

Turn Neither to the Right or the Left

Joshua 1:6-7

Introduction:

- A. Joshua urges Israel to strictly observe the law as Moses had commanded (cf. Deut 5:32; 17:20)
- B. God always requires strict adherence to his word.
 - 1. Adam and Eve
 - 2. Cain
 - 3. Christians warned not to add nor take from it. (Rev. 22:18-19)
- C. We hope to show than any departure on any subject from God's word – either right or left is wrong.

Discussion:

I. The Subject of *Faith and Works*.

- A. On one hand, some have made salvation solely a matter of faith.
- B. On the other hand, some have made salvation solely a matter of works.
- C. The Bible teaches it is both faith and works (Jas. 2:20-24)

II. The Subject of *Marriage*.

- A. On one hand, some allow no marriages (1 Tim. 4:3)
- B. On the other hand, some allow many marriages.
- C. The Bible teaches marriage his honorable for one man and one woman (Heb. 13:4; Rom. 7:1-3)

III. The Subject of *Worship*.

- A. On one hand, some have spontaneous worship with no particular order.
- B. On the other hand, some have worship that is cold and formal (Matt. 15:8).
- C. The Bible teaches worship in spirit and truth and in an orderly manner (John 4:24; 1 Cor. 14:26-40)

IV. The Subject of *Church Work*.

- A. On one hand, some churches do no work.
- B. On the other hand, some churches do all kinds of work (Support institutions, recreation, etc.)
- C. The Bible teaches some work for the church.
 - 1. Evangelism (Phil. 4:15-17; 2 Cor. 11:8).
 - 2. Edification (Eph. 4:16)
 - 3. Benevolence to needy Saints (Note: all passages on church benevolence is to saints)

V. The Subject of *Bible Classes*.

- A. On one hand, some churches oppose any classes.
- B. On the other hand, some churches create separately organized Sunday Schools.
- C. The Bible teaches the responsibility to teach (Matt. 28:18; Eph. 4:11)
 - 1. But it does not specify the arrangement.
 - 2. Not does it allow for a separate organization.

VI. The Subject of *Preachers*.

- A. On one hand, some oppose a “located preacher.”
- B. On the other hand, some have a “pastor system.”
- C. The Bible teaches that one can locate and preach to congregation without being a “pastor”.
 - 1. He can stay indefinitely (Acts 20:31; 1 Tim. 1:3)
 - 2. He can be paid wages (1 Cor. 9:6-14)

VII. The Subject of *Worldliness*.

- A. One on hand, some try to live out of the world (hermits, monks, etc.)
- B. On the other hand, some are totally of the world (cf. 1 John 2:15, 16)
- C. The Bible teaches us to be in the world, but not of it.
 - 1. Jesus is an example (Luke 5:29-32)
 - 2. Cannot be salt of earth or light of world either by being reclusive or conforming to world.

VIII. The Subject of *Correction*.

- A. On one hand, some a chronic fault-finders (Mark 14:3-9; Matt. 11:16-10)
- B. On the other hand, some complete ignore all behavior of others.
- C. The Bible teaches gentle but firm correction of sinners (Gal. 6:1; 1 Tim. 5:20; Tit. 1:13)

Conclusion:

- A. We must hue the line, varying neither to the right nor the left.
- B. Stand firmly up His word and do all according to his will.