



4050 80th Avenue North, Pinellas Park, Fl

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SKYVIEW BULLETIN

WHAT STANDARD TO YOU USE?



About twelve years ago, NASA launched an orbiter that carried a large cargo of equipment designed to observe weather data on Mars and send the information back to the Earth.

This piece of equipment cost in excess of \$327 million. After a journey lasting about nine months the orbiter finally reached Mars. As it began an orbit of the planet it got too close to the surface of Mars and was burned up in the atmosphere.

The cause of this catastrophic accident was a problem in the communication system. The software that provided the steering information used English units of measurement, but the space craft

was designed to receive instructions in metric. The orbiter was destroyed because the software spoke a different language that could not be understood by the orbiter.

There is a spiritual incompatibility that will result in a far greater consequence than the costly loss of this orbiter. There are many different systems of faith in the religious world. They differ from each other and are as compatible with each other as are the different systems of measurement. Many religious groups accept as a standard of authority something other than the Bible. They have their creeds, disciplines, catechisms and church manuals. Not only do these various creeds speak a different language from each other, they all speak a different language than God's inspired Word. When one follows a different standard of religious authority, the result will be a different religion. Some even have written their own Bibles, which they claim came by the inspiration of God. We need to realize that a different standard of authority will always produce a different religion.

Paul addressed the saints in 1 Corinthians 1, and admonished them to follow the same religious standard. They were instructed to allow no divisions among them and to speak the same thing and to be perfectly joined together in the same mind (1 Cor. 1:10). To "speak the same thing," demands the same standard of religious authority. One group cannot speak one thing while another group speaks something else and expect religious unity to exist. We may have some wonderful religious friends and neighbors, but if we are not all speaking the same thing the results will end in spiritual disaster.

Jesus prayed that His followers all be one even as He and the Father were one (John 17:21). The purpose of this unity was so that the world would believe that Christ was sent by the Father. When people look at the divided religious world, with different groups preaching a different message and using a different standard of authority, it is no wonder people are turned off by religion. We will crash spiritually when we don't speak the same thing.

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ELDERS

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DEACONS

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Frank Edwards
Jim Ingram
George Loyd
Andy Murray
Dennis Trask
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PREACHER

Charles Murray

MEN WE SUPPORT

*William Stewart--Kingston, Canada
Bob Owen — Trip to Europe
Mike Mendez —trip to Cuba*

WORSHIP TIMES

SUNDAY

Worship.....9:30 A.M.
Classes.....10:50 A.M.
Worship.....6:00 P.M.

WORSHIP PLACE

4050 80th Ave N
PO Box 3118
Pinellas Park, Fla. 33780

WEB: skyviewchurch.org

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**MAY 2010 BE THE BEST
YEAR EVER!**

In Ephesians 4:13, we are told we are to come unto the unity of the faith. Again this requires a standard of authority that everyone accepts and follows. This is not possible when each person accepts his own standard. The result of this is confusion and chaos.

Some may remember in the 1970's when American automobile manufacturers were converting to metric bolts. Many of the cars had half metric and half SAE bolts. It was very confusing when working on a car because you did not know which size wrench to use. It is just as confusing in the religious world. One group believes one thing and another group believes something else.

The only way the unity that Jesus prayed for and Paul admonished the Corinthians to have is for everyone to accept the same standard of authority in religion. If we have a standard of authority, there are three things necessary. *First*, it must be accepted as a standard of authority. In the realm of weights and measures, everyone accepts the same standard. *Second*, a standard of authority must be understood alike by everyone. Imagine people disagreeing about the standard used to measure length. One could say, a foot has 13 inches, another might say no, it only has 11. One could say, if there was a disagreement, "that's just your interpretation." We realize this does not happen with standards of measurement. We all understand and accept these standards the same. *Third*, it must be recognized as a standard. When we apply these principles to religion, we can have unity.

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Spirit" (2 Peter 1:20,21). If the word of God is not a standard of authority in religious things, then we don't have one at all. If we don't have a standard then it makes no difference what we believe. But if we do have a standard then we must accept it as a standard, we must not interpret it differently and we recognize it as authoritative. What standard do you follow? God's standard or man's?

When it comes to God's plan of redemption men disagree. Their disagreement is because of a failure to accept the New Testament as God's standard. There are many different doctrines taught about how we are saved. Some say it is by faith only. Others say it is by a direct operation of the Holy Spirit. Others say that God has predestinated certain ones to be saved and certain ones to be lost. Some believe that everyone is going to be saved regardless of what they teach or believe.

What does the standard of authority say? It says we must have faith, (Heb. 11:6). It teaches that we must repent, that is, we must die to sin (Luke 13:3). God's standard says we must confess our faith in Christ as the Son of God (Rom. 10:9,10) and the standard says we are to be baptized into Christ (Gal. 3:27), for the remission or forgiveness of our sins (Acts 2:38, Acts 22:16).

The Mars Climate Orbiter crashed and burned because of the incompatibility of the communication systems between the orbiter and the software that steered it. We will crash and burn when we allow ourselves to heed a message that is incompatible with the word of God.

What standard do you use to determine what you believe and practice in religion? This is important. We will court spiritual disaster when we use a standard other than the word of God. A shared frame work of faith is where we must begin. Secular humanism, liberal Protestantism and all other religious groups not found in the Bible either deny or discount the standard of faith presented in the scriptures. A different standard will always produce a different religion. May we all be united in doctrine, worship and practice by following God's standard of authority.



Adult

Auditorium

New class

beginning in

January:

The Life Of Christ

GOD'S

PLAN OF SALVATION

Believe—Heb. 11:6

Repent—Luke 13:3

Confess—Rom. 10:9

Be Baptized—

Mk.16:16, Acts 2:38,

1 Pet. 3:21