

Many Conflicting Beliefs

By *Ron Boatwright*

There is so much confusion in this world pertaining to religious beliefs, which can be traced to an ignorance of God's word or ignoring what it says. There are more than 600 different denominational churches, all with different and conflicting doctrines, beliefs, and teachings. Confronted by so many different conflicting doctrines of religion, people are so confused; they don't know what to believe. The hundreds of different religious denominations all wear different names, teach different doctrines, practice different forms of worship, have different plans of salvation, and each has its own earthly headquarters. How could anyone conclude that scripture authorizes any of this present confusion or that God is at all pleased by the wholesale abandonment of His plan as found in the Bible? "For God is not the author of confusion" (1 Corinthians 14:33), but man is. If the more than 600 different denominational churches were all teaching and following only God's word as found only in the Bible then there would only be one church, the church of Christ .

Jesus warns us against allowing the authority of the traditions of men to determine doctrine. He says, "**Thus you have made the commandment of God of no effect by your tradition...And in vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men**" (Matthew 15:6, 9). All of the many doctrines that have come from men are vain and useless. Any doctrine that teaches more or less than what God's word teaches in the Bible is false doctrine, which is designed by Satan to cause people to be eternally lost in Hell. Any person who is interested in his soul's salvation can not afford to follow any of the many false doctrines that are being taught today, but will have a genuine interest to know the truth which is found only in the Bible.

God's word warns us to "**Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing**" (Matthew 7:15), and "**many false prophets have gone out in the world**" (1 John 4:1). There is so much false doctrine being taught today, which many people blindly accept. On the Day of Judgment we are going to be judged only by what the Lord says in the Bible and not what men falsely teach. Jesus says, "He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him: the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day" (John 12:48). So, if we or any other person cannot point to it in the word of God, then please do not believe it, because there is too much at stake — **your SOUL !!**

The Bible warns us "that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men" (Ephesians 4:14). Man cannot be pleasing to God and be saved by dreaming up his own plan as to how God is going to save him. **We must follow God's plan and only God's plan if we expect to be saved.** Christ is only "the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him" (Hebrews 5:9). If we follow

any of the many plans men have devised we will be eternally lost. Our salvation in Heaven is too great to lose, because if we don't go to Heaven we will spend forever and ever in the torments of a real burning Hell (Mark 9:43-48). We cannot afford to be wrong concerning our eternal salvation.