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GOD'S SUFFICIENT WORD

Jason Moore

The Bible is like no other book. It reveals the mind of God to man so that when we have the Bible, we can say with Paul, "We have the mind of Christ" (1 Cor. 2:16). God's mind, unlike man's, is "made up." There is no new information that awaits discovery which will change God's mind or alter His decisions. If God failed to think through His will for man or made some accidental oversight, He would not be God. His plan is perfect, complete. It requires no alterations. Who would propose a better organization, or worship, or program of work for the Lord's people than that which the Lord Himself designed? For, "who has known the mind of the Lord, that he should instruct Him?" (1 Cor. 2:16). God's program needs no upgrading. It is sufficient.

God has not only perfectly planned, but perfectly revealed His will to man through the Holy Spirit. The things spoken and written by the apostles and prophets were not said "in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit" (1 Cor. 2:13). That means that, not just the thoughts, but the very words spoken by inspired men are "spiritual" (1 Cor. 2:13). In other words, their source is the Holy Spirit. The mind of God has been articulated by the Spirit so that the written word perfectly expresses what was perfectly planned in the mind of God. Who would propose to add methods or missions or ministries to the Lord's church which the Lord Himself did not assign? For, "who has known the mind of the Lord, that he should instruct Him?" (1 Cor. 2:16). God's word needs no revision. It is sufficient.

God's will has been perfectly planned and perfectly revealed by the Spirit that man might be perfectly informed, "thoroughly equipped for every good work" (2 Tim. 3:17). Man permits himself to be informed and persuaded by God's speech with the same interpretive skills he uses in understanding his teachers, his parents, or his neighbor. We raised three hogs in back of the Moore household and it was my job of a morning to slop them. Dad told me that it was my job. You could say that he commanded me. "Son, you're to feed the hogs before you go to school." That was as plain to me as "Thou shalt feed the hogs." Dad showed me with a Mason jar how much feed to put in the bucket and how to reckon that measurement in accord with the growth of our pigs. He gave me an example to follow as a standard for every future feeding of our pigs. Dad didn't have to tell me every day, "Feed the hogs before you go to school." He told me once. But I understood that, when he said "before you go to school", he meant "every morning." That was a logical conclusion. He implied "every morning" and I inferred that by his speech.

A ten year-old intuitively understands the commands, the examples, the implications of his parent. That's simply the way men communicate with men. It's also the way God communicates with men. God in perfectly expressing His perfect will to man: commands or issues clear statements of approved behavior (Mark 16:16), supplies approved examples that serve as a standard (Acts 20:7), makes necessary implications by which men infer logical conclusions (Heb. 7:12). Who then would propose for the Lord's people to act or to organize in ways or by means which the Lord Himself did not specify with command, approved example, or necessary inference? For, "who has known the mind of the Lord, that he should instruct Him?" (1 Cor. 2:16). God's speech needs no supplement. It is sufficient. *Folsom 8/8/25*

"IT'S JUST THE WAY I AM"

by Larry Schneider

How many times have you heard someone say, "It's just the way I am," or "I call them like I see them?" These phrases seem to pop up after someone has done or said something that is harmful or mean to someone else. Unfortunately, this type of behavior is acceptable in today's society. The problem has also crept into the church with many using these phrases to excuse their behavior. We hear people say, "Yes, I am kind of mean, but what's the big deal?"

At the end of Romans 1, God identifies several individuals who have no favor in His sight. He names “whisperers” or “gossips” (ones who speak secretly into another’s ear.) God admonishes the “backbiters” or “slanderers” (ones who speak evil against others.) He calls out the “insolent” (ones who are arrogantly rude, insulting, and disrespectful to others.) He warns the “proud” or “haughty” (ones who set themselves above others.) He names the “unmerciful” (ones who are ruthless in their treatment of others.) He concludes with “all those who practice such things” and those who “approve of these practices are worthy of death.”

These are “big deals” to God when it comes to our treatment of others. Christians need to think carefully about how they interact with others and what they say. Sometimes it is much better to control one’s tongue than to blurt out something harmful. Following up your behavior with “It’s just the way I am” does not make everything better.

THE WRONG INGREDIENT

Aubrey Belue

From time to time, my daughter, Beth, and I more or less collaborate in making chocolate pies (a family favorite which my wife made spectacularly, and left us a recipe for). We usually make it a team effort, but my part is at the very end, so she starts and essentially does everything but the meringue. My workplace is in the living room, and she was in the kitchen making the pie, when I heard a moan and an “Oh, no!”. She was at the stage where the chocolate filling is supposed to get lumpy before being loaded into the crust, and it was NOT getting lumpy – in fact it was expanding and bubbling over the boiler. We stirred and stirred, let it cool and stirred some more, but nothing helped. So we got another batch, went through the stages, and when it came time for the filling to get lumpy, the same thing happened. After much soul searching and retracing each step, we finally realized that we were mixing baking soda instead of corn starch – it made a world of difference!

In our brotherhood, things are “bubbling up”, and they ought not to be. As always, disturbances – both in cooking and in life – happen because of added or substituted ingredients. There is a “recipe” – a plan to follow, but it requires following to the letter. Any substitutions or additions will radically alter the finished product.

When men disrespect God’s pattern for salvation, and His authority with respect to His church, many things happen, and they are all bad. The irony is that, all too often, men don’t realize they have deviated from it, or feel that a small infraction here and there will not change things. One thing we must remember: open and honest discussion of all the scripture teaches, and a yielding heart that is honest and sincere, is part of the pattern. Limiting those things is a recipe for disaster, and helps to explain the current conditions among us. Even now I am hearing pleas to stay with the pattern, but some come from those who have already significantly deviated from it. The solution is the same one Beth and I had to take – go back to the original recipe, compare it step by step with the steps we have taken, and be open to correction. Our common ground brethren, is still to “NOT GO BEYOND WHAT IS WRITTEN” (1 Cor 4:6)...Our only collective hope is to give more than lip service to it.