

DID JESUS BREAK THE LAW OF MOSES?

Liberals and other “antinomian” folk (those who do all they can to get away from obeying the Law of Christ) have forever sought to undermine “thus saith the Lord” by searching for loop-holes or otherwise alleging that “Jesus didn’t really mean that,” or “that was different than now,” or some other foolish justification for sin.

A few years back it was trendy to employ a style of writing called “hyperbole” which simply means “extreme exaggeration” to try to make a point. Such was employed by Andre Resner of ACU who alleged that our Master was a bastard child. In those days, Rubel Shelly and a couple other liberal digressives started a new publication called “Wineskins,” which was a tool used to smear the Lord's church and anyone who held to the verbal, plenary, and complete inspiration of the Bible.

In those days also, another attempt was made to try to “prove” that one need not really pay too close attention to what the Bible teaches, as “God is not interested in law-keeping as much as loving.” Dan Anders wrote an article published in **Wineskins** (Vol.2, No.4, Sep-Oct 1993), page 16 and following, which he entitles "**Jesus Challenges Culture.**" Within this article he makes the classic blunder regarding Jesus' attitude toward the Law and how He lived in view of it, alleging and implying that our Master had little regard for the Law as a "rule book" and in fact disregarded it when dealing with a certain leper.

To impugn our Lord's character and sinless life while He was upon this earth is a serious matter indeed. We will assume, however that Anders is working from ignorance and was not truly indicting our sinless Savior. It is gross error to claim that Jesus "challenged" culture, when such claims imply that He had little regard for "thus saith the Lord" from the Old Testament. The gospel of Christ fits any/every culture of men. It will indeed challenge some

of the practices of those cultures when it binds where God has not, or looses where God has not. If this is what our writer meant, he would have done well to have made that more clear. Rather, he assumes that "culture" in his article was the non-essential observances of the Law of Moses. There is a difference between culture and law. The Law of Moses was not designed for every culture...the law of Christ is, in that people of any culture may become and live as Christians with God's full approval. Anders leaves us with the feeling that God does not care if people will not abide by His Law, just so the "loving thing" is done.

Within the body of this work, Anders has two sub-titles, "Jesus Challenges Traditional Rules," and "Jesus Challenges Traditional Fellowship." Now, when we find such language within such papers as **Wineskins**, we know to expect the typical fare of those who have been lead to believe that God does not make a "big deal" of "rules," and that He is only a God of "love." We are encouraged to swallow the bilge that God would have us to fellowship "almost anyone" (even as do those associated with this pseudo-gospel paper). His bottom line seems to be that in whatever society (culture) deems as important to itself, the Gospel of Christ must accommodate itself to that. Just the opposite is the truth of the matter, the Lord does not challenge culture so much as the morals of that culture. Anders ought to have made this distinction.

His article is a parallel with those who foolishly claim that Jesus broke the Sabbath Law (even as the Pharisees charged Him), having gone through the fields with His disciples and eaten on the Sabbath (see Mt.12:1-8). They thus charge Him with practicing "situation ethics." The point Jesus made on that occasion was, though his disciples may have done that which was contrary to the traditions of the Pharisees, it was **not** against the Law for them to eat from the field on the Sabbath. **Part II Of This Article Follows Next Time...**

A Dangerous Statement:

“Any church not teaching the New Testament truth on baptism is not the Lord's church.”

As it stands, this statement is true, but not sufficient and not complete. The reason it can be dangerous is because of what it also implies. That is: “Any church that teaches the New Testament truth on baptism IS the Lord's church.” This IS NOT a true statement. Such thinking is terribly misleading. Here's why...

There are quite a number of denominations that teach what the Bible teaches about all manner of truths. Many of them teach that Jesus is the only begotten of God, The Father. Well and good, but not sufficient. Many of them will teach that we ought to occasionally eat the Lord's supper. This is good too, but woefully inadequate because of what else they say about the frequency of the supper. Many denominations teach what the Bible says about prayer, good deeds, faith, repentance, *ad infinitum!* Do these doctrines ALONE make them the Lord's church? **Not At All!**

A few of the denominations that teach what may appear to be what the Bible says about baptism are: certain Primitive Baptists, some Catholic parishes, most if not all of the cults called “Jehovah's Witnesses” and “Mormons” and the so-called “Christian Church.” All of these will say one must be immersed “for the forgiveness of sins” in order to be a part of what they consider to be their church. These are not the Lord's church, nor are they “branches” of the Lord's church. The main problem here: NOT A ONE teaches what the Bible says about THE KINGDOM. They do not know that the kingdom *IS* the Lord's church. They miss it every time!

RAGER ROAD CHURCH OF CHRIST

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SCHEDULE OF SERVICES:

SUNDAY MORNING	BIBLE STUDY	9:30 A.M.
	WORSHIP	10:30 A.M.
SUNDAY EVENING	WORSHIP	6:00 P.M.
WEDNESDAY	BIBLE STUDY	7:30 P.M.
Preachers:	Robin W. Haley	614-751-1082
	James Grayson	614-409-0941

September 20, 2009

Weekly Budget: \$1360.00

Wednesday's Wisdom:

“Hold to the really true and valuable things: your soul, the Gospel, the church, and her worship!” Austin Truss

Howie Bell's mom is still very ill, perhaps failing. Pray for this family.

Brandi Grayson is feverish down at school. Pray that she will recover soon so that her school work will not suffer with her.

Men's meeting minutes are available on the bulletin table in the foyer.

Thanks to the provider of a new, 22" lawn mower for the church's use. Robin is VERY grateful! It does a great job.