Why Does It Matter Which Church You Attend?

David Banning

INTRODUCTION

- It really does not matter what particular church someone belongs to as long as he or she loves God.
- Maybe it shouldn't surprise us, but folks, it should disturb us. It does matter what church one chooses to be a part of.
- All churches are not the same, but in reality are different in significant ways.

1 Not All Churches Concerned About the Unity of God's People

John 17:20–23; Galatians 1:6–8; 1 Corinthians 4:17

- Wherever Paul went, whatever city, whatever church he was preaching in, he taught the same things because there was a unity of message.
- I do not ask in behalf of these alone, but for those also who believe in me through their word, that they all may be one.
- Paul's response is not to praise their broad-mindedness or commend them for having options, but to call them to unity.
- God hates division as much now as he did then.
- People who are looking for the unity of all believers based not on some arbitrary law we make up, but based on the word of God, which is the basis of all unity.

2 Not All Churches Accept the Bible as Inspired

2 Timothy 3:16; Matthew 7:21–23

- The vast majority of our religious world either questions the inspiration of the Scripture or has figured out a way to get around its authority.
- When you say some but not all, we're just wide open to do what we want to do to pick and choose.
- The bottom line is that men are figuring out a way to substitute their will for God's.
- Not everyone who says to me, Lord, will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.
- We need to choose to be part of a church that is committed to do God's will and only his will as it is revealed in his word.

3 Not All Churches Teach God's Plan for Saving Men

Matthew 25:46; John 3:16; Acts 2:38

- That may be the one issue about which there is more division than any other.
- Jesus taught that not everyone will go to heaven.

- Peter told those believers to repent. And each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins.
- There are a lot of people today marketing a plan of salvation that is not the Lord's.
- If the plan didn't matter, why have one? That God gave one indicates that it is critical.
- We need to be sure that whatever church we're a part of teaches that same plan for how man is saved that is revealed in Scripture.

4 Not All Churches Teach Bible Morality

2 Timothy 4

- There are many churches who have turned their backs on basic Bible teachings on issues of morality.
- Many churches are looking the other way when it comes to fornication.
- Getting to heaven involves getting right with God and living right before Him.
- I need to choose a church that teaches the kind of morality that we find in Scriptures. A church that will teach that whether folks like it or not.
- We need to be the kind of people who will hear it. At times who will feel guilty because it indicts our lives.
- Not all churches are the same. And my salvation hangs in the balance with the decision I make.

> THE CHALLENGE
>
> **South Bumby does not have a plan of salvation. Jesus Christ does. And this morning what we'd like to ask you is have you obeyed that plan?**

MY NOTES