

## A Return to the Bible

One of mankind's greatest needs is to return to the Bible and let its precepts govern. God said through Jeremiah: "Thus says Jehovah, 'Stand you in the ways and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way; and walk therein, and you shall find rest for your souls (Jer 6:16).'" The Bible is God's inspired word and guides us in the way of truth (2 Tim. 3:16). The apostle Paul said, "So belief *comes* of hearing, and hearing by the word of Christ (Rom 10:17)." We must appeal to God's word to settle every religious question.

Each individual must engage in a personal study of the scriptures (2 Tim. 2:15). We should not look at the Bible through theological glasses fitted by human creed books and fallible religious teachers. We must forget creeds, traditions, and dogmas, which come from man; and we must study the Bible as God's own message to us. Each should determine to walk by that faith which comes from hearing God's word. Let's see how we can return to God's word, the Bible.

First, returning to the Bible involves accepting the Bible as final authority in religion (1 Cor. 4:6; Rev. 22:18-19). We cannot determine religious truth by what we feel, by what the preacher says, by our opinions, or by what our parents believe. Jesus said that God's "word is truth (John 17:17)." The Bible, God's word, must settle all issues.

Second, returning to the Bible involves accepting the Bible teaching concerning the church. Jesus established his church (Matt. 16:16-18) and adds all saved people to it (Acts 2:47). A return to the Bible requires us to accept the Bible teaching on the name of the church, the purpose of the church, the organization of the church, and the worship of the church. The church of the Bible was the church of Christ: "The churches of Christ salute you (Rom. 16:16)." In the church, we are to follow the Bible pattern. Paul told Timothy, "Hold the pattern of sound words which thou hast heard from me (2 Tim 1:13)." Returning to the Bible means going back to the church as it is in the Bible.

Third, going back to the Bible involves going back to the Bible plan of salvation. We must become "obedient from the heart to that form of teaching whereunto you were delivered (Rom 6:17)." The Bible plan of salvation commands us to believe (John 8:24), turn away from sin and turn to Christ (Acts 17:30-31), confess Christ (Matt 10:32-33), and be baptized for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38; Mark 16:16).

Our plea is that we all return to the Bible and obey its teaching.