

Frankly Speaking. . .

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DON'T MESS WITH THE BIBLE

GOD DOES NOT CHANGE!!!

Why does God not change? Because in this crazy, topsy-turvy, mixed up world, made up of people who can't keep a single thought for five minutes, we need something that ALWAYS stays the same. If we think of it for a minute we will realize that man is not capable of charting his own course. The prophet Jeremiah put it this way, “[O Jehovah, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps](#)” (Jer. 10:23). We may think we have the ability to chart our own course, but God says “not so.”

But we are being told over and over again these days that He doesn't mean what He says.

A WOMAN “PREACHER” IS WELCOMED.

A short time ago, I was sent a video of the welcome of a “preaching intern,” who is a woman. Understand first, “preaching intern” is not a biblical designation. No such person or office is mentioned in the scripture. The preacher for the local church welcomed her at the 4th Avenue church in Franklin, Tennessee (Nashville area)., This is in the face of plain teaching of the scriptures as we are told:

“[But I permit not a woman to teach, nor to have dominion over a man, but to be in quietness](#)” (1Tim. 2:12). Paul wrote to Corinth, “[let the women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak; but let them be in subjection, as also saith the](#)

law. And if they would learn anything, let them ask their own husbands at home: for it is shameful for a woman to speak in the church” (1 Cor. 14:34-35).

IT IS A “CULTURAL” THING.

The local preacher also declared that such scriptures do not bind us because it was a “cultural thing.” Now let’s look at this for a minute. My question is “who appointed him to judge God’s word?” Paul wrote:

“Let a woman learn in quietness with all subjection. But I permit not a woman to teach, nor to have dominion over a man, but to be in quietness. For Adam was first formed, then Eve; and Adam was not beguiled, but the woman being beguiled hath fallen into transgression: but she shall be saved through her child-bearing, if they continue in faith and love and sanctification with sobriety” (1 Tim 2:11-15).

This scripture gives the reason for his instruction and it is not cultural. Adam was first, therefore he was the leader and teacher. Eve was beguiled because she stepped out of her place of being the follower, and Adam was beguiled by Eve as he stepped out of his place as leader

In a discussion one time with a woman on this subject, she suddenly declared that “Paul was just an angry old man that didn’t like women.” I was offended that she did not take the Bible seriously. She quickly learned I did not appreciate her speaking of scripture in that way.

GOD’S WORD DOES NOT CHANGE.

The Hebrew writer declared,

“For the word of God is living, and active, and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing even to the dividing of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and quick to discern the thoughts and intents of the heart” (Heb. 4:12). The scripture also tells us, “For ever, O Jehovah, Thy word is settled in heaven” (Psa.

119:89). The Bible also tells us Jesus is the same
“yesterday and today and forever” (Heb. 13:8).

We have no right to change the Word of God to suit what we have decided we want to do. That is exactly what the 4th Avenue church in Franklin, Tennessee has done. They **want** to allow women to preach and so they just decide part of the Bible, the part they don't like, does not apply to them.

The words of the prophet Malachi come to mind,

“For I, Jehovah, **change not**, therefore ye, O sons of Jacob, are not consumed. From the days of your fathers ye have turned aside from mine ordinances, and not kept them” (Malachi 3:6-7 Emphasis mine).

THERE ARE MANY OTHER THINGS WE COULD MENTION.

Churches all over are determining that baptism is no longer necessary for salvation, and that in light of direct teaching (Matthew 18:18-20; Mark 16:16; Acts 22:26). A church in Oklahoma City a few years ago decided people wanted instrumental music so they would furnish them instrumental music. This, in light of the scripture teaching us we should not go beyond that which is written (1 Corinthians 4:6).

All this reminds us of the first king of Israel after Solomon. Jeroboam decided, since the kingdom had rebelled, that he had to do something to keep from losing them. He set up golden calves at each end of the country so the people could worship them instead of going to Jerusalem like God had declared.

Down through the years the people had less and less regard for God and his word and it finally came to pass that the entire kingdom of Israel was lost. To decide one can follow one's own desires rather than God's is a slippery slope that will eventually result in disaster.

Is it not strange that throughout all Bible history some of the worst sins have been because men changed worship? Time after time, from Cain and Abel to the Corinthian congregation, change after

change, has been made by men, but none of them pleased God.

BACK TO THE BIBLE IS STILL VALID.

Many of us can remember, not just preachers, but members of the church pleaded with people to go “back to the Bible” for authority in religious matters. It is still a valid plea for our day. Many translations of the Bible have been made, some trying to change things with which we really do not want to deal. It makes no difference. Such conduct is like a rudderless ship floundering in the sea. The final outcome will be that it will founder on the rocks because it is rudderless.

If we really will be honest, we will know that such activities as this editorial has described will eventually fail. Our Judge will be using what has been ignored, to judge our final destiny. It will not be pretty.

“Jehovah, who shall sojourn in thy tabernacle? Who shall dwell in thy holy hill? He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, And speaketh truth in his heart; He that slandereth not with his tongue, Nor doeth evil to his friend, Nor taketh up a reproach against his neighbor; In whose eyes a reprobate is despised, But who honoreth them that fear Jehovah; He that sweareth to his own hurt, and changeth not;”
(Psa. 15:1-5).

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Ed Amthor". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

January 3, 2015