

## What Measure Are We To Use?

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by Bill Crews

Everyone needs to be concerned about his religious faith and practice. He should want them to meet the approval of God. Of course they must be sincere, from the heart, but that alone will not make them right (Check Romans 10:1-2). How are they to be examined? By what are they to be measured? Since the way of man is not in himself, since it is not in man to direct his steps (Jeremiah 10:23), what standard are we to use?

The standard of authority in religious matters is *not one's conscience* (Paul's was clear even while he persecuted the followers of Jesus, Acts 23:1; 1 Timothy 1:13). One can believe sincerely that he is right while, in fact, he is wrong.

It is *not subjective feelings or experiences*. We walk by faith (which comes by hearing the word of Christ, Romans 10:17), not by sight (or any of our other senses, 2 Corinthians 5:7). Our faith must be **objective** (produced by and resting upon the word of God), not **subjective** (resting upon our feelings or experiences and not upon what the word of God teaches).

It is *not what we think, or what seems right to us*. It is *not parents, the majority, religious leaders and scholars, preachers, human customs or traditions, or human creeds*.

It is rather **the revealed word of God, the Scriptures, the Bible**. Like the Bereans we must measure what we hear by the Scriptures before we accept any religious teaching (Acts 17:11-12). We must *prove or test all things* and hold fast only that which we find to be good (1 Thessalonians 5:21). We must abide in and not go beyond the doctrine of Christ, the doctrine which came from Christ (2 John 9).

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