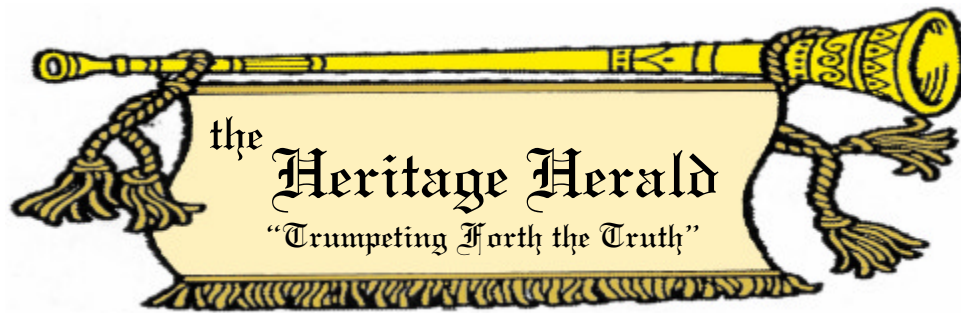




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Right Living is Not Legalism

James 4:17, "Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin."

We have a sad phenomenon in churches today. There is a continuing compromise against right living. What preachers appear to be preaching is, "If you think something is wrong for you, it is wrong. If you think it is alright for you, then it is alright."

If I am against something that another preacher is not, then I am labeled as a bad leader and a legalist. It appears that "legalism" has become the compromiser's excuse to override the clear teachings of Scripture.

FIRST: WHO DECIDES WHAT IS RIGHT OR WRONG? (II TIMOTHY 3:16)

Some are quick to say, "That's YOUR opinion," but what we must consider is two-fold. First: IS there such a thing as RIGHT and WRONG? Second: WHO DECIDES the standard for right and wrong?

If one man's opinion is as good as another, then there is no right or wrong. If there is no set standard for right and wrong, then the homosexual's lifestyle is just as right as the pure child. If there is no standard of right and wrong, then the doctor that performs abortions on demand is no more right or wrong than anyone else. If everyone's opinion of what is right and wrong is as good as the next man's opinion, we have chaos.

The philosophy of Israel before her first fall was, "... every man did that which was right in his own eyes." (*Judges 21:25*)

SECOND: THE STANDARD FOR RIGHT AND WRONG IS THE WORD OF GOD.

Psalms 119:128, "Therefore I esteem all thy precepts concerning all things to be right."

Notice *Leviticus 18:22, "Thou shalt not lie with mankind as with womankind: it is abomination."* Leviticus, Chapter 18, is an entire chapter on nakedness. Although most Christians still consider bestiality wrong, they no longer consider homosexuality wrong, or dressing improperly wrong. Many see nothing wrong with dressing scantily. Many see nothing wrong with mixed bathing, yet God calls it an abomination. How many cases of incest have taken place in homes where passions have been inflamed by immodesty among family members? How many boys and girls have been raised in homes that practiced immodest dress and now live lives of promiscuity?

THIRD: THE PRAYER LIFE OF THE CHURCH-SKIPPER.

Proverbs 28:9, "He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer shall be an abomination."

The person who makes a choice not to hear the preaching of God's Word rarely takes time to pray. The truth is we need to hear God's Word preached often to increase our faith. (*Romans 10:17*)

FOURTH: DON'T THROW AWAY THE RULE BOOK JUST BECAUSE YOU'RE SAVED. (ROMANS 6:13-19)

Jesus set me free FROM sin—He did not set me free to sin! Also, sin does not change from bad to good when a person receives Christ. God did not throw away the Book and say, "Now that you are saved, you can do anything you want and it won't matter."

IN CONCLUSION:

May God awaken us to the fact that the Bible is the rule for standards. May God awaken churches to put away false idols and ask for the old paths. May it happen soon so that God will heal our land.