

"BUT HE THAT SHALL ENDURE UNTO THE END, THE SAME SHALL BE
SAVED" (MTH. 24:13)

"Adding to the Cross" and Other

Lies...
By Bro. Jim

I am continually amazed at the things that people hold as "doctrine" within Christian circles. There are numerous nice sounding statements that somehow are perpetuated over and over again regardless of denomination and church affiliation. In this issue of Unto the End we will look at and examine in light of God's Word three such popular beliefs. There are definitely more than three such statements, but for sake of time we will just look at three of the more popular ones. They are:

1. Don't add to the cross...
2. Follow God, not men...
3. Don't major in the minors....

As we shall see, these three statements are lies, they are contrary to God's Word and they do nothing more than breed neglect, disobedience, and apathy in a Christian's walk. In short, if a Christian is given to any of these doctrines he will not be obedient to the Word of God, he will not run the race well, and as a result will not finish the course. Needless to say, these doctrines are Doctrines of Devils and their sole purpose is to get born again believers to depart from the faith. Let us now look at the ridiculous notion of "Not adding to the cross".

One of the worst "doctrines" I've ever heard which is right from the pit of hell is this idea of "not adding to the cross". What is meant by this ludicrous statement is that Jesus did it all on the cross when He shed His blood and once a person accepts Jesus as his or her Saviour and repents

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of sins, then there is nothing more that person should/could do and any attempt to do anything contained in the Bible is called "adding to the cross". It's sad to say but when someone believes in this nonsense, they will invariably tell any Christian they see who is trying to obey the Word of God that they are "adding to the cross" and should cease immediately before God gets angry with their attempt at obedience and holiness and presumably strikes them dead on the spot. Unbelievable! This doctrine tells a Christian that they should not try and keep any commandments because Jesus did it all, and we are not to attempt to "earn" our salvation because in doing so we are "adding to the cross". This doctrine is a good one if you want to live in sin and comfort your seared conscience. Let's now examine this false doctrine in light of God's Word:

"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." 1Jn. 2:3-4.

"For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous." 1Jn. 5:3.

These two passages from the book of 1 John couldn't be any easier to understand; they say that you know and love God if YOU keep his commandments. They also say that if you merely say you love/know God but fail to keep His Word, then you are a liar. All liars shall have their part in the lake of fire (Rev. 22:15). The main thing in both passages above is the "doing" part; i.e., the action(s) of obedience to the Bible. Who is responsible for keeping God's Word? YOU ARE. As a professed believer, one who has been born again, your life does not belong to you anymore (1Cor. 6:19-20) and you are expected by God to keep His Word. Is this adding to the cross? If it is, John was pretty confused.

"Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints." Jude 3.

Brother Jude is being told by God to tell the Church that Christians are supposed to be "earnestly contending for the faith". Who is responsible for doing this? YOU, the Christian are responsible for this. This involves action. It involves doing the things God says to do and not doing the things God says not to do as contained in His Word. Those that believe in the lie we are exposing would have to say that Jude is instructing Christians to "add to the cross".

"What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?" Rom. 6:1-2.

"Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord. Let not sin reign therefore in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God." Rom. 6:11-13.

The Apostle Paul, just like John and Jude is telling the Church, (the Bible was written by Men of God FOR men/women of God) to continue in righteousness and to NOT continue in sin. Stated another way, do the things God says to do and don't do the things God says not to do. Where are these things found? They are found in the Bible. So we are to read the Bible and obey it. Unbelievably some call this "adding to the cross".

"And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge; And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness; And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ." 2Pet. 1:5-8.

Peter is telling the Church here to make sure we are adding these things to our Christian walk with all diligence. To fulfill this command, it takes ACTION on our part. For those Christians that do not take this action (fearing adding to the cross I presume) the next verse warns:

“But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.” 2Pet. 1:9

God’s people are supposed to have sight and walk in the light, not be blind and forgetful concerning sins. Let’s take just one more verse.

“Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.” Mth. 7:21.

Here in Matthew Jesus is telling us that just because you call Jesus Lord does not mean you will make it into heaven. Rather, the ONLY ones that will make it into heaven are those that obey God’s commandments (the true sign that you love God 1Jn. 5:3). Again, who is responsible for obeying God’s commandments? YOU, the Christian are. Jesus apparently didn’t think that the keeping of His Word is “adding to the cross”.

Dear man or woman of God, I could go on and on and on with example after example of the Bible telling a Christian that we are to keep God’s Word. In this short period of time John, Jude, Paul, Peter, and Jesus have all given us commands that require ACTION on OUR part. It is not “adding to the cross” to keep God’s Word. Rather, it’s necessary to keep God’s Word if you expect to make it to heaven. “You are preaching salvation by works,” you scream. No, I’m not. Let’s finish with this:

“For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.” Eph. 2:8-9.

“Ah-ha!” you claim, “See we are not saved by works”. Now let’s look at this passage in context of the chapter:

“And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; Wherein in time past ye walked according to course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others. But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of

works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.” Eph. 2:1-10.

Did you read that? Go back and read it again. What Paul is saying here is that before they were born again, they were wicked and sinners and no amount of “good work” was going to cause God to look down on them and save them. Clearly stated, before you were born again you could not “earn” your salvation. A person is saved by faith and the grace of God. It is a gift, not earned. Now, notice that once Paul states this, he goes on in verse ten and shows AFTER you were saved by grace and faith, YOU are to walk in good works. In fact, he further states that God has before ordained that we walk in good works as Christians. YOU the Christian are ordained to walk in good works through YOUR obedience to the Bible. So, again, salvation by grace/faith means, that before you were born again, you could not “earn” your salvation and you were only saved by the grace of God and faith. But, AFTER you are born again, you are to walk in good works. This takes an action on your part. It’s not adding to the cross. And time would not permit me to talk about “work”. When the Bible talks about “works” it is not referring to feeding the poor and clothing the naked. In fact, “works” are when you obey God and conform to His Word by denying your flesh and giving up things He commands you to. For example, the Bible clearly states that women of God are not to wear jewelry (1Tim. 2:9-15). So when a sister in the Lord reads this or hears it preached and then in obedience, takes off jewelry, this is work. The more work you do the less you look like the world and the more you are conformed to Christ. This is also called being holy which we are commanded to do and without which NO man shall see God (Heb. 14). In fact, grace teaches us such lessons:

“For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;” Tit. 2:11-12.

Do you see this? The grace you were saved by is now teaching you that YOU the born again believer are to live soberly, righteously, and godly and that YOU are to deny ungodliness and worldly lusts? Who is to deny ungodliness and worldly lusts? YOU, the Christian are and no, this isn’t adding to the cross. In Titus, Paul wraps up his letter by exhorting Titus to tell the Christians,

“...I will that thou affirm constantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good works. These things are good and profitable unto men.” Tit. 3:8.

Paul makes sure to tell Titus to affirm **constantly** that Christians are to be careful to maintain good works. Looks like Paul was unaware of this “adding to the cross” nonsense.

I could go on and on with example after example in the New Testament (and we haven’t even touched the Old Testament, God doesn’t change) of God warning and exhorting His people to keep His commandments. It’s not adding to the cross. On the contrary, it’s showing that you love God; that you have died to the old man that WAS crucified when you were born again. It’s all about not letting sin have dominion over you. If you have bought into the “adding to the cross” doctrine, please repent and get rid of it. Begin reading the Bible and

obeying God. If He says we are to be doing a certain thing, begin doing it, no matter the cost. If God tells you to stop doing a certain thing, as contained in His Word, then you stop doing it, no matter the cost. Paul counted all things that were dear to his flesh as dung that he could win Christ (Ph. 3:8-9). Will you? Trust and obey, for there's no other way to be happy in Jesus (and to make it to heaven), than to trust and obey. Amen.

Now let's examine another expertly crafted lie by Satan, "Don't follow men, follow God".

This idea of telling other Christians to "follow God not men" sounds so spiritual, so nice. But, alas, it's just another lie hatched by the enemy of your soul.

"And he gave unto Moses, when he had made an end of communing with him upon Mount Sinai, two tables of testimony, tables of stone, written with the finger of God." Ex. 31:18.

We are all familiar with the account of Moses getting the Ten Commandments from God on Mount Sinai.

Question: how many of the hundreds of thousands of Israelites were called up to Mount Sinai with Moses to receive the law and to hear directly from God? Answer: None. God had Moses, a prophet come to the mountain, God gave Moses, a prophet the law and God had Moses, a prophet go to His people to communicate the law. So God used a man to instruct His people in His Word; Amazing! And yes, God expected His people to follow this man, Moses.

"The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord in the tenth year of Zedekiah king of Judah, which was the eighteenth year of Nebuchadrezzar. For then the king of Babylon's army besieged Jerusalem: and Jeremiah the prophet was shut up in the court of the prison, which was in the king of Judah's house." Jer. 32:1-2.

The prophet Jeremiah was put in prison here. While in prison, God spoke to Jeremiah, a prophet and told him things that he was then in turn to convey to God's people. Question, how many of God's people were shut up in the prison with Jeremiah and heard from God directly as well? Answer: None. God used ONE man, a PROPHET (Jeremiah) and had that ONE man then tell His people His Word.

"Annas and Caiaphas being the high priests, the word of God came unto John the son of Zacharias in the wilderness." Lk. 3:2.

This is the account of John the Baptist, a Prophet. How many people were with John in the wilderness receiving that message? Answer: none. John, a prophet was called into the wilderness by himself and God used ONE man, John, a prophet to declare His Word to His people. Do you see a pattern here? If we really took the "follow God not men" path then we would tell Moses, Jeremiah, and John that we don't care what they have to say, we are going to follow God, not men. Would that be a wise move? Let's conclude our study by looking at Paul:

"Wherefore I beseech you, be ye followers of me." 1Cor. 4:16.

“Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ.” 1Cor. 11:1.

“Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample.” Phil. 3:17.

Do you see this? Paul flat out told other Christians to be followers of him, a man. “Well, that’s different, Paul was a special man and he wrote a lot of the Bible.” So what? And beside that, you don’t follow Paul anyway. No you don’t! Paul also said for women NOT to wear jewelry, but you still wear your jewelry. Paul tells you not to have long hair if you are a man, but some of you do. Paul tells you not to foolishly jest or tell jokes, but many of you do. Paul says not to commit adultery or fornicate but a lot of “Christians” do. Paul tells you to love your brothers in Christ, but you don’t. So don’t come on with the weak “Well, that’s Paul, so we can follow him” excuse because you don’t even do that much. In fact, you go around telling other Christians to “follow God not men” and yet, you have no qualms following men that tell you to “follow God, not men”, “don’t add to the cross”, and “don’t major in the minors”. The only time you like to say “Follow God not men” is when you hear a man of God telling you to keep God’s Word! The bottom line is, God has always used men to minister and preach His word, “...and how shall they hear without a preacher?” (Ro. 10:14). God called Moses, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, John, Peter, Paul and a host of others and gave them His Word to give to His people This is the order of things. God today gives revelation of His Word to His prophets. In turn, the prophets give the Word to teachers and preachers and they in turn give it to God’s people. Check the pattern,

“And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.” 2Tim. 2:2.

Paul got the revelations from God, and gave them to the Pastor Timothy and told him to not only teach and exhort God’s people himself (2Tim. 4:2) but to commit the doctrines to other faithful men (teachers/preachers) that can teach God’s people. So yes, we are to follow men. We are to be followers of men of God. Thus saith the Lord. Amen.

Finally, let’s take a look at the popular doctrine, “Don’t major in the minors”. The supposition here is that there are things in the Bible that are “big” and things in the Bible that are “small” or “not such a big deal”. For those of you who hold onto this doctrine, you will invariably find yourself neglecting the things that are “not a big deal” because that’s human nature. Also, let it be known that this idea started in the Catholic Church with Mortal (big) sins and Venial (not so big) sins. I know most of you reading this are not Catholic but rather are Protestant but really, what’s the difference, you came from your mother the Catholic Church and you will do what your mother does. (Ezk. 16:44). In reality EVERYTHING in the Bible is important or God would not have put it there for us to read. Adultery will keep you out of heaven just as easily as stealing will. Killing will keep you out of heaven just as easily as lying will. The bottom line is there are no “small sins”. This is yet another lie by Satan to get you to dwell in sin because Satan knows that if sin, ANY sin has dominion over a Christian, that person will not make it into heaven.

pass from the law, till all be fulfilled.” Mth. 5:18.

Jesus is clearly showing here that if it's in the Word of God, then it's important no matter how “small” it is.

“Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.” Mth. 24:35.

What some of you are calling “minors” Jesus says will NEVER pass away. That doesn't seem too minor to me.

“And if thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell.” Mth. 5:29.

The eye is “minor” compared to the rest of the body but yet despite this Jesus says here that if your eye offends and you can't get victory over it, then literally pluck the eye out. He is teaching perfection here, but that is for another time by God's grace. He is showing that God is not going to allow sin into heaven no matter how SMALL. If you are holding onto the “don't major in the minors” lie, please let it go. If it's in God's Word it's major. Please obey the known Word of God in your life and be ye perfect even as your heavenly Father is perfect (Mth. 5:48). Amen.

In conclusion, we have looked at three popular lies in the so-called churches: “Don't add to the cross”, “Follow God, not men”, and “Don't major in the minors”. I hope and pray that you have seen that in light of the Holy Scriptures, these three doctrines are lies from Satan. If you receive them you will find yourself not obeying God for fear of “adding to the cross”, not listening to men of God when they tell you to repent and be obedient to His Word, and you will find yourself living in sins but calling them “minor”. If this

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