

GOD'S ANSWER TO DENOMINATIONALISM

Intro: This morning I presented to you a lesson on the subject of denominationalism. In it I sought to show why the modern concept of denominationalism, that is, that there are many churches by many names that belong to Christ, is not in harmony with the N.T. Those reasons are:

- 1. It leads to logical absurdity that millions can disagree and all be right.**
- 2. It contradicts the teaching and practice of Jesus.**
- 3. It promotes division rather than unity.**

To raise these objections against denominationalism is only half of my obligation. To tell you that denominationalism is wrong is to point to a problem, but not to cure it. What is the answer to this confusing scene? God has provided what we need to be unified. God's answer to denominationalism.

ONE OBJECTIVE FAITH--THE GOSPEL

Does the evidence of the Bible favor the idea that God allows man to serve Him in whatever way he feels or chooses? So many verses stress the fact that God has provided the specifics as to how to serve Him!

Beloved, while I was making every effort to write you about our common salvation, I felt the necessity to write to you appealing that you contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints (Jude 3)

All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work. (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness, through the true knowledge of Him who called us by His own glory and excellence. (2 Peter 1:3)

Are we free to offer to God whatever we subjectively believe to be to be right?

Paul teaches that Christianity is based on an objective faith, revealed by God!

For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. (Romans 1:16)

Further he expresses regret and concern for those who establish in its place their own righteousness

Brethren, my heart's desire and my prayer to God for them is for their salvation. For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not in accordance with knowledge. For not knowing about God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own, they did not subject themselves to the righteousness of God. (Romans 10:1-3)

ONE CORRECT INTERPRETATION--THE TRUTH

The one objective faith is revealed in a way that men can understand it.

This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. (1 Timothy 2:3-4)

that by revelation there was made known to me the mystery, as I wrote before in brief. And by referring to this, when you read you can understand my insight into the mystery of Christ, which in other generations was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed to His holy apostles and prophets in the Spirit; (Ephesians 3:3-5)

So then do not be foolish, but understand what the will of the Lord is. (Ephesians 5:17)

To speak of many interpretations of the Bible is one thing. To say they are all right is another. It is this latter statement that is disturbing.

Such a statement defies the laws of human language!

Such a statement is logically inconsistent. This is a great dilemma of denominationalism.

ONE ESSENTIAL REQUIREMENT--FAITH (OBEDIENCE)

The one objective faith which is revealed so as to be understood must be believed and obeyed by man!

through whom we have received grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles, for His name's sake, (Romans 1:5)

Faith in the Bible is:

Intellectual acceptance of Bible facts

Appropriation of Bible promises

Obedience to Bible commands.

Is the requirement of God only a good conscience?

Not enough for Saul

And Paul, looking intently at the Council, said, "Brethren, I have lived my life with a perfectly good conscience before God up to this day." (Acts 23:1)

Not enough for Cornelius

and he shall speak words to you by which you will be saved, you and all your household.' (Acts 11:14)

ONE RESULTING ORGANIZATION--THE CHURCH

The one objective faith which is revealed so as to be understood by man and must be believed by man and will result in the church of the Lord or Christians. What did the gospel produce in the first century?

And it came about that for an entire year they met with the church, and taught considerable numbers; and the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch. (Acts 11:26)

The church

Greet one another with a holy kiss. All the churches of Christ greet you. (Romans 16:16)

*The gospel did not produce any kind of Christian!
The gospel did not produce any kind of church (denomination).*

Conclusion: So here is God's answer to denominationalism. Read and study the objective faith, understand it, believe and obey it, and you will be a Christian, a member of the Lord's church. You can do that by believing the objective faith of Jesus Christ about how to be saved and added to the church.

And He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation. “He who has believed and has been baptized shall be saved; but he who has disbelieved shall be condemned. (Mark 16:15-16)

And the Lord was adding to their number day by day those who were being saved. (Acts 2:47)