

Religious Confusion

Acts 19:32

Introduction:

- A. Text describes a religious riot - could describe religion today.
 - 1. Some say one thing, some another.
 - 2. Most do not know what they believe.
- B. Another text illustrates source of religious confusion. (Mt. 16:13-18)
 - 1. Ask mere men and get conflicting answers. (vv. 13-14)
 - 2. Ask inspired men and get truth. (vv. 15-17).
- C. Confusion heard from religious people in a number of areas:

Discussion:

I. Confusion Over Authority.

- A. Human authority.
 - 1. Subjective: Inner voice, conscience, etc.
 - 2. Objective: human traditions, the church, respected teachers.
- B. Divine authority (2 Tim. 3:13-17; 2 Thess. 2:15; 3:6; Jude 3,4)

II. Confusion Over Salvation.

- A. A variety of plans: "Grace alone", "Faith alone", "Just pray".
- B. Simple Bible Plan: Eph. 2:8,9; Mk. 16:15,16; Acts 2:38; Romans 10:10; 1 Pet. 3:21)

III. Confusion Over Worship

- A. Often a matter of personal taste.
 - 1. If morally right.
 - 2. If fulfills felt need.
 - 3. If done from heart.
 - 4. If directed to God.
 - 5. cf. Mt. 15:9; Acts 26:9; Lev. 10:1-5).
- B. Should be a matter of divine truth. (John 4:24; Mt. 7:21ff).
 - 1. Lord's Supper (Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 11:17,20,33,34; Matt. 26:26-29).
 - 2. Congregational singing. (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16).
 - 3. Praying. (Acts 2:42; 12:5).
 - 4. Teaching/preaching (Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 14).
 - 5. Collection (1 Cor. 16:1,2; 2 Cor 9.7).

IV. Confusion Over Organization.

- A. The standard for most church organization.
 - 1. Tradition
 - 2. Efficiency
 - 3. Expediency
 - 4. Visibility
 - 5. Strength
 - a. Financial
 - b. Civic

B. The standard for God's people.

- 1. Israel of old - give us a king. (1 Sam. 8:6,20).
- 2. New Testament organization.
 - a. No Powerful denominational organization.
 - b. Simple congregational organization. (cf. Acts 14:23; Tit. 1:5; Phil. 1:1).
 - (1) Nothing larger.
 - (2) Nothing smaller.

V. Confusion Over Mission.

- A. "Social gospel" emphasizes temporal interests: Social; Political; Economic; Physical
- B. Gospel of Christ emphasizes eternal interests. (Eph. 4:11-16; 1 Tim. 3:15; Philippians 4:10-20; Acts 11:29,30)

Conclusion:

- A. Revelation brings peace and unity.
- B. Human authority brings confusion.