

From Heaven or from Men?

Introduction:

- I. Read Matt. 21:23-27
- II. We all need to determine if our religion is from heaven or if it is of men. Is what we preach and practice something that is of God or is it something that has originated in the mind of man?
- III. If what we believe, practice and preach is from heaven, it is authorized by God (Col. 3:17). If it is authorized by God, it can be found in the Bible (1 Cor. 4:6; 1 Pet. 4:12; 2 Jn. 9-11).

Lesson:

I. Is Your Salvation from Heaven or of Men?

- A. **From Heaven:** Believe (**Mk. 16:16**); Repent (**Lk. 13:3**); Confess (**Rom. 10:10**); Baptized (**Acts 2:38**).
- B. **From Men:** Faith only; sinner's prayer; direct operation of the Holy Spirit.

II. Is Your Baptism from Heaven or of Men?

- A. **From Heaven:** For salvation (**Acts 2:38**); for those who believe (**Mk. 16:16**); a burial in water (**Rom. 6:3-4**).
- B. **From Men:** To stay saved; Infant baptism; sprinkling.

III. Is Your Church from Heaven or of Men?

- A. **From Heaven:** Wears the name of Christ (**Rom. 16:16**); does authorized work (**Eph. 4:11-12**); is scripturally organized (**Phil. 1:1**).
- B. **From Men:** Wears man-made names (*quote Martin Luther, John Wesley and Charles Spurgeon*);

Martin Luther - "I ask that men make no reference to my name, and call themselves not Lutherans, but Christians. What is Luther? My doctrine is not mine, nor have I been crucified for any one. Paul in 1 Corinthians would not allow Christians to call themselves Pauline or Petrine, but Christians. Let us abolish all party names and call ourselves Christians."

John Wesley - "I would to God that all party names, and unscriptural phrases and forms which have divided the Christians world, were forgot and that the very name (Methodist) might never be mentioned more, but be buried in eternal oblivion."

Charles Spurgeon - "I look forward with pleasure to the day when there will not be a Baptist living! I hope that the Baptist name will soon perish, but let Christ's name last forever."

elders, Pastors, elders or bishops over more than one church, wearing religious titles such as Revered, Cardinal, Pope, etc.; synods, etc.).

Conclusion:

If your religion is from heaven, you are safe and now you must simply be faithful until death (Rev. 2:10). If your religion is of men, you need to divorce yourself from that religion, and become a member of the church you read about in the Bible.