



Mike King-Minister

BIBLE TALK

Question: Does each individual have the right to his own belief?

Answer: Yes, if one is not selective about where he spends his eternity! One of the most important things in religion is to be submissive to God's will. We must strive to please God in all things as did Jesus (Heb. 5:8,9). It is not "*he who commends himself... approved, but whom the Lord commends*" (2 Cor. 10:18). We can know the will of the Lord by study of His word

(Jn. 8:32; 2 Tim. 2:15).

God warns against following our own instincts and wishes (Rom. 15:4). God is no respecter of persons (Acts 10:34, 35), demanding and expecting our lives to be lived according to faith (Heb. 11:4), for if it is not of faith, it is sin (Rom. 14:23). This faith comes from God's word, not from man's own biased opinions, regardless of how sincere one might be. God's response to Cain is an example of His disdain for religious improvising (Gen. 4:3-5). Naaman the leper could find healing by God's way, though suggested some ways of his own (2 Kings 5:1-14). Though Paul performed his duties with a good conscience, he made havoc of the church (Acts 26:9, 10; 23:1). When he submitted to the Lord's will, he found release from his guilt (Acts 22:16).

We must subscribe to the true gospel (Gal. 1:8), avoiding beliefs and teachings of different doctrines (I Tim. 1:13). We are to hold to sound words and speak that which befits sound doctrine (2 Tim. 1:13). Can you justify your beliefs by God's word or do you have to appeal to "I believe" for a convictional foundation, some of which may even be contrary to God's wishes?

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