We Need to Know Why

Introduction. Let's begin with a simple fact: We're here because of the Bible. We've been instructed through this book to worship God, pursue righteousness, and support one another.

Based on the modern evidence and the claims of religious bodies, many are being led to believe that the Bible is full of "options". The evidence is presented as so many choices in worship in nearly every town in this country.

We need to know "why" we're here, instead of partaking of other options in our local "buffet of faiths." Therefore, we're going to take the time to consider these questions: Why are we here? Why do we do what we do? Why does it matter?

I. Why Are We Here?

A. First, we're worshipping the God of heaven. However, we wouldn't know Him apart from information found in the Bible (John 17:3). We're seeking God, understanding that He desires our attention (Jeremiah 29:10-14; Acts 17:27). We're seeking Him with the knowledge of His willingness to reward us (Hebrews 11:6). We worship God here the same way they did in the first century:
   1. Singing (Ephesians 5:19).
   2. Praying (Acts 2:42).
   3. Proclaiming (Acts 20:7).
   4. Remembering (1 Corinthians 11:23-29).
   5. Offering (1 Corinthians 16:1-2).

B. Second, we're seeking God's direction. We study to know the truth. In John 8:31-32 when Jesus uses the word "abide," the word is also translated as "stay, remain, live, endure, and dwell." Do you want to abide in the words of Jesus? Do you see value in them?
   1. Listen to the sermon with the goal of being strengthened (1 Thessalonians 5:11-14). But also listen to be convinced, rebuked, and exhorted, as needed (2 Timothy 4:2).
   2. Christians have to be reminded, charged, and challenged. We don't do it to make you mad; we do it to make you more righteous.

C. Third, we're supporting one another. Romans 12:9-6 directs us to love one another "without hypocrisy". Every member here needs to know, with full assurance, that every other member loves them enough to always seek their eternal betterment. We're here, as Hebrews 10:24-25 says, to "consider one another" or seek what's best for each other.

II. Why Do We Do What We Do?

A. Only with the Bible as our standard can we know what we should do. If everyone had the time, courage, and open-mindedness to search the Scriptures, they would see what's "so" (Acts 17:11; cp. 2 Timothy 2:15). A godly Christian has the goal of properly using God's Word. The Bible is the revealed authority of God (1 Peter 4:11). By the Bible, we're educated in what we're to do to be godly (2 Peter 1:3).

B. There are three ways of finding God's authority. They're all used in Acts 15.
   1. There was a question concerning the Gentiles' requirement to become circumcised, to become Christians. Some of the Jewish brethren in Jerusalem wanted to enforce it.
   2. The apostles used three methods of determining whether God authorizes the Gentiles to be saved without circumcision.
      a) In vv. 6-11 Peter used "necessary conclusions".
      b) In v. 12 Paul and Barnabas used "approved examples".
      c) In vv. 13-21 James used "direct statements".

C. There's also one other point of authority that has to be respected. In v. 24, the apostles said, "to whom we gave no such command." By this, we learn that where there's no directive there's no authority. The "silence of God" is prohibitive not permissive, and it has to be respected.

D. We can't say "we're doing God's will" without the book, chapter, and verse (expressed in general or specific authority) to demonstrate His allowance of our activities.

III. Why Does It Matter?

A. What we do matters, and it always has.
   1. All the way back the beginning, in the Garden of Eden, Adam and Eve disrespected God's authority — and everything changed (Genesis 3:16-19).
   2. Nadab and Abihu assumed God's authority was optional — and they were struck down (Leviticus 10:1-2).
   3. Uzzah assumed that God's rules had exceptions — and he taught us all that there are no exceptions (2 Samuel 6:3-7).
   4. Moses assumed that he could ignore God's rules and strike the rock after God had told him to "speak to the rock." When he went against God's commands, Moses was denied entrance to Canaan (Numbers 20:7-12).

B. What we do matters, and it'll always matter.
   1. In Matthew 4:10, Jesus couldn't worship Satan because He recognized that this would be a violation of God's twofold purpose of living according to the Word of God (v. 4), and obeying or worshiping God (v. 10).
   2. The only way we can accomplish these two purposes is by following truth. However, one of the easiest ways to get people away from the truth is to get them to speculate about biblical subjects.
      a) Satan knows that if man does speculate about biblical subjects, it'll serve his purpose of getting us to do his will, not God's.
         (1) People have speculated that the mark of the beast is a chip-activated debit card, or universal product code, or an implanted microchip.
         (2) They've also speculated that the beast with seven heads and ten horns in Revelation is the United Nations Security Council!
      b) However, God completely rules out both the dissemination of knowledge for knowledge's sake and man's speculations (Deuteronomy 29:29). In short, the Word of God is for practice, not speculation (1 Timothy 1:4; 4:7; 6:4, 20; 2 Timothy 2:14, 16, 23; Titus 1:14; 3:9).

c) Be careful of what you do, for we'll all give an answer to God for what we've done (Romans 14:12; 2 Corinthians 5:10).

Conclusion. God has given His Word so that we'll know what to do and how to do it. This one book is the only hope of ultimate success. That's "why" we purpose to rightly divide this book, to find the success it promises (2 Timothy 2:15).

Our Father, through the revelation of His divine will, has established a plan for you to be saved. This moment can be the beginning of your greatest hope. So "why" are you waiting? Come to God on His terms, and find His hope, right now.

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