Old, New, True?

Jesse LaRue · Acts 17:1–34

INTRODUCTION

- A lot of times in our Christian lives, we maybe feel like we've fallen into a rut. We do the same things week in and week out.
- We've all seen Christians who are always just looking for something new, something exciting, the latest fad.
- This is what we ought to be focused on is God's word. We should be concerned with what it says, not with what man says.

1 Is It Tradition?

Acts 17:1–9; Mark 7:3–8; 2 Thessalonians 2:15

- He reasoned with them from the scriptures, explaining and proving that it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead.
- They were just jealous. They didn't care about the truth. They were closed-minded. They cared only about their tradition, only about their power, only about their influence.
- You leave the commandment of God and hold to the tradition of men.
- Now, that's not to say that tradition can't be good. It can. And often is good. It is good if it is biblical.
- If something is brought to our attention and we're wrong, we must be willing to change.
- That's the way we've always done it. That's not a sufficient answer. We need to go to the Word. We need to go to the Scripture for answers.

2 Is It New?

Acts 17:16–34; Romans 16:17–18; 2 Peter 2:1–3

- Now all the Athenians and the foreigners who live there would spend their time in nothing except telling or hearing something new.
- Just because it is new does not make it wrong. Paul's words were very new to them.
- If something is new, and we examine it, and it doesn't jive with this, if it doesn't fit in line with what God's word says, then we need to stay away from it.
- We need to beware of change just for change's sake.
- Is it authorized by the scriptures? If it is not authorized, it is sinful. If it is authorized, then it is fine.
- If we are constantly searching for the new that typically leads away from God's word.

3 Is It True?

Acts 17:10–12

- They received the word with all eagerness, examining the scriptures daily to see if these things were so.
- Frankly, it doesn't matter if it's old. It doesn't matter if it's new. What matters is it true? Is it what God says?
- We need to be open-minded yet critical, inquisitive, and curious. We need to ask the right questions. And we need to seek the right answers from the right sources.
- We need to search the scriptures to find the answers. We need to look at the right source.
- Here was a group of both Jews and Greeks who were willing to accept the truth, even though it was new, because the scriptures bore it out to be so.

THE CHALLENGE

Are we following his commands? Are we coming to him and to his word as the source of truth? Are we searching the scriptures daily to find out if what is preached to us, if what I am saying here, is correct?

MY NOTES