

BANNING DIHYDROGEN MONOXIDE

Recently I viewed a video in which people were asked to sign a petition that would ban the above. Many eagerly signed the petition either without thinking or not realizing what they were being asked to ban! Dihydrogen Monoxide, if you haven't figured it out is simply H₂O – that's right water!

This video shows how readily people will do something that they think is good, popular or the right thing to do without taking the time to check out for themselves what they are being asked to do. They just go along with the crowd.

This same principle holds true in matters of religion. There are many charlatans who preach false gospels and many will listen to them and accept what is said just because "Pastor So and So said it," or that evangelist on television said it. As a result, these gullible people will write checks and mail them off to these religious hucksters who then use the money to support their expensive lifestyle. Not only do many people do this once but they are fooled time and again by the same people and they continue to "shell out the bucks" because they think he or she (the "pastor" or "televangelist") is so good, so popular that they must be right.

Sadly, even in the Lord's church brethren can get caught up in the same thing with the likes of Max Lucado, Jeff Walling and others who deceive the brethren and think what they say and do is good and don't bother to check out whether what they say is right. We have even had preachers that will allow their names to go forth on a letter of approval for an organization without knowing what they are doing. What is even sadder is that when they find out who is to head that organization they continue to "go along" rather than ask for their name to be removed. Some of these same preachers are now convincing others of the "soundness" of a certain false teacher, Dave Miller and claiming he repented of his false teaching in a letter that he wrote, yet he claims he did not repent and did nothing he needed for which he needed to repent. Indeed, the letter shows no repentance.

Brethren need to be careful that they are not "hoodwinked" into believing that which is false or supporting those who are in error because they think it is good, it is the popular or right think to do. There are organizations that have sprung up among brethren that either are unscriptural in their organization – such as Churches of Christ Disaster Relief Inc – which is in reality a benevolent society doing the work of the church or they are willing to use false teachers in their work and still expect brethren to support them as they seek to convince them that the work is good and we need to support it anyway regardless of who is involved – such as Gospel Broadcasting Network and Apologetics Press. Both of these could be good works to be supported if they were not using false teachers in their activities.

Brethren, we are taught, "Prove all things; hold fast that which is good" (I Thessalonians 5:21). We also need to be like the Bereans of old: "And the brethren immediately sent away Paul and Silas by night unto Berea: who coming thither went into the synagogue of the Jews. These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so" (Acts 17:10-11). We need to check things out and not blindly "go along with the crowd."

Ken Chumbley

NEWS AND NOTES

Keep in your prayers the following: Helen Culpepper, Pam Gossett and mother, Lavonne McClish, Linda Chumbley, and Rachel Fitzpatrick's aunt (Eula Baker) who has cancer, Maomi Aaron' sister who has having health problems, and Tim Smith.

Jennifer Wilson left for Athens, GA last Thursday to begin her studies at Georgia University.

Here are the school addresses for both of the Wilson girls:

Kimberly Wilson, 260 Springdale Street, Apt 23, Athens, Ga. 30606

Jennifer Wilson, 420 Morris Hall, Athens, Ga. 30606

Our next Pot Luck meal will be on August 31 after the evening services. An Italian theme for the food has been suggested. Plan to stay and eat with us.

NEITHER IGNORANCE NOR ARROGANCE IS PLEASING/ACCEPTABLE TO THE LORD... Continued from page 1

Paul summoned the elders of Ephesus to Miletus (Acts 20:28-30) so that they might not be ignorant (unaware) of grievous wolves that would not spare the flock. Paul no doubt surprised them when he told them that some of those "wolves" would come from among themselves. Jude likewise warned against the ignorance allowing false doctrine to seep in among them. God wants us to "rightly divide the word of truth."

Knowing the Lord's word does not give us the prerogative to be arrogant (or full of pride) with or about it. Our Christian responsibility is to "search the scriptures", making certain that the things that are said (preached and taught) are in accord with divine truth (Acts 17). In order to discern truth correctly we must "study" the inerrant word of God diligently, so that we might "rightly divide" it (handle it properly - for ourselves and others).

Arrogance is a characteristic of pride. The word means to have an exaggerated sense of one's own importance or abilities. God resists such people (James 4:6, I Peter 5:5). When we impart the engrafted word that saves souls (James 1:21), it is to be in the spirit of meekness and humility. Humility is also warranted when we find that our own opinions or biases are not consistent with (or have the authority of) the holy and divine scriptures.

*Johnny S. Oxendine
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