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The Majority May Not Have It Right

In 1634 Galileo was tried as a heretic for suggesting that the Earth was not the center of the universe and that the sun revolved around our planet, not the other way around. Faced with sanctions and other penalties as a heretic, Galileo recanted and while he held to his beliefs, did not proclaim them publicly for the rest of his life. This incident is used by some to show the ignorance of the religious world. At that time the “church” ruled and it was the religious leadership that believed the Earth, being the center of God’s creation, must therefore be at the center of the universe. The control that the church had over all things was total. Dissension was met with severe penalties and consequences. Science, later, with the discoveries of Johann Kepler and others, showed that this was not true, and finally the reality of the universe, in it’s basic form, was revealed. The church could no longer argue.

The point of all this is not that religion is ignorant and should leave the world alone. It shows, however, that a prevailing idea, held by a majority, even if wrong, can be argued and defended at the expense of others. The historical ignorance of religion over the years has led to death and oppression. It should be noted that there are nonreligious ideologies that have done the same thing. The fact is, the majority is not always right. In many cases the majority is usually wrong. This is the case when it comes to anything that requires study and deliberation. The facts of astronomical phenomena are observable and anyone willing to apply their thinking could have figured out a few things. Not easy but “doable”. Religion is the same way. Christ established a church (**Matt 16.18**) that brought salvation into the world. Through the false teaching of faithless individuals coupled with the spirit of compromise, the Lord’s church became something that God never intended. This is what Paul warned of as he addressed the Ephesian elders (**Acts 20.28-30**) and later detailed in his letter to the Thessalonians (2 Thess **2.3-12**). In spite of these warnings, ignorance prevailed as the church was absorbed by what might be referred to as mainstream thinking. An example of the majority being wrong is found in the case of the early explorations of the North American continent. The world was believed to be flat. Maps showed the area beyond the horizon as the domain of monsters and shrouded mists that hid the great abyss. Once more the scriptures could have cleared up the confusion had anyone attended to the words of Job as he commented on the shape and position of the world as it hangs in space (**Job 26.7**). But, the majority had the power, the influence and the will to humiliate those who spoke the truth. Eventually the discoveries of Columbus and others led to the realization that the world is not flat surrounded by dangers of ancient lore.

In the religious world there is a mainstream that believes that baptism is not essential for salvation. This is in opposition to numerous statements by Christ and the writers of the New Testament who record so much evidence that to deny it is beyond reasonable explanation. There are those who claim that God must show that he has elected us by sending his Spirit into our hearts, changing us, so that we can serve him in an acceptable state. This is in opposition to the fact that the scriptures record no commands or examples of this happening. In spite of this there are those who will continue to teach and practice this doctrine. There are those who will deny that there is a Hell to which one will be condemned if we do not live in accordance with the commands of God. This neglects the numerous warnings about the wrath of God and the more than adequate descriptions of the fate of those who die outside the Lord will be. On the day of judgment New Testament Christians, those who have striven to live according God’s word, will be seen by the religious mainstream to inherit the home promised to those who believe and obey (**Matt 7.21, John 14.1-3**). No, the earth is not flat, the earth revolves around the sun, and God meant what he said - exactly.

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