

## THE SECRET THINGS THAT DIVIDE US

**TEXTS:** Deuteronomy 29:29; John 20:30-31; John 21:25; Balaam in Numbers 22:18; 24:13; 1 Corinthians 4:6; I Kings 22:6-14.

**INTRODUCTION:** "Room in the house with the previous owner's stuff"

1. Imagine a world where all people who believed in Jesus were *"together and had all things in common"* (Acts 2:44,46).
2. Imagine a community where rather than having a hundred churches there was only one (John 17:10-21).
3. Imagine a Christian family where all united upon what The Lord says (1Cor. 4:6).
4. Imagine a Christian family where none were divided over what the Lord has not said (Acts 2:32, 46) .
5. We don't normally divide over what is written. We divide religiously over what is not written (2 Peter 3:16).
6. Several Bible texts bear this out.

### I. DEUTERONOMY 29:29

A. There are certain things that God has chosen not to reveal to us:

- 1) *The secret things belong to the LORD our God.*
- 2) Everything written by every author of the books of the Bible has not been preserved.
- 3) There are no doubt some writings by the Apostle Paul, Peter, and others that are didn't make the "cut". God apparently determined that we didn't need those things to still have "all things that pertain to life and Godliness" (2Peter 1:3).

B. *But those things which **are** revealed belong to us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law.*

- 1) So we are bound by what **is** revealed, not by that which is **not** revealed.
- 2) We are not responsible for what we cannot know.
- 3) We are to **do** the words that are written, and not to worry about what is not written.

### II. JOHN 20:30-31: *And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book;*

A. **John 21:25** *And there are also many other things that Jesus did, which if they were written one by one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that would be written.*

B. *But these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.*

**III. NUMBERS 22:18; 24:13:** *"If Balak were to give me his house full of silver and gold, I could not go beyond the word of the LORD, to do good or bad of my own will"* (Balaam in Numbers 22:18; 24:13);

**IV. 1 CORINTHIANS 4:6:** *"Now these things, brethren, I have figuratively transferred to myself and Apollos for your sakes, that you may learn in us **not to think beyond what is written**, that none of you may be puffed up on behalf of one against the other".*

**V. I KINGS 22:14** *"What the Lord says to me, that I will speak"* (1 Kings 22:14 Micaiah vs.14) Would solve all problems of religious division.

**VI. 2 PETER 1:19-21** *And so we have the prophetic word confirmed... knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit.*

**VII. HEBREWS 1:1-2:** *God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, 2 has in these last days spoken to us by His Son, whom He has appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the worlds;*

**A. Matthew 3:16-17** *"When He had been baptized, Jesus came up immediately from the water; and behold, the heavens were opened to Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting upon Him. 17 And suddenly a voice came from heaven, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."*

**B. Matthew 17:5-6:** *While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and suddenly a voice came out of the cloud, saying, "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!"*

**C. John 14:15-27 READ**

**D. John 16:12-16 READ**

**E. Acts 2 it happened.**

**F.** So the words in the letters are what God, through Jesus, by way of the Holy Spirit, through the writings of the apostles wanted us to know.

1) 1 Cor 14:37 the things which I write to you are the commandments of the

Lord;

2) 2 Pet 3:15-16 Paul wrote according to the wisdom given to him.

3) 2 Tim 3:16-17 "*All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.*

G. Our faith comes from "hearing" learning these words. You can't have a faith that is pleasing to God from any other source (Romans 10:17)!

### **VIII. SOME EXAMPLES**

A. When God specifies something to be done, all other alternatives are excluded.

1. There are O.T. examples.

(A) Lev 10:1-4 - Nadab and Abihu.

(B) 1 Sam 6:1-11 - Uzzah.

(C) Gen 6:14-16 - Noah (Gopher wood).

2. There are N.T. applications.

(A) I am plainly told that I am to sing. (Col.3:16, Eph. 5:19)

1) Is it acceptable for me to offer any other kind of music to God in worship?

2) Has not been revealed (written) so I can't know that is it acceptable.

3) If I can't know that it is acceptable, then it is not authorized.

4) It falls within the realm of "secret things."

(B) I know that I am to be immersed (buried) in water for the forgiveness of my sins. (Rom.6:3-6).

1) I have no other written instructions about baptism.

2) Therefore in extreme cases when the person is too sick to be immersed, may I substitute something else?

3) I can't know that it is acceptable to do so, therefore it is without authority!

B. Our manner of life, worship, deeds, etc. are to be according to God's instructions, and not according what He chose NOT to tell us!

### **IX. NOT JUST THOU SHALT AND THOU SHALT NOT:**

A. Authority is found exclusively in the N.T. today.

1. We must have biblical authority for everything we do religiously (Col 3:17).

B. Authority is found in the Scriptures in 4 ways.

1. Direct statements or commands (Mk 16:16; Acts 2:38).
  - a. There are 2 kinds of commands:
    - (1) Specific (Mat 26:26-28; Eph 5:19).
    - (2) Generic (Mk 16:15; Js 1:27).
2. Implications or necessary inferences (Acts 2:42).
3. Approved examples (Acts 20:7).
  - a. Approved examples are binding on us only if there is an underlying specific command, making that the exclusive way to obey God.
4. Expediencies.
  - a. When God tells us what to do without telling us how to do it, we are free to do that which is in our judgment the most expedient.
    - (1) Worship - The time and place we meet on Sunday are up to us.
    - (2) Evangelism - The method and transportation are up to us.
    - (3) Benevolent - We may help the needy with food or money.
  - b. But when God tells us what to do and also how to do it, then the how is as binding as the what.
    - (1) Worship (John 4:24; 1 Cor 14:40).

#### **CONCLUSION:**

1. I am not sure why the "secret things" bother folks so much.
2. If I cannot know, then I cannot with a clear conscience and full authority practice a thing.
3. If it has been revealed in God's word the Bible, then I can and must practice it!
4. God has revealed what to do to be saved.