



Same God, Same Bible, BUT...

By Carl Mitchell

The believe and conviction among most sincere religious men and women is that because all the churches or denominations and all religious men and women use the same Bible and worship the same God, we are all the same and all are right. This tract will examine in light of what the Bible teaches, the truth or falsehood of this belief. If you will make a commitment to read this tract to the end, using your Bible, we promise you will learn truth, so important, that it may determine where you spend eternity. At the end of this tract, you will feel rewarded that it was worth your while reading it.

Same God, Same Bible, Or How?

When Christ made his first appearance on earth He found much false ideas and concepts in respect to the Jewish religion: Christ said, (*Mark 12:24; Matthew 13:13*),

Do ye not therefore err, because ye know not the scriptures, neither the power of God?

Therefore speak I to them in parables: because seeing see not; and they hearing hear not, neither do they understand.

The same error, ignorance and false concepts are common today in the Christian religion, and this ignorance will be responsible for millions of sincere, good religious men and women loosing their soul in the eternal hell. The Holy Spirit speaks through Paul on the evil of ignorance (*Romans 10:1-3*):

For they being ignorant of God's righteousness and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves to the righteousness of God's.

We therefore ask the question, what is it that renders our service to and worship of God right and acceptable? Is it determined by the fact that we are all using the same Bible and worshiping the same God, or is it determined by **HOW** we worship and serve God? From a careful study of God's word it will be noticed that the Almighty God Himself has revealed that it is **HOW** we serve and worship **HIM**, that determines whether our worship is right and acceptable, and **NOT** whether we are using the same Bible. Time and time again, in both Old and New Testament, it is demonstrated that it is **HOW** we carry out the will of God which determines its acceptability, and ultimately whether we are saved or lost in eternal hell. By **HOW**, it is meant that the will and purpose of God must be done or carried out the way He wants it done and not the way you or I or any denomination feels or thinks it should be done. As sinful men and women, seeking

God's grace and forgiveness, our duty should be to learn and understand the will and purpose of God, striving to understand what He requires of me and to do it exactly the way He wants me to do it.

The How Is Important To God

The following scriptures will prove or show beyond any doubt that merely serving or worshipping God and using the same Bible is of no use or benefit if we do not carry out His will the way He asks that it be done or **HOW** He wants it done. When David became King of Israel he attempted to remove the ark; in doing so a simple and innocent mistake was made for which God killed Uzza (*I Chron. 13:9, 10*). This tragedy put fear in David and all the Israelites. David's comment which follows the death of Uzza teaches us that removing the ark from one place to another was not that which offended God, causing Him to strike Uzza to death; the important thing was **HOW** must the ark be removed? In David's own words (*I Chron. 13:12*)

And David was afraid of God that day saying, How shall I bring the ark of God home to me?

You will notice that moving the ark was not the danger or the critical problem, but **HOW** or the way or manner of moving it. There is where the problem or danger lies, both for then and for us. Men and women must take time to make certain that in serving God or carrying out His will they do so in the way and manner He directs. In many other instances Jesus the Christ warns us in respect to the importance, the manner or the **HOW** of the things we do to please God. In *Mark 12:41* and *Luke 8:18* respectively, Jesus the Christ placed great importance on **HOW** we hear. In St. John 4:23-24, where Jesus is dealing with worshipping God, the whole plan and purpose of Christ discourse is the importance of the **HOW** or the manner of our worship. Christ in that text is saying that if ever we serve or worship God we must make sure that God is worshiped in the manner He prescribes and in keeping with His Word, that is, make sure we pay attention to the **HOW**.

Cain and Abel were two brothers, from the same parents, got the same word of God, and were worshipping the very same God, but God accepted only one of the worship, that of Abel (*Genesis 4:1-7*); Abel alone paid attention to **HOW** he worshiped God. Cain was sincere but went and worshiped God the way he felt and the way He liked without paying attention to God's **HOW** and **WHAT**. That both the same God did not make both worships right and acceptable.

In *I Cor. 3:10*, the Holy Spirit, through the pen of the apostle Paul, tells clearly that all we do in the name of Christ and our soul's salvation and carefulness is not paid to the manner or the **HOW**. Paul writes (*I Cor.3:10*)

According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed HOW he buildeth thereupon.

In this text Paul is talking about Christ as the foundation, and our spiritual, religious and moral life that is built on Christ as a result of our faith in Him. It is this spiritual, moral and religious redirection of our lives, in keeping with the teachings of the New Testament, that is called Christianity, or constitutes our Christianity. But this text, the Holy Spirit tells us that it is not enough or acceptable to God that our spiritual, moral and religious life be built on Christ; He says we must make sure HOW we do it. In other words, do not take too much comfort in the fact that your spiritual life or moral life is built around Christ; make sure it is done in the manner and the way Christ directs. The same God and the same Bible concept is as false and dangerous as any of the other thousands of religious lies which Satan has given to men and women.

Same God. Same Bible – No Proof Of Correctness

I believe that from what we have studied so far it will be seen that the use of the same Bible and worshipping of the same God does not in any way whatsoever make us one, make us right, or make us acceptable to God. In addition Cain and Abel which we have looked at, there is also a dramatic case in *Leviticus 10:1-2*. In this case we have two brothers, given the same instructions to serve or worship God. They both, in honesty and sincerity, set out to do what God told them to, but at the end of the day they were dead, killed by God in spite of their sincerity and good intention, simply because they did not pay attention to the **HOW** and **WHAT** of carrying out the will of God. You and I must therefore make certain that our religious beliefs or practice is not based on what I feel, or on my denomination or tradition, or how my church sees and does things, but purely on **WHAT** God says and on **HOW** or the manner He wants it done. All the examples we looked on were written to warn us to be careful (*Romans 15:4*)

In *Matthew 16:6-12*, we have Jesus the Christ warning His disciples to be careful of the teachings or doctrines of some religious leaders then (*Matthew 16:12*)

Then understood they how that he bade them not beware of the leaven of bread, but of the doctrine of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees.

What this is telling about Christ's warning here is that the Pharisees and the Sadducees, which could be looked upon as two denominations in His time, used the same scriptures or Bible Christ used, and believed in the same God Christ believed in, and were worshipping the same God Christ worshiped, yet He found it necessary to warn His followers to be careful of their doctrine. This clearly demonstrates that even with the same Bible and same God, their doctrine or teaching was false and would lead to

eternal condemnation. It would be helpful too if we understand the meaning of the word "leaven" which Christ used. The word "leaven" is yeast, which is comparable to our modern day baking powder. Christ is teaching in this text that in the same way we use proportionately a very small amount of baking powder in the dough (bread, bun, cake) when baking or cooking, and that small amount of baking powder (leaven) spreads and affects the whole dough (sometimes one ounce baking powder to eight or ten pounds of dough) it is the very same way false doctrine works; you need only a very small amount of false doctrine, and that small amount will spread and affect the whole teaching or doctrine of Christ, and thereby we lose our souls; and like baking powder (leaven) false doctrine looks innocent and works silently. The thought of the wise man, Solomon, is fitting here (***Proverbs 14:12***):

There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.

It is therefore evident from all that have been examined that using the same Bible and worshipping the same God are not proofs of correctness or proofs that God has accepted us and our worship.

Why Paul Baptized Them A Second Time

In ***Acts. 19:1-5***, we notice how Paul, the apostle of Christ, met some disciples, who believed in and were serving and worshipping the same God he was serving. They accepted the teaching of God's word as far as they understood it, and were even baptized, accepting they knew about – namely, that of John. When Paul met them and after certain questions were asked by Paul about the Holy Spirit, by their response he immediately recognized that something was not right with their religion. Being guided by the Holy Spirit and with his knowledge and experience, he went directly to where their religion and spiritual life went wrong, that is in their baptism. They were wrongly taught and therefore wrongly baptized; even though their teacher was a good and sincere person (***Acts. 18:24-26***) they would have been lost in the eternal hell just the same, Had Paul not met and correct their false teaching and false practice. Christ Himself states (***Matt. 51:14***):

Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into a ditch.

What should be helpful to you, if you are a sincere person, is the fact that even though they had accepted John's baptism, which was from God, they still had to be properly taught by Paul and baptized a second time. I used the word "baptized over" or "baptized a second time," for convenience; because in truth they were baptized only once, that is the baptism they experienced after Paul met them, taught them properly,

and baptized them properly. You cannot be incorrectly taught and be properly baptized. Their first baptism was never considered or accepted as baptism by God. They had accepted John's baptism after it had served its purpose and ceased – after Pentecost. Wrongly led and sincere they were, God would not accept them until they were humble enough to be corrected and to amend their false way. Are you wise and humble enough to do the same?

If you study *Acts. 19:3-5*, carefully, you will see plainly that they had to be baptized a second time. This will further demonstrate that using the same Bible, worshipping the same God, and being sincere is not enough to make us pleasing and acceptable to God. Things must be done the way God specifies. In the *Book of Luke (8:11)*, Jesus Christ said that His Word, the Word of God, is like seed. Now the parable is this: The seed is the Word of God.

Matthew 13:22:

He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the Word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word...

In these texts Jesus Christ likens the Word of God to a seed, which is planted in the soil, thereafter growing and producing fruits. One of the known, consistent, universal principles governing every seed is that wherever and whenever it is planted in good soil, if it grows and produces, it will always produce the very same thing. If someone planted a corn seed five hundred years ago it would have produced corn when it grew and bore and if those same corn seeds are kept pure and planted five hundred years after, when it bears it will produce the very same corn. This principle governing seeds and what they produce works consistently in the plant, animal, as well as the human world. Now, my good reader, the Word of God is the spiritual seed which is sown or planted in human hearts or minds when it is preached or taught. If this seed (the Word of God) is kept pure, without human interference, and planted in the hearts of men and women today, it will make of them or produce the very same Church and the very same kind of Christians and the very same kind of worship it produced nineteen hundred years ago. If the pure Word of God as preached then produced Christians only, it will produce the very same thing today. If nineteen hundred years ago the pure Word of God did not make people into Baptist, Methodist, Anglican, Pentecostal, Seventh Day Adventist, Open Bible Christians, then it is not possible for the pure Word of God to make that of people today. We need only to read the New Testament to see and learn what Christ and His teaching or His word (the Seed) made out of people nineteen hundred years ago. Never did it make out of them or produce Methodist Christians, Pentecostal Christians, Seven-Day Adventist Christians, Baptist Christians, Roman Catholic Christian, Anglican Christian, or whatever, it is not and could not be the pure word of God (the spiritual seed) which made that out of you religiously. It must have been the word of God interfered with or contaminated by human doctrine or teaching. In that case, you cannot be saved according to Jesus, the Christ (*Matt. 15:9*):

In vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines, the commandments of men.

II. John 1:9:

Whosoever transgressed and abideth not in the teaching not in the teaching of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the teaching of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son.

When the Word of God is mixed with or contaminated by the word or teachings of men, it ceases to be the word of God and therefore unable to produce what it was intended to produce. For thousands and millions of good and sincere men and women, their religious effort and years in various churches will be wasted and in vain, because innocently they were wrongly led by the word of God mixed with human teachings. This produced and made out of them something that the pure word of God does not produce and something contrary to God's will and purpose.

If it did not make people into Paul, Peter, Apollos, neither can it make them into Catholic, Methodist, Baptist, Seven-Day Adventist, Anglican, etc.

Dear reader, have you ever given serious, sincere thought to *I Corinth. 1:12-13*? In this passage your very sincerity, honesty, conviction, and courage is put to the test. In it Christ also teaches plainly the sinfulness and evil in wearing or using unauthorized names to identify ourselves religiously, however innocent or good those names might be. At Corinth you had the St. Paul's group or church, there was also the St. Peter's (Cephas) church or group, and the St. Apollos church (*I Corinth. 1:12-13*)

Now this I say, that every one of you saith I am of Apollos; and I of Cephas; and I of Christ...Is Christ divided? Was Paul crucified for you...?

You will notice that Paul, Apollos and Cephas (Peter), were all godly and holy men; yet it was contrary to the will and purpose of God to religiously identify one's self by their names. In the very same way, if the lesson taught in this scripture means anything, it is wrong, sinful and ungodly to use the name Baptist, Anglican, Pentecostal, Open Bible, Methodist, Seven-Day Adventist or Roman Catholic to identify yourself religiously or as a Christian.

In the scripture under consideration Paul asked the question, "Was Paul crucified for you? The Holy Spirit by this question through Paul is teaching us not to use, wear, or identify ourselves by any religious name other than by the name of the one who was crucified for us – namely, Jesus the Christ. This is the reason we are taught in the scriptures to suffer not as Baptist Christians, Roman Catholic Christians, Seven – Day

Adventist Christians or Mormon Christians, but simply as Christians (*I Peter 4:16*). If you go against this plain teaching of Jesus Christ through His apostles, then the curse from heaven spoken about in *Gal. 1:8-9*, will be upon you. To teach, accept, or support any religious teaching not taught by the apostles of Christ is to invite the curse of heaven upon you (*Gal. 1:8-9*):

But though we, or an angel from heaven preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.

The plain, pure, simple teaching of Christ makes Christians out of us when it is taught, believed and accepted. Communist teaching makes one a Communist when he accepts that teaching; Rastafarian teaching makes one a Rasta; Moslem teaching makes one a Moslem; Seventh – Day Adventist teaching makes one a Seventh – Day Adventist; Methodist teaching makes one a Methodist; Pentecostal teaching makes one a Pentecostal; Christ teaching makes one a Christian. In the same way that Baptist teaching never makes one into a Methodist and Seventh – Day Adventist teaching never makes one into a Roman Catholic; Pentecostal teaching never makes one into an Anglican, in the very same way the pure, simple teaching of Christ as taught in the New Testament never makes one into a Pentecostal, Baptist, Anglican, Seventh-Day Adventist, Roman Catholic, Open Bible or whatever Christian. This is the very message the Holy Spirit through Paul is trying to get over to us in *I Corinthians 1:12-13*.

All our religious effort will be in vain and using the same Bible and worshipping the same God means nothing in the sight of God until we give up our ways, our man-made, false, religious teaching and do what Christ says the way He asked that it be done, in faith and sincerity, according to His Word. Make sure that you accept and follow God's pattern for you becoming a Christian the same way and to the same Church (*Heb. 8:5*):

Who serve unto the example and shadow of heavenly things, as Moses was admonished of God when he was about to make the tabernacle: for, see, saith he, that thou make all things according to the pattern shewed to thee in the mount.