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**When Man’s Will Trumps God’s Will, Satan Wins!**

Let me start with a question: Is it okay to assume something?  Sure it is!  As long as you know that you are making an assumption.  In other words, you can assume something, as long as you do not treat it as fact.  An example: If you are turning right into traffic and the car approaching from the left has their right turn signal on, you make your right turn and the car from the left comes straight through and hits you;  you assumed they were going to turn when the fact was they were coming straight through.  All too often in many of our churches today things are based on assumptions and not facts.  Things may be done a certain way due to what has been done by way of tradition; what man has passed down to man; it may be assumed to be correct or factual, in reality it does not align with the factual Word of God.  Why do the leaders of most denominational churches do things a certain way? Is it because of man’s will?  Is it pride, ego or power?  Or, is it just because they are confused themselves?  Maybe it is just the way “things have always been done”?  For any of these reasons, it does not make it right and Satan is the only one that it pleased.  Satan wins!

I am an educator in the post-secondary setting.  I train surgical technologist.  I am providing this information to give you another example where compromises occur due to tradition.  There is one hospital where I place students in the operating room where they practice compromises of “best practices”.  When sterile solutions are opened in the operating room, to irrigate wounds, they are to be fully dispensed and not re-capped; this is due to the great potential of contaminating the edge of the container when re-capping it, and the next time the solution is dispensed the solution may no longer be sterile, leading to the possibility of infection, loss of limb, or even death for the patient.  When I inquired of this practice I was told two things, “Oh, we have done studies and it is okay”, and “Oh, that’s the way we have always done it.”  Does this make it right?  Of course not!  In reality, it is a cost saving for the hospital, but, at what potential cost for the patient?  They are assuming it is okay, when in reality (fact) it is a compromise of “best practices”.

I believe it was Voltaire that said, “Man’s greatest vice is the need to know”.  And, if things that preachers may be saying do not seem to align with God’s word, then I “need to know”!  I want to study, and better understand His Word, so that I may become a stronger ambassador.  What is the best commentator on the Bible?  The Bible itself!  In 350 B.C. the Greek Orator Demosthenes said, “That which a man wishes, he generally believes to be true.”  This is what most of our preachers have done today!  If they follow traditions, do things over and over the same way because that is the way they want it to be, they have mentally conditioned themselves to believe these practices passed down by man to be factual.  When in reality, they are making assumptions and not facts, when it does not align with Gods’ Word; Gods Will!   They cannot be open-minded because they are too entrenched with these traditions; Satan is subtle and enjoys keeping them “in the dark”.

Things continue to be all mixed up when presented from most pulpits today. Right division is not occurring.  The Kingdom Gospel and the Gospel of Grace are presented as one in the same.  Many times in the sermons I hear where I attend a Baptist Church, they get Christ to the cross, or dead and buried as their sins have been covered, yet they do not expound on the risen Lord and Savior. It is almost as though the church leaders “hold a secret”.  Every Sunday morning we hear, “Now if you want to know how to be saved, you come down front and one of our men or women will take you to a back room and explain it to you.”  Really?  Why don’t we just hear it from the pulpit?  Man’s tradition? Man’s control?  Man’s pride?  Man’s ego?  Man’s power?  Man’s will?  No wonder so many people look like “deer in the headlights”!  They are confused!  To be saved it is faith and faith alone!  If we have faith in Christ and what He has done for us, went to cross, died and paid for our sins, and rose on the third day, we are saved!  Through our belief (faith) in what He has done (the facts of the Bible, taking Him at His Word), via His Mercy, Grace and Faithfulness, salvation is pure and simple (1 Corinthians 15:1-4).  As long as Man’s will supersedes God’s will, Satan wins and many souls will be lost; it is so disheartening!  In the operating room a life may be lost, from the pulpit a soul may be lost for all eternity!  Keep it simple and spread the Word of God as He intended.

In Christ’s Love,

Joe