

Learn Your Bible

Lesson #4

In this lesson, we will draw from several areas of the Bible. The subject we will be looking at will be the substitutes that men through history have offered, instead of accepting God's terms.

We will see the danger of rejecting the counsel of God. "For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope." (Romans 15:4). Let us learn from the past. The historians tell us "He that is ignorant of the past is doomed to relive it." We need not repeat the mistakes of Adam or of Saul, for example, but to study and learn from them. To offer a substitute is to reject the counsel of God. He, through all eternity, has planned a spiritual blessing for us... if we will only **accept** it.

If we will look **honestly**, we will be able to see ourselves in each example of substitution or rejection, but hopefully we will have the courage to learn. Learning put into practice bears good fruit. The only motivation of our study should be our yearning for the truth. ""We know that God does not hear sinners; but if anyone is God-fearing and does His will, He hears him." (John 9:31) Doing His will is what we will be interested in.

REVIEW BOTH THE LESSON OF CAIN AND OF ADAM

The first time God's counsel is rejected is in Genesis 3, with Adam and Eve. God said "you will die." Satan said "You surely will not die!"

Notice that Satan changed only one word in a commandment of God! The results were far reaching! 1) the curse of the serpent; 2) the curse of the woman; 3) the curse of the man; 4) the curse of the ground.

It is safe to conclude that it is disastrous to reject God's good counsel for what we today would call worldly wisdom.

1) We say within ourselves that we are righteous. (I'm ok, surely God wouldn't condemn me!) Paul tells us what, in Romans 3:23?

2) How many sins caused the calamity in Eden? _____

3) What does this tell us about the necessity of obeying God's will in every point possible? _____

4) Read I John 1:3-10. What limit does this place in our ability to follow God? _____

5) In Adam, we have the first time God's council is rejected. In Cain's sacrifice we have the first religious _____

6) Was Cain's sacrifice satisfactory to God? _____ Why or why not?

7) Will our worship be satisfactory if we substitute our ideas or follow those that do? (Matthew 15:1-9)

READ I SAMUEL 15 THEN ANSWER THE FOLLOWING

8) What two people are under discussion? _____

9) What was Saul commanded to do? _____

10) What did he do? _____

11) Did he do what the Lord had commanded? _____

12) What reason did Saul give for saving the spoil? _____

13) What does Samuel call partially doing what the Lord commands? _____ and it is as what? _____

14) Make a modern application: _____



Notice Saul had done, partially, what the Lord commanded, but substituted his own "wisdom" in place of the Lord's! Many people do the same thing today. They will follow God as long as it follows with their life style, or feels comfortable to them. Saul would have enjoyed going to war against his enemies, but God told him he couldn't keep the spoil! Notice

vs. 15 Saul did what he did for a "religious reason"... "To please the Lord." In verse 20 he declared he had obeyed the will of God! A great many religious bodies need to learn this lesson. They, for



whatever reason, have substituted things in the government of the church, the worship of the church, the mission of the church and the "Apostles Doctrine!" A "settle-for" religion isn't good enough, I want to be a part of that church found in the New Testament!!!

15) Read Luke 7:24-30 Who's ministry is under discussion? _____

16) What was the response of the religious leaders? _____

17) What was their response as it relates to God? (verse 30) _____

18) This relates directly to the baptism in effect at the time, which was _____

READ MATTHEW 15:1-9 THEN ANSWER THE FOLLOWING

19) What question did the Pharisees ask of Jesus? _____

20) What question did Jesus ask of them? _____

21) Notice verse 9. What is the effect of substitution in the church today? _____

22) Is there anything **wrong** with washing your hands? _____

23) When done in a religious setting, what does Jesus call it? _____

What is the effect? _____



READ MATTHEW 7:13-23
THEN ANSWER

24) Today many people think, deep down, that only a **few** will be lost, and **most**, especially our friends and family, will be saved. This is backwards of what Jesus taught. Explain the "roads." The broad road:

The narrow road: _____



25) Read vs. 21-23. Today the prevailing teaching is that "whatever you believe is OK, as long as you believe it 'honestly'." Is this what Jesus taught? _____ Does Jesus know what He is talking about? _____

26) The people in these last few verses were not heathens, but professing to be _____

27) Define "iniquity" _____

28) What have these people done (II John 9) _____

We have seen the results of a few religious substitutions and outright rejections of God's counsel. We have also seen that even things that are otherwise right and good, become wrong when built into religion. Further, we have seen that it matters what you believe because even many religious "Christians" are going to be lost because they were no longer willing to abide in the doctrine of Christ, but went beyond it. Most important, however, we learned from Saul that we must accept and obey all that the apostles delivered to us... it came from God!!

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