

It Really Happened

by Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian Church

Romans 1:25, "Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen."

This verse reminds me of something that happened years ago. I know it will sound funny, but it is a true story. My wife made a cake for a homecoming dinner after a revival. One lady liked it so well that she asked for the recipe. It was given to her and forgotten about for awhile. Sometime later my wife asked her if she had tried the recipe. The lady was a little uncomfortable talking about it, saying that she made it but it didn't turn out as good as what my wife made.

Once she got to talking about it she mentioned that she didn't care for one of the ingredients so she left it out. Lacking another ingredient she substituted something else that she thought would work. I think there might have been some other changes that she made as well. There seemed to be a surprise when it didn't turn out as good as the one my

wife made. This really happened and we have wondered about it ever since. I think I know why there was such a difference between the two cakes.

You know, in the same way some people have changed the "Recipe," or plan, of salvation that God has given us. Then folks wonder why there is such a difference in those who say that they believe in, and follow, the Lord Jesus. If a person changes anything in a plan then it is not the same as the original plan. It has been modified and changed from what it was. In the plans of man some changes improve a plan, but when the plan is given by God then all a man can do is mess it up by trying to change it. Once this happens then it is no longer God's plan, it has become some poor imitation.

As the lady left out an ingredient that she didn't like, some have left out baptism. Why? It is simple, they don't like it and think that it is not important, even though Jesus said to do it. God is the master and his word is not to be changed at all. Deuteronomy 12:32. What thing soever I command you, observe to do it: thou shalt not add thereto, nor diminish from it. These are only two of the scriptures that show, in both Old and New Testaments, that God says to leave his word alone. Revelations

22:18 For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: 19 And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.

Could this be any plainer? I don't see how it could be for he clearly says to leave his word as it is and all man can do is accept and believe it or reject it. No man, or group of men, have the authority to modify anything that the Almighty God has said. To do so is the most foolish thing that a man can do.

Will there be those men, and women, at the judgment who will be confused like the lady who changed the recipe? Standing there wondering why it didn't work for all they did was to make a few changes that didn't seem to be that big of a deal. Surely they meant well and tried to make it more appealing for more people. If we look at the bible we see that the Lord always does what he said that he would do. We had better seek to live according to his word and not try to change his word to fit us.

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JEPHTHAH'S DAUGHTER!

JEPHTHAH, WHO JUDGED ISRAEL FOR SIX YEARS, WHEN HE WENT TO WAR WITH THE AMMONITES, MADE A VOW UNTO THE LORD THAT SHOULD HE BE VICTORIOUS HE WOULD SACRIFICE, FOR A BURNT OFFERING, WHATEVER FIRST CAME TO HIM OUT OF HIS HOUSE, ON HIS RETURN TO IT, AFTER THE VICTORY! (JUDGES 11:30,31). IT WAS HIS ONLY CHILD, HIS DAUGHTER, WHO RUSHED OUT TO GREET HIM ON HIS RETURN. HIS DAUGHTER AGREED THAT HE HAD TO KEEP HIS VOW, BUT ONLY AFTER SHE HAD TWO MONTHS TO BEWAIL HER VIRGINITY IN THE MOUNTAINS. THIS BECAME A CUSTOM, DOWN THROUGH THE YEARS, FOR THE ISRAELITE MAIDENS TO GO INTO THE MOUNTAINS, FOUR DAYS A YEAR, TO LAMENT FOR THE DAUGHTER OF JEPHTHAH, THE GILEADITE! (JUDGES 11:40).



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