

Scott's Thoughts

March 17, 2024



“Now therefore, if I have found favor in your sight, please show me now your ways, that I may know you in order to find favor in your sight. Consider too that this nation is your people.” (Exodus 33:13, ESV)

I read a post on Facebook that really caught my attention, not just because the question asked assumed an error, but the comments made eagerly agreed with that error. When you start out with a bad premise, it will only lead to bad (wrong) answers. The anonymous post assumed that their desire to find a church that completely agreed with their world view exists. I'm sure in this age of everybody doing their own thing that they will eventually find that church. But is that a good goal in life? I know it is a popular goal, but is it a good goal? “Go to the church of your choice” is a phrase I have heard all my life. It has been repeated so often, for so many years, and is so non condemning, that people often take this phrase to heart. But where in scripture is that sentiment located? So, what is our personal goal of religion? Is it to find something to sooth my ear? Is it something that fits my own concept of a special god just for me? Is it to praise, glorify, and honor the God who created the universe we live in?

In the Book of Genesis, God gave Adam and Eve only one “do not.” “Do not eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.” That is exactly what they did, and mankind has continued the practice of ignoring God. At one point in history, the scriptures talked about the people when it says, *“In those days there was no king in Israel. Everyone did what was right in his own eyes.”* Judges 17:6 (ESV) They abandoned Jewish standards, if they thought it in their mind, it became right to them, but it resulted in great confusion. Can you imagine the confusion that would result if this were

the rule for all people today? Is there a standard? Is there a need for a standard?

The Bible is one standard that does not change. From the beginning to the end, the Bible is an everlasting standard. But we sometimes have a problem knowing which translation is right and which is leading us astray. For four hundred years most of the English-speaking world accepted the “Kings James Translation.” It has fallen on hard times lately because it was written in a form of English that's no longer spoken and is understood only by scholars and really old people. The new generation finds the (KJV) difficult to understand and use that difficulty as an excuse to call the Bible unreliable. So, is the Bible in any form just hopelessly not understandable? NO! There are some paraphrased bibles in which a person or a group rewrites the bible in their own words interpreting it to match their own understanding or wishes of what they want the Bible to say. Paraphrased bibles can lead one down the wrong direction. However, Bible translations that are taken directly from the original language, and are reliable for having recorded the original truths of God. There are many translations of the original text, and when examined, teach exactly what God would have us do.

The scriptures tell us that God loves every person, and He does. But even in His wonderful love, grace, and kindness, God requires obedience.

“Teach me, O Lord, the way of your statutes; and I will keep it to the end.” (Psalm 119:33, ESV) *“For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. And his commandments are not burdensome.”* 1 John 5:3 (ESV)

Thanks for listening and keep on shining.

—Scott