

September 20, 2020

Viewpoint from the **Valley Grove Church Of Christ**

“Well, It Depends”

By Bill Crews

Is it wrong to file a false insurance claim? Is it wrong to take items from a store without paying for them?

Is it wrong to cheat on a school assignment or classroom exam? Should you find a purse or a billfold with money in them, must you return them to the owners? What should you do if you return home from a shopping trip and discover that a clerk has given you ten dollars instead of five dollars in the change? Is it right to take home merchandise, tools, equipment or other items from your company without permission?

Do you know that many people, in answering such questions, would begin by saying, “Well, it depends . . .”?

The answers will not be forthright and unequivocal. People are becoming very hesitant about labeling anything as wrong, or a crime, or a sin. Because they want to justify themselves and others, because they are conforming to the tide of unethical conduct which surrounds them, because they have succumbed to the philosophy of “situation ethics.”

“Situation ethics,” known also as “relativism,” says that truth is never absolute (definite, fixed, unchanging), but relative (subject to change, modification, appeal). A thing can never be said, out and out, to be wrong, or a crime, or a sin. The situation or the circumstances have to be considered, and what might ordinarily be wrong becomes right. It is simply the devil’s tool and a way for man to justify his conduct and salve his conscience. No wonder that so many fence-straddling and spineless Americans are remarking, “Who can say what is right or wrong? Even the Bible says, ‘Judge not.’”

Right and wrong, good and evil, truth and error are still determined by the teaching of God’s word.

***Visitors — We pray that you benefit spiritually from our
worship together and hope to see you again.***

Would You Do This?

By Bill Crews

Let us suppose that you know very little about the Bible, but you do believe it to be the Word of God, the revelation of God's will to men. You also want to please God and you want to accept only the truth. Let us suppose that I tell you about an anonymous group of men who are sincere and who honestly believe that they are being guided by the Holy Spirit. I tell you that these men regularly write religious articles in which they explain the Bible, and that no one in all the world can understand the things taught in the Bible without the help of their writings. Would you be willing to entrust your life here and your destiny, your eternal destiny, hereafter into the hands of these anonymous writers?

I hope that your answer would be a very firm: "Absolutely not!" But did you know that that is exactly what a few million people throughout the earth are doing? And when they come to your door with their "testimony," that is what they are trying to get you to do. They call themselves "Jehovah's Witnesses" (a name which their second "President" misapplied from Isaiah 43:10 to his gullible followers). These people proudly call themselves "Watchtower slaves," and that is exactly what they are, slaves of a purely human organization. Privately and in their "Kingdom Hall" meetings they are not allowed to study anything in the Bible without the aid of Watchtower articles from "headquarters." Their attitude when they come to your door is, "I know that I have been helped to discover the truth and that it cannot be wrong." They want you to listen to them, but they do not intend to listen to you. A few of them can be reached, but nearly all of them have closed up their minds. God help them!

One of them came to my door this very morning that I am writing this article. I listened to him as he began his "witnessing." He wanted me to agree with the simple points that he was making, but I soon had to disagree. He also wanted me to accept and read a couple of Watchtower magazines. I agreed on one condition — that he would also accept from me some written material and simply read it. He refused, and so I proceeded to hand back his material. I will not read anything from someone whose mind is so closed that he will not examine anything that disagrees with what he already believes. If you want to see these so-called witnesses of Jehovah (and they are not) beat a hasty retreat from your door, simply have some material handy which exposes their false doctrines and call upon them to agree to examine it. They will not do so because they have been brainwashed into entrusting their eternal destinies into the hands a human organization which has succeeded in convincing them that it alone has the truth and in closing up their minds to anything different.

“Is It Scriptural?”

By Bill Crews

Of every moral or religious proposal or issue we should ask: “Is it right?”; “Is it pleasing to God?”; “Is it God’s will?” If our answer is the result of consulting human sources, whether conscience, feelings, experiences, parents, the majority, custom or “authorities,” it is the wrong answer. If our desire is to confirm what we already believe or want to believe, it is the wrong desire. If we would be satisfied with anything less than the Bible answer to a question, we are too easily satisfied. If our attitude would permit us to proceed without the answer of God’s word, it is the wrong attitude.

A better way of asking, “Is it right?”; or “Is it pleasing to God?”; or “Is it God’s will?” is “Is it Scriptural?”

This implies that the Scriptures are the standard for determining what is right, what is pleasing to God, and what is the will of God. This implies also that the Scriptures are complete or adequate. Further, this implies that the Scriptures are authoritative or binding. Unfortunately, many people think that they can determine what is right or pleasing to God or the will of God from sources other than the Scriptures. But, “God has spoken,” and the result is the Scriptures.

That volume or collection of writings known as “The Bible,” an expression meaning “The Book,” is referred to within the pages of that volume as “the Scriptures” (Matthew 22:29; Luke 24:45; Acts 17:2, 11; 2 Timothy 3:14-17; 2 Peter 3:15-16).

What Is The Bible?

1. It is the revelation of God to man, John 1:18; 14:9; Acts 17:22-23.
2. It is the revelation of God’s will to man, what God expects man to know, to believe, to do, to be, 1 Corinthians 2:1-13.
3. It is that which has been breathed (inspired) of God by the Holy Spirit through chosen men, 2 Peter 1:20- 21; 2 Timothy 3:16.
4. It is the revelation of man’s origin (Genesis 1:26-27; 2:7), purpose (Ecclesiastes 12:13-14; Micah 6:8; Acts 10:34-35) and destiny (Hebrews 9:27; Matthew 25:46).
5. It is the revelation of man’s condition and need, Romans 3:9-12, 23.

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6. It is the revelation of God's way of salvation from sin, deliverance from punishment for sin, and reception into heaven, Acts 16:17; Titus 2:11-12.

Satan's Influence

It is Satan, and not God, who has sought to convince men that:

1. The Bible is incomplete, inadequate, only part of God's will for men.

2. The Bible, as it has come down to us, is distorted and unreliable.

3. The Bible is the product of human wisdom and full of human errors.

4. The Bible is inspired in thought or substance, but not in wording or expression.

5. The Bible is not a blueprint or guide for people in the 21st century; it is archaic and only a general guide.

6. The Bible cannot be understood alike; therefore, any sincere interpretation is pleasing to God.

And where does the Bible authorize the popular philosophy of our day which says: "It doesn't matter so much what you believe and practice in religion as long as you are sincere and satisfied in your belief and practice"?

Study Your Bible

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Valley Grove Church Of Christ
2110 East Stateline Road
P. O. Box 461
Southaven, MS 38671

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Sunday

Bible Study . . . 9:30 A.M.

Worship 10:30 A.M.

Worship 5:00 P.M.

Wednesday

Bible Study . . . 7:00 P.M.

Phone: 662-342-1132

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