

Man's Made Religion II

By Greg Rangel

In our last article we dealt with the origins of man's religion. We have seen that man has created religion for the purpose of dominating people. Ever since the beginning, man has been a religious creature. Unfortunately though, wicked man has taken advantage of that for the sole purpose of ruling over men's lives as we saw last week with Nimrod in Genesis 10:9-10.

When dealing with the religious leaders, Jesus spoke the truth about their wicked and evil desires. The religious leaders appeared to be so God loving and fearing men, but they were not and Jesus knew that. Jesus addressed the truth with them and went way passed their religious clothing and appearance. And they hated Jesus for it.

Jesus did say to His disciples that "*...the scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat:*" (Matthew 23:1-2). And as we have seen, a better translation of that is that, "*...the scribes and the Pharisees have sitted themselves in Moses' seat.*" Unfortunately, even though with so much warning in the Scriptures about the deceitfulness of man, people have still been so gullible in receiving man's made religion.

This attitude exist's within the Roman Catholic Church. Unfortunately by having a gross interpretation of what Jesus told Peter in Matthew 16, they have "sitted themselves" in Peter's seat, which actually does not exist. They have taken the title "Pope" to do just that. And ever since then, many have been dominated by their heretical doctrines.

One of the many claims of the papacy is described by the National Catholic Almanac; "Receive the tiara adorned with three crowns, and know that thou art the Father of Princes and Kings, Ruler of the World, the Vicar of our Saviour Jesus Christ..." Unfortunately though, Scripture does not teach this.

Jesus taught the contrary to that. Jesus said in Matthew 20:25-28; "*...Ye know that the princes of the gentiles exercise dominion over them, and they that are great exercise authority upon them. But it shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister; and whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant: Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.*"

Jesus said the above reference because the mother of James and John, Jesus' disciples, wanted to have both of her son's in a prominent position in order to be recognized and through that perhaps rule people's lives. But Jesus quickly corrected their thinking. Verse 24 of Matthew 20 tells us that when the ten heard it, they were filled with indignation against the two brethren. Perhaps they were upset because they also wanted to be first.

Mark 9:33-35 says that; *“And he came to Capernaum: and being in the house he asked them, what was it that ye disputed among yourselves by the way? But they held their peace: for by the way they had disputed among themselves, who should be the greatest. And he sat down, and called the twelve, and saith unto them, if any man desire to be first, the same shall be last of all, and servant of all.”*

The word minister actually means servant. Unfortunately though, many of today's “ministers” have forgotten that. In today's world, the “pastor” in many cases is the one being served. Many of today's pastors are treated like kings.

Another fact that Jesus deals with in Matthew 23 that we see that it is so obvious within man's made religion is that religion places many burdens on man's shoulders. Jesus said in verse 4; *“For they bind heavy burdens and grievous to be borne, and lay them on men's shoulders; but they themselves will not move them with one of their fingers.”*

But throughout the Scriptures we see that we no longer need to be under man's made doctrines. The Gospel of Jesus is very simple. 1 Corinthians 15 gives us a clear definition on what the Gospel is. Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 15:3-6; *“...that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; and that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures: and that he was seen of Cephas, then of the twelve: ...”* That is the Gospel of Jesus Christ. There is nothing difficult about it. But why has man made it so difficult with his man made religion?

Pastor Greg Rangel is the Pastor of Edification Calvary Chapel in Harlingen TX. You may reach him via email at gregrangel@msn.com. You can also get more information of his studies at edificationcalvarychapel.org.