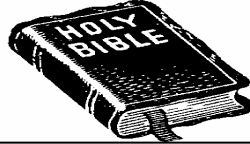


CLASS

LESSON NUMBER

199 A

THOUGHT PROVOKING BIBLE STUDIES



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CUSTOMS, FORMULAS & CHRISTIANITY

- What Do We Mean By Formulas?** A formula is a *recipe, a set form of words for use in an undertaking, ceremony or ritual.* (a) The NT gives a number of positive commands but does not usually prescribe formulas for performing them. (b) Sometimes we *think* we see a pattern that is indicative of a formula. (c) It may be that we subconsciously want to find a formula. (d) It is wrong to bind when God has not bound. (Deut 12:32) “*What thing soever I _____ you, observe _____: thou shalt _____ thereto, _____ from it.*”
- Evolving From Traditions** Most formulas evolve from traditions. (Mt 15:6) “*Thus have ye made the _____ of God of _____ by your _____.*” Jesus indicted the Pharisees and scribes: (Mk 7:9) “*Full well ye _____ the commandment of God, _____ your _____ tradition.*” Is there comfort in long-held cultural traditions? _____
- Example #1 - Baptism** Christ commanded baptism for remission of sins. Do we have any NT example of a certain pattern to be followed in the actual immersion, or of specific words that may have been uttered? _____ Is it scriptural and right for us to say certain words when administering baptism? _____ Why say anything? _____
- Example #2 – Funerals** There are records of burials in the Bible. (See: TPBS [#192](#), Disposition of the Physical Body After Death.) Jacob’s funeral was very elaborate and lasted several months (Gen 50) while little mention is made of others except that they died and were buried. What Bible rule determines the scriptural-ness of a funeral performed *by and for* Christians? _____ Is it anti-scriptural to be buried without a ceremony? _____ If we invoke God into the service, must we not follow the same biblical rules of honor and respect that we so conscientiously adhere to in our worship services? _____ If not, why not? _____
- Example #3 – Weddings** Most of us remember the wedding festival in Cana of Galilee when Jesus turned the water into wine. Do we have record of the activities and words on this particular “occasion”? _____ We do know that on other occasions _____ were invited (Mt 22:3), that a fine _____ was prepared (V4), that guests wore a _____ (V 11-12), and a certain protocol for guests was observed (Lk 14:8). Commitment counts, not the festivities.
- Example #4 – Ordination Of Elders** Paul instructed Titus (1:5) to “*ordain _____ in every _____.*” Paul and Barnabas, on the return leg of the first evangelistic tour (Acts 14:23), “*when they had ordained them elders in _____, and had _____ with _____, they _____ to the Lord.*” What took place? We read elsewhere of anointing with oil, fasting, praying, the laying on of hands, and foot washing. Paul admonished, “*_____ one another with an _____.*” We correctly understand that these were customs of that day and time and that we may use similar customs of our time to express greetings, hospitality, humility, and in conferring honor. We can all agree that there is no formula for appointing elders.