

Whom are you Going to Trust?

- 1. The religious leaders of the day.**
- 2. The word of God (Bible).**

Why is this important?

Introduction – Demonstrating our need to follow Christ

- Man's Relationship with God
 - Good – Gen. 2:15
 - Separated – Gen. 3:24
 - Sin – entered the world and spread to all men – Rom. 5:12
 - Sin is man's biggest problem today
- What can man do about his sins?
 - Nothing – without the blood of Christ
 - Blood of bulls and goats cannot remove sin - Heb. 10:4
 - Not within man to direct his own steps - Jer. 10:23
 - Man-made worship – Jn. 14:6
 - Blood of Christ – Eph. 2:13
- Did God provide man the means to contact the blood of Christ?
 - Jesus death on the cross – Heb. 9:22
 - An instruction book (Bible) – 2 Tim. 3:16-17

Introduction – Does man have to do anything to get his sins removed from his account?

- What is man's part in allowing the blood of Christ to remove his sins?
 - Men must be willing to preach and teach – Mt. 28:19-20
 - Men must hear the gospel, believe, confess, repent, and be baptized.
 - Baptism removes our sins from our account – Acts 22:16
 - Men must be faithful in serving God as a living sacrifice – Rom. 12:1-2
- Has man lived up to his responsibility?
 - Because of pride or human traditions man is not always open to doing things God's way.
 - Preachers and teachers have fallen prey to teaching a false doctrine.
 - The Jews were faced with the problem of false teachers just like we are today.
- The goals of this lesson are:
 - We could see what Jesus said about the teachers of His day.
 - We can learn about what our heart should be in religion.
 - We should then ask - Whom are you going to Trust?

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The Religion in Jesus' day

We should put ourselves in the place of the Jews living in the 1st century so that we can obtain a better understanding of Jesus' teachings.

- The Jews were subject to the old law.
- The Jews knew that they must be obedient to the law in order to be saved.
- They were highly dependent on the teachers for both knowledge and interpretation of the old law.
- The religious leaders developed a lot of man-made traditions that they added to the law.
- It is most likely the typical Jew had a great deal of respect for the leaders.
- In particular, the Sermon on the Mount is spoken to His disciples – Mt. 5:1

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It can be very instructive for us to observe the comments that Jesus made concerning what the religious leaders taught. We should observe the following:

- The law that Jesus is discussing
- What aspect of the law is Jesus correcting
- The comments that Jesus makes explaining what our heart should be – these are helpful in adjusting our heart.

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All of these scripture references are in Matthew

- 5:20 – Righteousness
- 5:27-28 – Adultery
- 6:1-4 – Charitable Deeds
- 6:6-8 – Prayer
- 6:16-18 – Fasting
- 7:1-6 – Judging
- 7:13-15 – Enter by the Narrow Gate
- 7:21-23 – Fit for the Kingdom
- 15:14 – Traditions of the Elders
- 23:1-3 – Examples
- 23:26-28 – Hypocrisy

Whom are you Going to Trust?

Religion Today - The Church Age

- Under the new law
- Know we will be condemned if we do not obey Jesus
- Depend largely on teachers and preachers
- Written copies of the Bible are widely available to anyone who wants one.
- Christians are obligated to study the Bible on their own
- Christians are to follow the examples of Jesus and the apostles.

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Acton Items for Us

Our Responsibility

- 2 Tim 2:15 - 15 Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.
- Acts 17:11 - 11 These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so.

Following Examples

- 1 Cor 11:1 - 11:1 Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ.
- Phil 3:17 - 17 Brethren, join in following my example, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern.
- Phil 4:9 - 9 The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you.

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Conclusions

- What can we learn from Jesus?
 - Do not be a hypocrite
 - Do not follow man-made traditions
 - The way to heaven is difficult
 - The condition of our heart is important
 - Be aware of false teachers
- We can rely on the commands of Jesus and the Apostles as being truth.
 - We know what to do in any given situation and not be tossed “to and fro” – Eph. 4:14
 - We have a trustworthy goal to follow and not down the wrong path of modern psychology or political correctness
- We can follow the examples of Jesus and the apostles and not be lead astray.
- We are obligated to study the Bible on our own so we can recognize false teaching.

Whom are you Going to Trust?

So 2000 years after Jesus walked this earth the question still remains.

Who will you trust?

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Summary

What can we learn from Jesus?

- Do not be a hypocrite
- Do not follow man-made traditions
- The way to heaven is difficult
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- Be aware of false teachers

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