

RUMINATIONS OF A FORMER HEATHEN

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WHICH DENOMINATION?

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Every denomination of Christian churches has its own essential tenet in their doctrine. They all have something that differentiates them from the others. And it's no small matter to them. Obviously, they are right and all the others are wrong. In some places you have to speak in tongues, for others it may be the manner of baptism, whether it's baptism by sprinkling, or baptism by submersion, baptism with a hose, baptism in a river. For others, maybe something else. And in every instance, if you don't follow that one key article of their denomination, you are not saved.

How can that be? Is salvation, then, not a sure thing, but something that must be filtered through some special authority? And which one is that authority? The Roman Catholic Church? Or the escapees of the Roman Catholic Church, the Protestants? Which Protestants? Maybe the Baptists? Which Baptists? Southern? Seventh Day Baptists? (there is such a thing). What about the Episcopalians? Or Seventh Day Adventists? Anglicans? Methodists? Reformed? Lutherans? Jews for Jesus? Christians for Moses? Which of those is the final authority? They all say the Bible is the final authority and then they proceed to say that only they know how to read the Bible right, and all the others are (poor guys) simply wrong. It goes right back to the point at the beginning. Who is right? I tell you who is right, only the Bible is right. But isn't that what they all say? Does that mean we can make our own interpretations? Wouldn't that lead to even greater fragmentation? Well, I don't know. It does appear that it would lead to greater fragmentation, as everyone would have his own opinion.

Nevertheless, for the truth to be the truth it can only be one. There can be many claims as to who has the truth, but still, strictly from a technical point of view, the truth can only be one. There is only one right way to assemble a motor. It's not really a problem, it is actually an assurance. But if one reads the Bible with the idea that the record of the Bible says something other than what it says, or that the descriptions of miracles are merely "literary devices" to tell a story, then, everything is open to whatever interpretation one can imagine. However, if the Law Moses wrote was actually given to him by God himself, I can open my Bible, put my finger right on a particular passage, look up to heaven and say: You said! You said! It's right here, this is what you said, and I'm going to sink my teeth right in it. I'm going to hold on to this. This is my refuge, this is my lair, this is the cave I'm holing up in. If he exists, by his own admission, he will keep his

word. Nobody can take me out of here. God says in Exodus 12:49, “One law shall be to him that is homeborn, and unto the stranger that sojourneth with you.” The Law was given to the Israelites, but the stranger that sojourned with the Israelites (everyone else in the world), had, has, complete and unrestricted access to the Law. God gave to Moses the Law that says in Leviticus 17:11: “For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you upon the altar to make an atonement for your souls; for it is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul.” I qualify as a stranger to have this pardon contained in the Law. The blood of Christ is the life of Christ, it is his blood, his death, that is the atonement for my soul. I will not go to Hell after I die. God has said it, he has established it, and nobody can take that out of my desperate grasp. I have it in writing.

Every denomination has something right, and that adds to the confusion. You recognize the truth in something they are saying, but when you reach for the food they say, oops, you have to stand on your head, yes, the food is free, but you have to stand on your head to get it. And for those of you who are able to stand on your heads, you have to clap your hands for ten minutes while standing on your head, and for those of you who can do all that, you have to . . . , etc. Everybody has to do something in order to get the food. And what, precisely, is that they have to do? It would probably not be a great stretch to say that most Christian denominations recognize Jesus the Christ as the lamb of God that taketh away the sins of the world. That part they got right. What happens many times is that the other part (their peculiar tenet, the one that must be obeyed) acquires a cultish status and prevents people from acquiring the full knowledge of the part they got right, that is, of Christ. Their whole ministry revolves around this one subject. In all fairness, I suppose that is my case as well. I only write, and talk, about salvation and Christ, Christ and salvation, salvation and Christ, Christ and salvation. The roots of Christianity are not in the so-called “New Testament,” the roots of Christianity are in the Law God gave to Moses. Only when you know the Laws regarding the sacrifices for sin, can you understand the thoroughness of the covering God has provided to us by the death of Christ. The full assurance of our salvation, the iron-clad guarantee that Jesus really is the payment for our sins, is in the Law God gave to Moses. There is no other way to filter out the truth. The more you read the Old Testament the more you will understand the New Testament. The only way to understand what the writers in the New Testament said is to have a good knowledge of the Law God gave to Moses. And I’m certainly not talking about reading commentaries on the Law, commentaries that only reflect the self-imputed wisdom of the writer. You, you, you *yourself* have to read the text of the Bible. Don’t go by some expert. Don’t rely on somebody else. Read the text yourself. When you get to the end of the first five books, start over again. Get rid of what you think you know and read your Bible as a child would,

only children will get in.