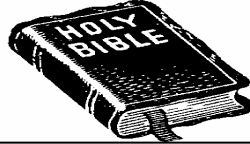


CLASS

LESSON NUMBER

338 A

THOUGHT PROVOKING BIBLE STUDIES



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WHAT IS VAIN WORSHIP?

- A Common Perception** The notion is widespread that if one professes some degree of belief in Jesus that automatically makes him/her a Christian. These conclude that vain worship can only be practiced by "heathens" who disavow belief in the Christ of the NT. Jesus did say: (Jn 8:24) "If ye _____ that I am he, ye shall _____ in your _____."
- Three Tests Of True Discipleship** First, (Lk 14:26) Unless one "hates" his "father, and mother, and _____, and _____, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and _____ also, he _____ be my disciple." The word *hate* here has to do with degree of priority. Jesus explains (Mt 10:36), "He that _____ father or mother _____ than me is not _____ of me." Second, (V27) "Whosoever doth not _____ his _____, and come after me, cannot be my _____." Last, (V33) anyone "that _____ not all that he _____, he _____ my disciple." Absent these priorities one cannot be a NT Christian.
- Another Test** John says (14:18) that "the Jews sought the more to _____ him." Why? "Because he ---- said also that _____ was his _____." Jesus said: (Jn 14:23) "If a man _____, he will _____ my _____." That love can't exist if one doesn't believe in Him.
- A NT Christian** Jesus plainly said: (Mk 16:16) "He that _____ and is _____ shall be _____." One can't be eternally saved without full compliance. Many question why he added, "but he that _____ shall be _____." Would Jesus immerse anyone requesting baptism that seriously stated, "I do not believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God"? _____ Couple true faith and baptism (Acts 2:38) "for the _____ of _____" with the continuing qualities of discipleship (See Q#2) and you have the description of a NT Christian.
- Vain Worship** (Mk 7:7) "In _____ do they _____ me, teaching for _____ the commandments of _____." What is a doctrine of men? Answer: It is any interpretation of God's Word that doesn't comport with (Rom 8:2) "the _____ of the Spirit of _____ in Christ Jesus," also called (Jas 1:25) the "the _____ law of _____," and (2:8) "the _____ law" because Jesus is king (Mt 16:18-19) over his kingdom, the NT Church.
- What Does Vain Mean?** A good, short definition is *being empty of promise or reward*. If one has (1 Cor 15:2) "_____ in vain" he cannot be saved. Believed what? (Eph 5:6) "Let no man _____ you with vain _____." This means teachings that offer no scriptural promise or reward because they are e-m-p-t-y of God's truth. John warns: (1 Jn 4:1) "Beloved, believe _____ every _____, but _____ the spirits whether they are _____: because many _____ prophets are gone out _____ the _____."
- Beware** Satan works on religiously minded people. He already has a firm grip on those not spiritually inclined. He likes "modern inclusiveness." (1 Pet 5:8) "Be sober, be _____; because your _____ the devil--- walketh about, _____ whom he may _____."