefore with the evil of the world which seeks to change the truth of God.

The faithful of all time have done this. When God has given commands, the righteous have obeyed. Noah did this in following God’s command and instruction for the preparation of the ark. ***“By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house; by the which he condemned the world, and became heir of the righteousness which is by faith.” (Heb 11.7).*** Peter refers to Noah as ***“preacher of righteousness”*** because of this attitude and behavior (**2 Pet 2.5**). The result of this was that the world of Noah’s day was destroyed due to their unbelief resulting in the pursuit of worldly things.

There are many other warnings and examples in the word of God about not changing the word that God has spoken. In the past, and the present world in which we live, it is not uncommon for religious bodies, claiming to serve God, to alter or entirely forsake that things that we find in the word of God. Sometimes this is because of a lack of popularity of the things that the Bible states. There are harsh realities that offend the senses of many seeking to find comfort on their own terms. A study of the scriptures, and the lives if the faithful and those who were condemned by God, demonstrates that this very attitude has always been condemned by God. Why is it that we cannot bring ourselves to accept that word of God and that alone. Is there any thing that we can do that will improve on what has been revealed? The answer to that is no. Humans are more content and satisfied in doing as we please rather than what God commands. As Samuel told Saul when he sinned, ***“Behold, to obey is better than sacrifice, and to hearken than the fat of rams.” (1 Sam 15.22).***

TLC