

Differences
(Part 1 of 2)
Colossians 2:4-8
By Russell Earl

Thesis: I want to examine differences we see today in the religious world and what it means.

- Intro: 1.
2. Remember, the Bible is our authority.
 a. Example
 b. Command
 c. Implied action
3. This isn't what is found in many "churches" today.

I. Common Situations Today

A. The Source of Authority

1. Creed books are used by many religious groups
 - a. These books exist because of their differences with Bible teaching (**Mt 15:1-13**)

B. Oversight & Organization of Religious groups (**1 Pt 5:2**)

1. "Conventions" and other terms are used when referencing religious groups that are overseen by a body of "leaders" who dictate various aspects of a religious group.
 - a. Groups such as the Baptist, Methodist, Catholics and others have such organization.
2. Some of the titles given to "church leaders" in these groups reveal their differences when compared to the Bible.
 - a. The use of the term Pastor for example

C. Worship (**John 4:21-24**)

1. The worship is many times concert-like.
 - a. Bands and similar things are the norm in many religious groups today.
 - b. Traditional and Contemporary are terms used in many groups to define their worship services.

D. Salvation (**Proverbs 14:12, James 1:21**)

1. The terms for man's salvation are set forth differently in religious groups. (**Jer 10:23**)
 - a. Some teach only a prayer is necessary.
 - b. ... an acknowledgement-belief is only necessary.
 - c. ... faith alone

II. Defining Terms

A. What is a denomination?

1. **According to Webster's Dictionary: "one of a series of units separately named"**
2. **Denominationalism is defined as "a disposition to divide into or form denominations."**
3. **The word denomination means a named or designated division.**
 - a. **A religious people and religious groups forming themselves, clustering themselves, on the basis of different designations, different names with differing doctrines, and different church affiliations.**

- B. Is denominationalism what Christ desired?
1. 6 times in John 17 Christ uses the word “one” in reference to unity.
 2. **John 17:11,20-23**

III. Lessons for Us Today

- A. Deviating from the Bible is not the pattern.
1. Every denomination says they are following the Bible, but are they?
 2. If this is the case why are most who claim such teaching so many different things?
- B. Non-Truth (Error) comes from not following the Bible
1. Teachings that are untrue come when departing from Bible teaching.
 2. Teachings that are untrue, cannot be pleasing to God.

Application & Conclusion:

1. All denominations teach different things?
2. All say they are right...
3. But, can all teach differently and all be right?
 - a. Unity in diversity.
4. Full Invitation

Non-Christians must:

Hear – James 1:22, Romans 10:15,17

Believe – Jn 12:44, Jn 8:24, Mt 16:16

Repent – Luke 13:2-3

Confess – John 12:42, Romans 10:9

Be Baptized – 1 Pt 3:21, Acts 22:16, Col 2:11, Mk 16:16, Rom 6:3-4

Live faithfully – John 14:15, Rev 2:10

Christians must:

Repent: Acts 17:20, Acts 8:37, Lk 13:3

Pray: James 5:16, 1 Jn 1:9