
Words of Truth

Was “Rule-Keeping” Nailed To The Cross?

By: Brian A. Yeager

Unfortunately, I get a lot of emails that contain stupidity. Yes, calling something stupid is Scriptural (Psalms 94:8, Proverbs 12:1, Jeremiah 10:21, etc.). In November I received an email from a false teacher in Africa seeking financial assistance from congregations to support a school he had started. I responded to all whom he emailed by stating this: “As I have told you before and so I now tell you again, there is no authority from God for you to have schools and most of these others things you are doing. We MUST have authority for all we say and do (Colossians 3:17). Acting without authority from the Lord is sinful (Galatians 1:6-9, Ephesians 5:10, and I Thessalonians 5:21). This is true even when one THINKS they are doing good works (Proverbs 16:25, Proverbs 21:2, and Matthew 7:21-23). Nowhere, in all of the New Testament, were these things being done through or by local churches of Christ” (11/1/2014).

The false teacher from Africa (Lawrence Lamptey) responded and defended his work with human reasoning, not Scriptures. I responded saying: “What you wrote is all of your human logic, carnally founded. Where are the Scriptures? If secular education was a work God wanted the church to provide He would have said so (II Timothy 3:16-17). You are teaching doctrines of men and will go to Hell for it (Galatians 1:6-9 and Revelation 22:18-19)” (11/1/2014). The emails I am referring to are available to be read online for the sake of reference (<http://www.wordsoftruth.net/emailsreferencedindecember282014article.pdf>).

I never heard back from Lawrence. However, eight of the others receiving these emails decided to jump in. Most of their remarks were concerning how I said he was going to go to Hell for teaching the doctrines of men. They thought I was hateful. Truth is, I am hateful and such is the way all godly people would be towards those who teach such damnable doctrines (Psalms 101:3, Psalms 26:4-5, Psalms 139:21-22, Jeremiah 15:17, Matthew 23:1-33, John 2:14-17, Romans 12:9, Hebrews 1:8-9, Revelation 2:2, and Revelation 2:6).

One of the responses I received was from a man named Dennis Ensor. He is surely a chief moron among the morons. This man prides himself on being a “church of Christ” author. He is trying to lead traditional members of the church into the spiritual whoredom of grace only advocacy (<http://www.amazon.com/Dennis-Ensor/e/B0088ASP38>). Here is what this genius had to say that sparked this article: “On a broader note, it is my opinion that people who interpret the Bible as you do are ‘rule-keepers.’ And that’s a problem. Rule-keeping was nailed to the cross” (Dennis Ensor; 11/5/2014; email to many people). Did Jesus really nail “rule-keeping” to the cross? Are we no longer under any rules today?

Are There No Rules To Follow Today?

The day I received that email I was amazed at how stupid any so-called “Bible student” could be. The very fact that someone had a problem with anything I said, but then claimed

there are no rules, shows that person has no reasoning ability. The very foundation of what sin is requires there to be a law, a set of rules in place. Without a law, there can be no sin (Romans 7:7 and I John 3:4). That is like saying a person was caught speeding while driving on a road with no speed limit. Stupid. Right? To answer this man's false conclusion, let's notice that we are very much under a set of rules today.

Jesus said: *"Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. And every one that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: And the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it... And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say... But he said, Yea rather, blessed are they that hear the word of God, and keep it... If ye love me, keep my commandments... He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him. Judas saith unto him, not Iscariot, Lord, how is it that thou wilt manifest thyself unto us, and not unto the world? Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him. He that loveth me not keepeth not my sayings: and the word which ye hear is not mine, but the Father's which sent me"* (Matthew 7:24-27, Luke 6:46, Luke 11:28, John 14:15, and John 14:21-24).

Peter said: *"Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men... As obedient children, not fashioning yourselves according to the former lusts in your ignorance"* (Acts 5:29 and I Peter 1:14).

Paul said: *"But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you... Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ"* (Romans 6:17 and Galatians 6:2).

James said: *"But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves... For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all. For he that said, Do not commit adultery, said also, Do not kill. Now if thou commit no adultery, yet if thou kill, thou art become a transgressor of the law. So speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty"* (James 1:22 and James 2:10-12).

John said: *"And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him... And this is love, that we walk after his commandments. This is the commandment, That, as ye have heard from the beginning, ye should walk in it"* (I John 2:3-4 and II John 1:6).

Conclusion

Many more Scriptures could be cited to prove we are "rule-keepers". For honest people, enough has been stated. Thus, we'll conclude with one more reference: *"Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him"* (Hebrews 5:8-9).