

How to Settle Religious Questions

Matt. 16:13-19

Introduction:

A. Answers to religious questions most important.

1. Shape the makeup of the religious world.
2. Determine the way we live and the hope (or lack of it) we have.

B. Answer to the question: "Who is this Jesus?" was the burning question of that day.

1. Without the right answer one would be lost. (John 5:39,40; 8:24).
2. Story illustrates two approaches that people take to religious questions:

Discussion:

I. Rely On Human Opinion.

A. Men gave conflicting answers. (v. 13,14).

1. Human opinion foster division - one is as good as another.
2. Human opinion often confuses similarity with identity - Jesus & prophets similar.

B. Men give conflicting answers to almost any religious question.

1. What must one do to be saved from condemnation of sin? - Just pray, just believe, nothing.
2. What is baptism? Sprinkling, pouring, emersion?
3. Who baptize? Infants, saved people, etc.
4. What to do in worship? Piano, count beads, light candles, etc.
5. When should we have Lord's Supper? Monthly, annually, Thursday night.
6. Which church? Methodist, Baptist, etc., or all of them.
7. What is church's mission? Social, recreation, political & economic reform, lonely hearts club.
8. How should the church be organized? Conference, associations, committees, etc.

II. Rely On Divine Revelation.

A. Divine revelation gave Peter the only correct answer. (vs. 15-19).

B. Divine revelation gives only correct answer to our questions.

1. What must one do to be saved from condemnation of sin? Acts 2:37,38;16:30-34; Mk. 16:16; 1 Pet. 3:21.

2. What is baptism? Rom. 6:4; Col. 2:12; Acts 8:36-39; John 3:23.

3. Who baptize? Acts 8:37; Acts 16:30-34; Acts 2:38).

4. What to do in worship? (Acts 2:42; Acts 3:16; 1 Cor. 16:2.

5. When should we have Lord's Supper? Acts 20:7

6. Which church? Matt. 16:18; Eph. 4:4; Rom. 16:16.

7. What is church's mission? Eph. 4:12; 1 Tim. 3:15; 1 Tim. 5:16, 1 Cor. 11:22,34.

8. How should the church be organized? Phil. 1:1; Acts 14:23; 1 Pet. 5:2.

Conclusion:

A. Human opinion fosters division and error, divine revelation unity and truth.

B. Each one here must answer an important religious question.

1. The faithful Christian - To continue or slack up?
2. The backslider - To sink deeper into sin? or be restored?
3. The alien sinner - To continue in sin? or to obey the gospel?