

cup. Man's way is to eat "these wafers and drink these cups" (where each person has his/her own personal wafer and individual cup).

GOD'S WAY	MAN'S WAY
Abel: Offering firstborn lamb to God	Cain: Offering vegetables to God
Nadab & Abihu: Fire from Bronze Altar	Fire from somewhere else (strange fire)
Naaman: Healed by dipping 7 times in the river Jordan	Healed by prayer or by dipping in the Damascus Rivers
Baptized by burial (submersion in water).	Sprinkled or having water poured on you
Salvation through grace, faith, & water baptism	Salvation through saying the sinner's prayer
Monetary offering on the first day of each week	Monetary offerings other days besides Sunday
Remembering Jesus as we all drink from one cup and break one loaf.	Remembering Jesus as each person drinks from his own personal cup and eats his own wafer

SERVING GOD ZEALOUSLY YOUR OWN WAY

Many sincere religious people have the illusion that they are zealously serving God in their own way, when actually they are not serving God at all (Proverbs 14:12). God wants his instructions to be carried out exactly as they are outlined in the New Testament. Anything else is vain worship.

Mark 7:7 — Jesus said their worship was VAIN (to no purpose) because they were teaching as doctrines of God the commandment of _____.

Romans 10:1-3 — Israel had a _____ for God, but not _____ to knowledge. Many today are very zealous for God (they pray fervently, attend their church faithfully, help the needy, read the Bible, talk to others about Jesus) yet they are not acting in accordance to the knowledge revealed in the Holy Scriptures. They are seeking to establish their _____ righteousness, rather than humbly submit to the righteousness of God. God will reject them and their worship because they refuse to strictly adhere to His methods and procedures presented in the holy Scriptures.

Matthew 7:21-23 — Merely believing in the Lord, and crying out, "Lord, Lord" is insufficient; we must do the _____ of the Father in heaven. Many religious people today prophesy in the name of Jesus and do many wonderful works in the name of Jesus, but they are not doing the will of the Father in the New Testament. Will all religious people who do not carefully follow God's pattern be excluded from the heavenly kingdom? _____

Summary: We may not understand or even agree with God's instructions, but we must respect them and follow them. In our next lesson, we will learn about the great apostasy and the origin of modern denominations.

OPEN BIBLE STUDIES

By Paul Melton

ACCORDING TO THE PATTERN

Lesson 13



Name _____

Address _____

Directions: Please locate in your Bible the following references and read each verse carefully before answering each question.

We live in an age in which everyone does "whatever" he or she wants. As Deuteronomy 12:8 says "every man does what is right in his own eyes." However, man is incapable of determining for himself how he should live and worship God (Jeremiah 10:23). Therefore, God has established a pattern in which he explains to us in exact detail how He wants us to live and worship him. To reject God's pattern (his way of doing things) is to reject God.

Hebrews 8:5 — In building the tabernacle, Moses had to construct it

_____ to the pattern shown him by God on the mount Sinai.

2 Timothy 1:13— Today we are to hold fast to the _____ of sound words delivered by the apostles.

When you were a small child learning handwriting, you were probably given a workbook with the ABC's, upper case and lower case letters in cursive. You would do your best to write your letters exactly like the pattern or form of the letters in the workbook. Maybe the teacher even took your hand in hers and guided you to make your letters as much like the model as possible.

In the same way today, God has laid out in the Bible a pattern of how the church is to worship Him, and of how we are to conduct ourselves as Christians. In everything we do religiously and in our personal life we must adhere to God's will precisely as it is laid out in the New Testament.

GOD REQUIRES THAT EVERYTHING BE DONE HIS WAY

Genesis 6:22 — God told Noah to build an ark and told him the type of wood to use, the exact dimensions, and that it was to have one window and one door. Noah did according to _____ that God commanded him. If Noah had departed from the pattern and decided to put two windows in the ark or had used some pine wood instead of only gopher wood, would God have been pleased? _____

Joshua 1:8 — The Israelites were commanded to “do _____ to all that was written” in the book of the law.

Galatians 2:14— The apostle Paul saw that some were not walking uprightly _____ to the truth of the gospel.

GOD’S WAY VERSUS MAN’S WAY

John 4:23,24 — Contrary to what many people believe, God is very strict about the way he wants to be served. Verse 24 states that those who

worship Him _____ worship Him in spirit and in _____. Has God left us the option to sing, pray, celebrate the Lord’s supper, give offerings in any way we deem best? _____ Is it mandatory that we worship God in truth, in the exact way He specified in His word? _____ (Col.3:16). The three following Bible stories illustrate God’s insistence upon strict obedience.

Genesis 4:3-7— Cain brought a vegetable offering to God while Abel brought a firstborn lamb. Apparently, according to verse 7, God had requested an animal sacrifice and Abel acting out of faith obeyed God, while Cain by offering vegetables did not act out of faith and therefore did not do well. As a matter of fact, _____ was lying at Cain’s door because Cain decided to do things His way rather than God’s (Heb.11:4).

Leviticus 10:1,2— These two priests, Nadab and Abihu intended to worship God by burning incense in the tabernacle. However, God required the priests to get the fire for the incense from the Bronze Altar (Lev.16:12). Instead they chose to offer _____ fire before the Lord, which he had _____ commanded them. Many people would reason today that it is unimportant where the fire came from as long as these priests were sincere and were trying to worship God from the heart. However, because they chose to depart from God’s prescribed way of doing things, even in such a seemingly minor detail, did God rain fire upon them from heaven which devoured them? _____

2 Kings 5:1,9-14— Naaman, a general in the Syrian army, had the incurable disease of leprosy. He was told that in Israel there was someone who could cure him. He went to the house of the prophet Elisha. Elisha sent

his servant out to him and told him to go and _____ in the river

Jordan _____ times and that he would be healed. Immediately, Naaman began to devise his own way to procure his healing. First he

suggested that the prophet should come out and pray and wave his _____ over the infected place. Then he suggested, dipping in the rivers of

_____, instead of the river Jordan as God commanded. Finally he agreed to obey God exactly as God specified and was healed of his leprosy. Would Naaman have been healed if he had dipped in a different river other than the Jordan? _____ Would God have accepted Naaman if he had decided to dip 6 times rather than seven? _____ The specific instructions and pattern laid out by God had to be performed exactly as God stipulated in order to effect Naaman’s healing.

Colossians 2:12— Today God has given us a specific pattern for

baptism. We must be _____ with Christ in baptism. We are buried in water, just as Jesus was buried in a tomb. If we sprinkle or pour, are we following God’s pattern? _____ Will God be pleased with a baptism that is not a burial? _____

John 9:31; 1 Peter 3:12,21— God does not hear _____,

but if anyone is a worshipper of God and _____ his will, He hears him. God’s way of being saved is NOT by saying a sinner’s prayer asking Jesus for forgiveness. For God to even hear a sinner’s prayer, he must first stop sinning and do God’s will which includes baptism. 1 Peter 3:21 states

that “baptism does also now _____ us.” The sinner’s prayer is a way man has invented to obtain salvation; baptism is God’s way.

1 Corinthians 16:1,2— God’s way is to give a monetary offering on the _____ day of the week. Man’s way is to take up an offering on the second or third day of the week (Monday or Tuesday) or any other day he wishes.

1 Corinthians 11:23-26— God’s way is to follow the example of Jesus.

According to verse 26, God expects us to “eat _____ bread and drink _____