

San Juan Church of Christ

1414 Hawk Parkway, Unit C
Montrose, CO 81401 | (970) 249-8116

What Does God's Word Say About... The Commandments Given By The Apostles

Many today suggest that we will be judged solely on the words of Jesus found in the four gospels: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. It is true that Jesus is the one Lord and only Savior (Eph. 4:5; Acts 4:12). Jesus is the only mediator between God and man, and He is the only sacrifice that can take away sins (1Tim. 2:5; Heb. 9:27-28). None of the above is true of Paul or any of the other apostles who are mere human beings. Jesus, the only begotten son, spoke for God the Father: "He who rejects Me and does not receive My sayings, has one who judges him; the word I spoke is what will judge him at the last day. For I did not speak on My own initiative, but the Father Himself who sent Me has given Me a commandment as to what to say and what to speak," (John 12:48-49). Because of the above scripture many will say that all we need for eternal life with Him in heaven is to "Love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind," which is the great and foremost commandment. The second is like it, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself," (Matthew 22:37-39).

There is a question we need to ask ourselves: "Why would we need to listen to and abide in the commandments written by the apostles and found in the epistles they wrote. And will we be judged by those commandments?" The apostle Paul wrote approximately half of the New Testament, but are these letters really the work of Paul, or did they come from the Lord? Jesus promised the apostles that He would send the Holy Spirit to them. "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you [apostles] all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you," (John 14:26). "But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you [apostle] into all the truth; for He will not speak on His own initiative, but whatever He hears, He will speak; and He will disclose to you what will come," (John 16:13). So, the apostles were the appointed spokesmen for Christ Jesus. He told them, "The one who listens to you listens to Me, and the one who rejects you rejects Me; and he who rejects Me rejects the One who sent Me," (Matt. 10:16).

The apostle Paul never preached "the gospel of Paul." He preached the word of God as given to him by Jesus Christ. Paul wrote "For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but I received it [the gospel] through a revelation of Jesus Christ," (Gal. 1:12). When you read Matthew, Mark, Luke, or John, you are reading the words of Jesus. And when you read Acts through the book of Revelation, you are also reading the words of Jesus. The authors of these books wrote His words, not their own words. Therefore, we will be judged by all of the words and commandments given to us from Matthew through Revelation.

Please send any comments, questions, or requests for a Bible study to:
info@sanjuanchurchofchrist.org