

Some False Standards of Authority In Religion

One's Conscience Is A False Standard of Authority In Religion

- The word “conscience” can be defined as “an inner feeling viewed as acting as a guide to do that which is right or wrong.”**
- The apostle Paul was once guided by his feelings or conscience, and he practiced things that were wrong. (Acts 26:9-11)**
- Remember, one's inner feelings can be wrong, and they can lead one astray. Therefore, do not rely upon your conscience as a standard of authority in religion today, knowing that, “There is a way that seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death” (Proverbs 14:12).**

The Wisdom of Men Is A False Standard of Authority In Religion

- The words “wisdom of men” denote “human wisdom or philosophical wisdom.”**
- Our faith, along with our religious practices must not be in, or through our own thinking or in the wisdom of men. (1 Corinthians 1:18-25, 2:1-5)**
- May we all know that God’s ways and man’s ways are different (Isaiah 55:8-9). Therefore, remember, and never forget, “It is better to trust in the LORD than to put confidence in man” (Psalm 118:8).**

The Traditions of Men Is A False Standard of Authority In Religion

- “Traditions of men” can be defined as “a long-established custom or belief that has been passed down from one generation to another.”**
- Paul was once involved in religious error, because he followed the traditions of men.(Galatians 1:13-14)**
- We must not allow traditions of men to cause us to transgress the commandments of God, and we must beware of it. (Matthew 15:1-9; Colossians 2:8)**

Following What The Majority Does Is A False Standard of Authority In Religion

- The word “majority” denotes “a number or a percentage equaling more than half a total.” It’s simply defined as “the greater number.”**
- We must realize that just because the majority may do a thing that does not make that thing right to do. (Matthew 7:13-14)**

The Theory “It Does Good, So It Must Be Right” Is A False Standard of Authority In Religion

- When people say “It does good, therefore it must be right” (i.e. lawful or scriptural) they are using a theory that the end justifies the means.**
- We must recognize that we cannot do unlawful things that good may result. (Romans 3:3-8)**

The Law of Moses Is A False Standard In Religion Today

- Many fail to realize that the law of Moses served its purpose, it has been done away with, and it does not serve as our standard of authority in religion today. (Galatians 3:19-25; Colossians 2:11-14)**
- It was the death of Christ that took the law of Moses out of the way, and therefore put into force the New Testament. (Hebrews 8:16-17)**
- We are not under the law of Moses today, but we are under the law of Christ today (Galatians 6:2), and those who attempt to be justified by the law of Moses have fallen from grace. (Galatians 5:1-4)**

God's Plan of Salvation

- **Hear the word of God. (Romans 10:17)**
- **Believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God. (John 8:24)**
- **Repent of your sins. (Luke 13:3,5; Acts 17:30)**
- **Confess Jesus Christ. (Romans 10:9-10)**
- **Be baptized into Christ for the remission of your sins. (Acts 2:38; Galatians 3:27-29)**
- **Remain faithful unto death. (Revelation 2:10)**