

**3-14-21 Message**  
**SINCERELY WRONG**  
**MISTAKEN SERVICE FOR GOD**

Scripture Reading:

Romans 10:1 Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that they might be saved.

Romans 10:2 For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge.

Romans 10:3 For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God.

II Timothy 2:5 And if a man also strive for masteries, yet is he not crowned, except he strive lawfully.

One of the most dangerous things that could happen to a person is that they actually think they are doing God a service when in fact they are doing just the opposite.

It would be like a fellow who got disoriented in a football game and started to run the ball the wrong direction, or the quarterback throwing the ball to a member of the opposite team thinking it was one of his own men.

It would be like the soldier who shoots one of his fellow soldiers thinking it was in fact the enemy.

These have all happened but when they do, what a sad thing it is.

Yet probably one of the worst things that happens is when people actually think they are doing God service when in fact they are doing the opposite.

All too often this happens in the church and it has happened in Israel.

The Bible is written to help prevent us from making this same mistake.

So today we are going to look at some examples in the Bible where people thought they were doing God a service when in fact they were doing the opposite.

**MISTAKEN SERVICE FOR GOD,**  
**SINCERE BUT SINCERELY WRONG.**

Before we look at some examples of people who did this I want to share what the devastating results are when we are mistaken about doing God a service.

**I. WHAT ARE THE RESULTS OF DOING THIS:**

**1. Loss of reward.**

Imagine doing these type of things actually thinking we are pleasing God, only to find out that what we did will just burn up.

**2. Bad fruit.** Such efforts, such mistaken service always produces bad fruit. The only way we can produce good fruit is when we do God's service God's way.

II Timothy 2:5 And if a man also strive for masteries, yet is he not crowned, except he strive lawfully.

Imagine a fellow who jumps the gun in a race and is immediately disqualified from winning because he jumped the gun. However, imagine everyone else in the race followed the rules and started the race when they should have yet the fellow who jumps the gun runs the race with all his might and keeps running and finishes the race ahead of everyone else. Let's say it is a cross country race and it takes hours to run this race. He puts his all into it.

He runs and sees many fall by the wayside.  
He stays ahead of everyone else the whole time.  
He runs the race in record time.  
He looks good.  
He runs good.  
He finishes the race.  
He crosses the finish line.  
The crowds cheer him on.  
Everyone is impressed.

Then the judge comes down and says you don't get any credit at all for running that race because you failed to follow the rules and jumped the gun.

You don't get first place.  
You don't get 2nd place.  
You don't even place at all because you broke the rules.

So it is there are many people that are going to be shocked some day when a lot of things that they think they are doing for God will go unrewarded because they did not play by God's rules.

Let's look at some examples of people who thought they were doing the will of God but were mistaken.

***First it reminds me of this verse:***

Romans 10:1 Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is, that

they might be saved.

Romans 10:2 For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge.

How many throughout history have been sincere but are indeed sincerely wrong!

***Many times in our Old Testament studies we talked about high places, where people thought they were doing God a service but were sincerely wrong! So this morning let us look at some instances where people were sincere but sincerely wrong.***

### ***I. FIRST LET US CONSIDER ABRAHAM AND SARAH IN THE MATTER OF ISHMAEL.***

Note: the account and incident recorded in the Bible.

Genesis 16:1 Now Sarai Abram's wife bare him no children: and she had an handmaid, an Egyptian, whose name was Hagar.

Genesis 16:2 And Sarai said unto Abram, Behold now, the LORD hath restrained me from bearing: I pray thee, go in unto my maid; it may be that I may obtain children by her. And Abram hearkened to the voice of Sarai.

Genesis 16:3 And Sarai Abram's wife took Hagar her maid the Egyptian, after Abram had dwelt ten years in the land of Canaan, and gave her to her husband Abram to be his wife.

Genesis 16:4 And he went in unto Hagar, and she conceived: and when she saw that she had conceived, her mistress was despised in her eyes.

Genesis 16:5 And Sarai said unto Abram, My wrong be upon thee: I have given my maid into thy bosom; and when she saw that she had conceived, I was despised in her eyes: the LORD judge between me and thee.

Genesis 16:6 But Abram said unto Sarai, Behold, thy maid is in thy hand; do to her as it pleaseth thee. And when Sarai dealt hardly with her, she fled from her face.

Genesis 16:7 And the angel of the LORD found her by a fountain of water in the wilderness, by the fountain in the way to Shur.

Genesis 16:8 And he said, Hagar, Sarai's maid, whence camest thou? and whither wilt thou go? And she said, I flee from the face of my mistress Sarai.

Genesis 16:9 And the angel of the LORD said unto her, Return to thy mistress, and submit thyself under her hands.

Genesis 16:10 And the angel of the LORD said unto her, I will multiply thy seed exceedingly, that it shall not be numbered for multitude.

Genesis 16:11 And the angel of the LORD said unto her, Behold, thou art with child, and shalt bear a son, and shalt call his name Ishmael; because the LORD hath heard thy affliction.

Genesis 16:12 And he will be a wild man; his hand will be against every man, and every man's hand against him; and he shall dwell in the presence of all his brethren.

Genesis 16:13 And she called the name of the LORD that spake unto her, Thou God seest me: for she said, Have I also here looked after him that seeth me?

Genesis 16:14 Wherefore the well was called Beer-lahai-roi; behold, it is between Kadesh and Bered.

Genesis 16:15 And Hagar bare Abram a son: and Abram called his son's name, which Hagar bare, Ishmael.

Genesis 16:16 And Abram was fourscore and six years old, when Hagar bare Ishmael to Abram.

Genesis 17:15 And God said unto Abraham, As for Sarai thy wife, thou shalt not call her name Sarai, but Sarah shall her name be.

Genesis 17:16 And I will bless her, and give thee a son also of her: yea, I will bless her, and she shall be a mother of nations; kings of people shall be of her.

Genesis 17:17 Then Abraham fell upon his face, and laughed, and said in his heart, Shall a child be born unto him that is an hundred years old? and shall Sarah, that is ninety years old, bear?

Genesis 17:18 And Abraham said unto God, O that Ishmael might live before thee!

Genesis 17:19 And God said, Sarah thy wife shall bear thee a son indeed; and thou shalt call his name Isaac: and I will establish my covenant with him for an everlasting covenant, and with his seed after him.

Genesis 17:20 And as for Ishmael, I have heard thee: Behold, I have blessed him, and will make him fruitful, and will multiply him exceedingly; twelve princes shall he beget, and I will make him a great nation.

Genesis 17:21 But my covenant will I establish with Isaac, which Sarah shall bear unto thee at this set time in the next year.

Genesis 17:22 And he left off talking with him, and God went up from Abraham.

To this day the world is suffering because Abraham and Sarah mistakenly thought it was the will of God that they have a son using the methods of the world.

**I researched what the Moslems say about their history.  
AND HERE IS WHAT THEY SAY:**

According to them, they claim to be the descendants physical and spiritual of Ishmael in the Bible.

The Muslims are the descendants of Ishmael and his wife Fatima ("peace").  
Hagar is Abrahams rightful wife not Sarah.

In the Bible, "Isaac" was the son that Abraham brought to Mount Moriah (Jerusalem) to be sacrificed (Gen.22)... The Koran claims it was his son "Ishmael", the "son" of Abraham to be sacrificed was the type of "Jesus", the divine son actually was sacrificed to save the whole world, in the same Mount Moriah (Jerusalem).

The Muslims have fulfilled the prophesy of the Bible, a "multitude"!

The 5 Pillars of Islam: The Five Pillars of Islam: The religious obligations of all Muslims are summed up in the Five Pillars of Islam, and are:

- 1- Recite the shahadah the Profession of Faith, There is no God but Allah, and Muhammad is his prophet. A Muslim is supposed to pray it at least once in his lifetime, but they actually pray it many times a day. The greatest phrase of the Arabic language: "La ilaha illa Allah", "there is no God but Allah".
- 2- Perform the salat ,prayer 5 times a day while facing Mecca. The "Tasbih" ("Rosary"), or "Subha, is like the Catholic Rosary.
- 3- Donate regularly to charity via the zakat, a 2.5% charity tax, and through additional donations to the needy.
- 4- Fast during the month of Ramadan, the month that Mohammed received the Qu'ran from Allah.
- 5- Make at least one pilgrimage to Mecca if economically and physically possible.

After the death and burial of Muhammad, the political and spiritual leadership of the Muslims was assumed by the "Caliphs" ("successors"), or "deputies of the Prophet", who ruled Islam in his place in all aspects except as prophet.

Within a decade they took control of Egypt, Palestine, Syria, Iraq, Iran, all Mesopotamia, capturing Damascus in 635, Jerusalem in 640, Cairo in 641, Alexandria in 642.

Then, to Africa (North and sub-Saharan), Asia (India, Indonesia, Pakistan, Afghanistan, China), Europe (Spain, Portugal, Turkey, Balkans, Vienna, Kiev), stopped in France by Charles Martel.

Today, the same expansion attitude prevails, with wars, kingdoms, or empires, wars all over the globe, and special use of terrorism groups and suicide bombers where Muslims are overpowered.

The New Testament is Clear: That God did not bless this fleshly work in trying to have a son outside of God's promise.

Romans 9:7 Neither, because they are the seed of Abraham, are they all children: but, In Isaac shall thy seed be called.

Romans 9:8 That is, They which are the children of the flesh, these are not the children of God: but the children of the promise are counted for the seed.

Romans 9:9 For this is the word of promise, At this time will I come, and Sarah shall have a son.

Today I believe that in an effort to quickly reproduce, the church of Jesus Christ is following the same mistake that Abraham And Sarah did.

What were the fruits of having their Ishmael today, the fruits of the progressive Christians and the Emerging Church and the Hybels and seeker friendly churches in the end will produce the spiritual Ishmael end times Christians of tomorrow.

- 1. It produced a lack of respect for authority which brought on division.**  
Hagar despised Sarah.

So it is with new methods of evangelism. Old standards are despised and rejected. The old paths are rejected and made light of.

- 2. It produced a son who persecuted Abraham and Sarahs Son. Ishmael mocked Isaac.**
- 3. It produced a nation that hates God's people and seeks their destruction.**

The Arab nations, the Moslem nations are enemies of Israel.

- 4. The seriousness of the error has increased over time.**

So I believe that we today are in the infant stages of producing our spiritual Ishmael. Some day it will come to full bloom and will destroy the church from within.

All this because Sarah and Abraham were sincere but sincerely wrong.

## ***II. Another example of someone who thought they were doing the will of God. A CLASSIC EXAMPLE IN THE BIBLE IS SAUL, THE FIRST KING OF ISRAEL.***

I Samuel 13:5 And the Philistines gathered themselves together to fight with Israel, thirty thousand chariots, and six thousand horsemen, and people as the sand which is on the sea shore in multitude: and they came up, and pitched in Michmash, eastward from Beth-aven.

I Samuel 13:6 When the men of Israel saw that they were in a strait, (for the people were distressed,) then the people did hide themselves in caves, and in thickets, and in rocks, and in high places, and in pits.

I Samuel 13:7 And some of the Hebrews went over Jordan to the land of Gad and Gilead. As for Saul, he was yet in Gilgal, and all the people followed him trembling.

I Samuel 13:8 And he tarried seven days, according to the set time that Samuel had appointed: but Samuel came not to Gilgal; and the people were scattered from him.

I Samuel 13:9 And Saul said, Bring hither a burnt offering to me, and peace offerings. And he offered the burnt offering.

I Samuel 13:10 And it came to pass, that as soon as he had made an end of offering the burnt offering, behold, Samuel came; and Saul went out to meet him, that he might salute him.

I Samuel 13:11 And Samuel said, What hast thou done? And Saul said, Because I saw that the people were scattered from me, and that thou camest not within the days appointed, and that the Philistines gathered themselves together at Michmash;

I Samuel 13:12 Therefore said I, The Philistines will come down now upon me to Gilgal, and I have not made supplication unto the LORD: I forced myself therefore, and offered a burnt offering.

I Samuel 13:13 And Samuel said to Saul, Thou hast done foolishly: thou hast not kept the commandment of the LORD thy God, which he commanded thee: for now would the LORD have established thy kingdom upon Israel for ever.

I Samuel 13:14 But now thy kingdom shall not continue: the LORD hath sought him a man after his own heart, and the LORD hath commanded him to be captain over his people, because thou hast not kept that which the LORD commanded thee.

I Samuel 13:15 And Samuel arose, and gat him up from Gilgal unto Gibeah of Benjamin. And Saul numbered the people that were present with him, about six hundred men.

This was the beginning of the downfall of King Saul.

What did he do?

**1. HE OFFERED A SACRIFICE TO GOD IN A WAY THAT GOD FORBADE.**

Seemed like a small technicality. A little sin?

The Bible commanded God's people to bring their sacrifices to the place He chooses and allow only the priests to offer these sacrifices. It was the job of God's priest only to offer sacrifices. This ministry was not to be taken on just anyone.

**2. He used the service of God to advance his own purposes.**

**The people were scattered and he wanted to use the offering or sacrifices to rally people behind the cause.**

Doing God's work to please men and not God is an example of false worship. What we do we should do heartily as unto the Lord and not unto men.

**3. He never really repented of this sin and things only got worse.**

He repeats the sin and magnifies it later in his life.

I Samuel 15:1 Samuel also said unto Saul, The LORD sent me to anoint thee to be king over his people, over Israel: now therefore hearken thou unto the voice of the words of the LORD.

I Samuel 15:2 Thus saith the LORD of hosts, I remember that which Amalek did to Israel, how he laid wait for him in the way, when he came up from Egypt.

I Samuel 15:3 Now go and smite Amalek, and utterly destroy all that they have, and spare them not; but slay both man and woman, infant and suckling, ox and sheep, camel and ass.

I Samuel 15:4 And Saul gathered the people together, and numbered them in Telaim, two hundred thousand footmen, and ten thousand men of Judah.

I Samuel 15:5 And Saul came to a city of Amalek, and laid wait in the valley.

I Samuel 15:6 And Saul said unto the Kenites, Go, depart, get you down from among the Amalekites, lest I destroy you with them: for ye shewed kindness to all the children of Israel, when they came up out of Egypt. So the Kenites departed from among the Amalekites.

I Samuel 15:7 And Saul smote the Amalekites from Havilah until thou comest to Shur, that is over against Egypt.

I Samuel 15:8 And he took Agag the king of the Amalekites alive, and utterly destroyed all the people with the edge of the sword.

I Samuel 15:9 But Saul and the people spared Agag, and the best of the sheep, and of the oxen, and of the fatlings, and the lambs, and all that was good, and would not utterly destroy them: but every thing that was vile and refuse, that they destroyed utterly.

I Samuel 15:10 Then came the word of the LORD unto Samuel, saying,

I Samuel 15:11 It repenteth me that I have set up Saul to be king: for he is turned back from following me, and hath not performed my commandments. And it grieved Samuel; and he cried unto the LORD all night.

I Samuel 15:12 And when Samuel rose early to meet Saul in the morning, it was told Samuel, saying, Saul came to Carmel, and, behold, he set him up a place, and is gone about, and passed on, and gone down to Gilgal.

I Samuel 15:13 And Samuel came to Saul: and Saul said unto him, Blessed be thou of the LORD: I have performed the commandment of the LORD.

Note: How oblivious Saul was to his error. This was because he was sincere but sincerely wrong. Such people deceive themselves into thinking they are right.

I HAVE OBEYED THE COMMANDMENT OF THE LORD.

Like the fellow who ran the touch down but went the wrong way.

Like the fellow who jumped the gun in running the race.

Like the quarter back who passed the ball to the wrong receiver.

I have talked to people who have been convinced that God was leading them to do things contrary to the Scripture and the Word of God. They most of the time are oblivious to their error. They are sincere but sincerely wrong.

Saul's error under the guise of serving the Lord led to his destruction and ultimately to his death. Saul is an example of a spiritually rebellious person. A man who is sincere but sincerely wrong.

**4. Another example of Saul's pattern of doing things that he claimed were for the Lord could be seen in the incident with the Gibeonites.**

II Samuel 21:1 Then there was a famine in the days of David three years, year after year; and David inquired of the LORD. And the LORD answered, It is for Saul, and for his bloody house, because he slew the Gibeonites.

II Samuel 21:2 And the king called the Gibeonites, and said unto them; (now the Gibeonites were not of the children of Israel, but of the remnant of the Amorites; and the children of Israel had sworn unto them: and Saul sought to slay them in his zeal to the children of Israel and Judah.)

Here we have a record of how Saul tried to destroy all the Gibeonites.. under the guise of doing the will of God..

Maybe this was after the battle of the Amalikites..

He probably thought maybe he could make amends for not doing what the Lord wanted with the Amalikites by going on a campaign against the Gibeonites.

**MATTHEW HENRY SAYS:**

***... perhaps he designed it for an instance of his royal prerogative and the power which as king he assumed to rescind the former acts of government and to disannul the most solemn leagues. It may be, he designed, by this severity towards the Gibeonites, to atone for his clemency towards the Amalekites. Some conjecture that he sought to cut off the Gibeonites at the same time when he put away the witches (1 Sa. 28:3),***

WHAT IS AMAZING IS THAT THIS INCIDENT TOOK PLACE OVER 40 Years previous to God's judgment on the nation and Saul was long dead. When the matter finally came to light it was David's job to make it right. Someone once said, that national sins need to be reconciled and made right in this life not the next. For personal spiritual sins, these can be dealt with at the eternal judgment. Nations are not eternal they are earthly and temporal and have a life of their own.

So it is that many things that we do that we think we are doing for God but are in fact sincerely wrong actions, the effects of these sins may not be felt till many years in the future. This is why we must walk circumspect seeking to know and prove the acceptable will of our God.

So it is with the sins of a nation. They come to light many years in the future. In time the nation had to make these sins right in this life. This should make us tremble as we think about the possible repercussions of America's national sins such as abortion, legislation passed in rebellion against our God.

Application To Us Today.

In our nation we are condoning so many things that someday are going to come back on us and there seems to be no sign of repentance over these. Remember Manasseh got saved, but what he did and what the nation did under his leadership could not be atoned for. God said this concerning the sins of Manasseh:

II Kings 24:2 And the LORD sent against him bands of the Chaldees, and bands of the Syrians, and bands of the Moabites, and bands of the children of Ammon, and sent them against Judah to destroy it, according to the word of the LORD, which he spake by his servants the prophets.

II Kings 24:3 Surely at the commandment of the LORD came this upon Judah, to remove them out of his sight, for the sins of Manasseh, according to all that he did;

II Kings 24:4 And also for the innocent blood that he shed: for he filled Jerusalem with innocent blood; which the LORD would not pardon.

**1. *Violations in the area of marriage.***  
***Why did God ordain the sanctity of marriage?***  
***For the sake of the children.***

Malachi 2:15 And did not he make one? Yet had he the residue of the spirit. And wherefore one? That he might seek a godly seed. Therefore take heed to your spirit, and let none deal treacherously against the wife of his youth.

NOW BECAUSE WE HAVE NOT REPENTED OF OUR SINS GOD IS GIVING US OVER TO ALL SORTS OF PERVERSION since we think we can rewrite the rules.

Now we are going a step further and our nation actually believes it is ok to marry people of the same sex. We are given to total confusion in this matter!

**2. *Violations in the area of Child Training.***

There is not a natural care for children today. We neglect to retrain and discipline our children.

**A. *This is evident in the abortions that are taking place.***  
***Social security is in trouble because of abortion.***  
***The economy is suffering and will suffer because of abortion.***  
***Our Schools will suffer. Less students for these big buildings.***

**B. *Violation of child training because of lack of discipline in home.***

Proverbs 29:15 The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame.

Hebrews 12:6 For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth.

Hebrews 12:7 If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not?

**C. *So it is these little sins will destroy us if we do not repent of them.***

It is sad but true that there are few nations in the whole world that forbid abortion! We can see that abortion is a going to be a sin that will bring judgment against the whole world.

Invitation Application:

One of the worst things that can happen is when a person twists something that displeases God and is so twisted up in their minds that they think that they are doing service for God.

***We could mention:***

The Pharisees who actually thought by killing Jesus they were doing it for God.

Saul who later became Paul the Apostle thought that killing Christians was his religious duty.

Islamic terrorists today actually believe that killing innocent people is their religious duty according to Jihad.

Now is it possible that some people sitting here in this auditorium could someday twist things up and seek to do service for God and in fact be in violation of God's will and word.

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Application and Invitation:

What can we do to protect ourselves.

***1. WE NEED TO BE IN THE BOOK AND PEOPLE OF PRAYER.***

You cannot differentiate between the will of God and the Word of God.  
God's will never violates God's Word.  
It cannot be God's will and violate the clear teaching of His Word.

***2. WE NEED TO DISCERN THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN DOING THINGS IN THE FLESH AND DOING THINGS IN THE SPIRIT.***

Most of the time we get in the flesh through pride.  
Sins of the flesh.

Lust of flesh.  
Lust of eyes.  
Pride of life.

**3. WE NEED TO BE CAREFUL ABOUT TRYING TO PLEASE MEN MORE THAN GOD.**

Most every time we get this matter confused it is because we are following culture, society, or seeking to get the honor of men more than God.

Saul was more concerned about keeping his image good in the eyes of the people than displeasing God.

Sarah did what was culturally acceptable in her day rather than just trust God in the matter.

So it is, when we get looking at men rather than God, we will sin.

**4-14-21**

**EXAMPLES OF PEOPLE IN THE BIBLE WHO THOUGHT THEY WERE SERVING GOD BUT WERE MISTAKEN.**

**I. ONE OF THE MOST BIZARE STORIES IN THE BIBLE**

***Of how warped people can get in this matter of service for the Lord.***

**1. An Example Of How Warped People Can get When They Get Worshipping the Lord but Get Away from the Word of God!**

Judges 17:1 And there was a man of mount Ephraim, whose name was Micah.

Judges 17:2 And he said unto his mother, The eleven hundred shekels of silver that were taken from thee, about which thou cursedst, and spakest of also in mine ears, behold, the silver is with me; I took it. And his mother said, Blessed be thou of the LORD, my son.

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***Judges 17:3 And when he had restored the eleven hundred shekels of silver to his mother, his mother said, I had wholly dedicated the silver unto the LORD from my hand for my son, to make a graven image and a molten image: now therefore I will restore it unto thee.***

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Here we have people who are praising God. She had this money returned. She dedicates the silver to the LORD to make a graven image.

Has anything changed? How people can justify using methods of idolatry to praise the God of the Bible who condemns idolatry???

Judges 17:4 Yet he restored the money unto his mother; and his mother took two hundred shekels of silver, and gave them to the founder, who made thereof a graven image and a molten image: and they were in the house of Micah.

NOTE: HOW MUCH OF THE SILVER DID SHE SAY SHE DEDICATED TO THE LORD? HOW MUCH DID SHE SPEND ON THE IDOL?

She lost 1100 shekels of silver and took 200 shekels and made a graven image. I thought she dedicated it all to the Lord? How easy it is that we can claim we dedicated things to the Lord!

## **2. NOTE HIS TOY CHURCH:**

Judges 17:5 And the man Micah had an house of gods, and made an ephod, and teraphim, and consecrated one of his sons, who became his priest.

Judges 17:8 And the man departed out of the city from Beth-lehem-judah to sojourn where he could find a place: and he came to mount Ephraim to the house of Micah, as he journeyed.

Judges 17:9 And Micah said unto him, Whence comest thou? And he said unto him, I am a Levite of Beth-lehem-judah, and I go to sojourn where I may find a place.

Judges 17:10 And Micah said unto him, Dwell with me, and be unto me a father and a priest, and I will give thee ten shekels of silver by the year, and a suit of apparel, and thy victuals. So the Levite went in.

Judges 17:11 And the Levite was content to dwell with the man; and the young man was unto him as one of his sons.

Judges 17:12 And Micah consecrated the Levite; and the young man became his priest, and was in the house of Micah.

Judges 17:13 Then said Micah, Now know I that the LORD will do me good, seeing I have a Levite to my priest.

Now he expected God's blessing because he was doing things by the Bible. Again, sincere but sincerely wrong. Most people's worship is based more on superstition than the Bible.

## **HE HAD A LEVITE TO MINISTER BEFORE HIS HOUSE OF IDOLS!**

So it is that people think that if they are doing a few things by the Bible it is ok.

In their church they have Bible reading before their announcements about bingo, carnivals, and raffles.

## **3. THINGS GET MORE BIZARE:**

Judges 18:1 In those days there was no king in Israel: and in those days the tribe of the Danites sought them an inheritance to dwell in; for unto that day all their inheritance had not fallen unto them among the tribes of Israel.

Judges 18:2 And the children of Dan sent of their family five men from their coasts, men of valour, from Zorah, and from Eshtaol, to spy out the land, and to search it; and they said unto them, Go, search the land: who when they came to mount Ephraim, to the house of Micah, they lodged there.

Judges 18:3 When they were by the house of Micah, they knew the voice of the young man the Levite: and they turned in thither, and said unto him, Who brought thee hither? and what makest thou in this place? and what hast thou here?

Judges 18:4 And he said unto them, Thus and thus dealeth Micah with me, and hath hired me, and I am his priest.

Judges 18:5 And they said unto him, Ask counsel, we pray thee, of God, that we may know whether our way which we go shall be prosperous.

Judges 18:6 And the priest said unto them, Go in peace: before the LORD is your way wherein ye go.

Judges 18:14 Then answered the five men that went to spy out the country of Laish, and said unto their brethren, Do ye know that there is in these houses an ephod, and teraphim, and a graven image, and a molten image? now therefore consider what ye have to do.

Judges 18:15 And they turned thitherward, and came to the house of the young man the Levite, even unto the house of Micah, and saluted him.

Judges 18:16 And the six hundred men appointed with their weapons of war, which were of the children of Dan, stood by the entering of the gate.

Judges 18:17 And the five men that went to spy out the land went up, and came in thither, and took the graven image, and the ephod, and the teraphim, and the molten image: and the priest stood in the entering of the gate with the six hundred men that were appointed with weapons of war.

Judges 18:18 And these went into Micah's house, and fetched the carved image, the ephod, and the teraphim, and the molten image. Then said the priest unto them, What do ye?

Judges 18:19 And they said unto him, Hold thy peace, lay thine hand upon thy mouth, and go with us, and be to us a father and a priest: is it better for thee to be a priest unto the house of one man, or that thou be a priest unto a tribe and a family in Israel?

Judges 18:20 And the priest's heart was glad, and he took the ephod, and the teraphim, and the graven image, and went in the midst of the people.

Judges 18:21 So they turned and departed, and put the little ones and the cattle and the carriage before them.

Judges 18:22 And when they were a good way from the house of Micah, the men that were in the houses near to Micah's house were gathered together, and overtook the children of Dan.

Judges 18:23 And they cried unto the children of Dan. And they turned their faces, and said unto Micah, What aileth thee, that thou comest with such a company?

Judges 18:24 And he said, Ye have taken away my gods which I made, and the priest, and ye are gone away: and what have I more? and what is this that ye say unto me, What aileth thee?

Judges 18:25 And the children of Dan said unto him, Let not thy voice be heard among us, lest angry fellows run upon thee, and thou lose thy life, with the lives of thy household.

Judges 18:26 And the children of Dan went their way: and when Micah saw that they were too strong for him, he turned and went back unto his house.

Judges 18:27 And they took the things which Micah had made, and the priest which he had, and came unto Laish, unto a people that were at quiet and secure: and they smote them with the edge of the sword, and burnt the city with fire.

Judges 18:28 And there was no deliverer, because it was far from Zidon, and they had no business with any man; and it was in the valley that lieth by Beth-rehob. And they built a city, and dwelt therein.

Judges 18:29 And they called the name of the city Dan, after the name of Dan their father, who was born unto Israel: howbeit the name of the city was Laish at the first.

Judges 18:30 And the children of Dan set up the graven image: and Jonathan, the son of Gershom, the son of Manasseh, he and his sons were priests to the tribe of Dan until the day of the captivity of the land.

Judges 18:31 And they set them up Micah's graven image, which he made, all the time that the house of God was in Shiloh.

This reminds me so much of what we see happening in the churches today.

Micah was the money man and had his own little toy church. He was the head deacon of the church. He has one of his own kids assigned to be the priest, or pastor, but along comes a better candidate for the job so he hires him.

This hireling priest accepts the position because he needed money and a job. Since he is a hireling when a better offer comes along he doesn't even have to pray about it he takes off.

**ALL THIS IN THE NAME OF THE LORD.**

And the beat goes on.

This group of people steal away Micah's toys.

Reminds me of what we see happening in so many churches in our country today.

The Pastor is just a hireling.

The Church is just a toy.

And if someone can come by force or hook or crook, take away people from this others church, it is all for the better anyway. They got a bigger and better thing going anyway.

All this in the name of the Lord.  
All this under the guise of religious service for God.

HAS ANYTHING CHANGED???

Other examples:

## ***II. THERE WAS ONE SIN IN THE O.T. BIBLE THAT WAS SO PREVALENT.***

The matter of the high places. Again this was a continuation of doing God's service in a way that would be convenient for you.

I Kings 3:3 And Solomon loved the LORD, walking in the statutes of David his father: only he sacrificed and burnt incense in high places.

I Kings 14:22 And Judah did evil in the sight of the LORD, and they provoked him to jealousy with their sins which they had committed, above all that their fathers had done.

II Kings 12:2 And Jehoash did that which was right in the sight of the LORD all his days wherein Jehoiada the priest instructed him.

II Kings 12:3 But the high places were not taken away: the people still sacrificed and burnt incense in the high places.

II Chronicles 15:16 And also concerning Maachah the mother of Asa the king, he removed her from being queen, because she had made an idol in a grove: and Asa cut down her idol, and stamped it, and burnt it at the brook Kidron.

II Chronicles 15:17 But the high places were not taken away out of Israel: nevertheless the heart of Asa was perfect all his days.

Sennacherib threw it in their faces in the day of Hezekiah.

II Kings 18:22 But if ye say unto me, We trust in the LORD our God: is not that he, whose high places and whose altars Hezekiah hath taken away, and hath said to Judah and Jerusalem, Ye shall worship before this altar in Jerusalem?

## ***III. It is amazing how many incidents we have in the Bible.. Where people claim they are serving God but violating the very Word of God and received condemnation from the Lord.***

### ***1. We could give as example Aaron who made the golden calves and said Here be your gods who brought you up from Egypt. And declared a feast to the Lord.***

Exodus 32:5 And when Aaron saw it, he built an altar before it; and Aaron made proclamation, and said, Tomorrow is a feast to the LORD.

**2. Nadab and Abihu when they offered strange fire, thought they were doing service to the Lord.**

Leviticus 10:1 And Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, took either of them his censer, and put fire therein, and put incense thereon, and offered strange fire before the LORD, which he commanded them not.

**3. David When he brought up the ark of the covenant.**

II Samuel 6:3 And they set the ark of God upon a new cart, and brought it out of the house of Abinadab that was in Gibeah: and Uzzah and Ahio, the sons of Abinadab, drave the new cart.

II Samuel 6:4 And they brought it out of the house of Abinadab which was at Gibeah, accompanying the ark of God: and Ahio went before the ark.

II Samuel 6:6 And when they came to Nachon's threshingfloor, Uzzah put forth his hand to the ark of God, and took hold of it; for the oxen shook it.

II Samuel 6:7 And the anger of the LORD was kindled against Uzzah; and God smote him there for his error; and there he died by the ark of God.

**4. The Amalekite that Came to David telling him he slew Saul. Thought he would receive a reward from David for his service and instead he was executed.**

**5. II Chronicles 26:16 we could mention Uzzah who decided to burn incense to the Lord thinking he was doing the service of the Lord. HE INSTEAD WAS REWARDED WITH LEPROSY.**

**6. THE ULTIMATE IN HYPOCRISY WAS WHEN WE GET TO THE NEW TESTAMENT.**

We read it here.

John 11:47 Then gathered the chief priests and the Pharisees a council, and said, What do we? for this man doeth many miracles.

John 11:48 If we let him thus alone, all men will believe on him: and the Romans shall come and take away both our place and nation.

John 11:49 And one of them, named Caiaphas, being the high priest that same year, said unto them, Ye know nothing at all,

John 11:50 Nor consider that it is expedient for us, that one man should die for the people, and that the whole nation perish not.

John 11:51 And this spake he not of himself: but being high priest that year, he prophesied that Jesus should die for that nation;

John 11:52 And not for that nation only, but that also he should gather together in one the children of God that were scattered abroad.

John 11:53 Then from that day forth they took counsel together for to put him to death.

Here is a man who knew the gospel message. Understood the necessity of there being an atonement, so he decides he is justified in going along with it. NONSENSE. How bizarre, crazy.

We get fascinated with God's decrees and His workings.  
We get our eyes off of our responsibility.

Fellow used that as an excuse why he did not invest his talent for the Lord. Matt. 25

Matthew 25:24 Then he which had received the one talent came and said, Lord, I knew thee that thou art an hard man, reaping where thou hast not sown, and gathering where thou hast not strawed:

Matthew 25:25 And I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth: lo, there thou hast that is thine.

Matthew 25:26 His lord answered and said unto him, Thou wicked and slothful servant, thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I have not strawed:

Matthew 25:27 Thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the exchangers, and then at my coming I should have received mine own with usury.

Matthew 25:28 Take therefore the talent from him, and give it unto him which hath ten talents.

Matthew 25:29 For unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath.

THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD IS A GREAT TRUTH. BUT YOU CAN GET YOURSELF SO FOCUSED ON THAT DOCTRINE THAT YOU FORGET ABOUT YOUR RESPONSIBILITY. TO DO SO IS NOT TO UNDERSTAND PROPERLY THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD.

This is what Caiaphas did. Well it is God's will that Christ die, so let us help to do the work of God, a bit.

Some people say, well a person can only get saved if they are elect.  
So I can't do anything about that anyway, so.

Nonsense. You know just enough to mess up. Focus in on your responsibility and not God's. It will be better for you.

Application and Invitation:

What can we do to protect ourselves?

**1. WE NEED TO BE IN THE BOOK AND PEOPLE OF PRAYER.**

You cannot differentiate between the will of God and the Word of God.  
God's will never violates God's Word.  
It cannot be God's will and violate the clear teaching of His Word.

**2. WE NEED TO DISCERN THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN DOING THINGS IN THE FLESH AND DOING THINGS IN THE SPIRIT.**

Most of the time we get in the flesh through pride.  
Sins of the flesh.

Lust of flesh.  
Lust of eyes.  
Pride of life.

**3. WE NEED TO BE CAREFUL ABOUT TRYING TO PLEASE MEN MORE THAN GOD.**

Most every time we get this matter confused. It is because we are following culture, society, or seeking to get the honor of men more than God.

Saul was more concerned about keeping his image good in the eyes of the people than displeasing God.

Sarah did what was culturally acceptable in her day rather than just trust God in the matter.

So it is when we get looking at men rather than God, we will sin.

**4. Let me add, we need to focus on our responsibilities and not be looking to excuse ourselves with God's responsibilities.**

THE END PURPOSE OF THE BIBLE IS FOR THIS:

II Timothy 3:16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

II Timothy 3:17 That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

II Timothy 4:1 I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom;

II Timothy 4:2 Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.

II Timothy 4:3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;

II Timothy 4:4 And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.

II Timothy 4:5 But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.

There are many truths in the Bible that are fascinating but are of little profit. We need to hear the truths that are profitable for:

DOCTRINE.

REPROOF.

CORRECTION.

INSTRUCTION IN RIGHTEOUSNESS.

TRUTHS TO PERFECT US.

TRUTHS TO EQUIP US TO DO GOOD WORKS.