



BIBLE NUGGETS

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A BIBLE NUGGET SPECIAL ADDITION

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THE DIVISION OF DENOMINATIONS

- Pastor Bob Herriman -

"Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them who cause divisions and offenses contrary to the doctrine which you have learned; and avoid them. For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good works and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple" - Romans 16:17-18. "Nobody can do as much damage to the Church of God as the man who is within its walls, but not within its life" - Charles Spurgeon

"What Denomination Are You"?

A while back, I was waiting in line at the grocery store. To pass the time, I picked up a little book about Bible promises from the rack and was looking through it. The woman standing behind me asked if I were a Christian. I said "yes," and two total strangers shared some fellowship in the Lord for a few minutes. Then came that dreaded question that causes division. She asked, **"What denomination are you?"** That is always the question that ends the conversation. It also usually ends the fellowship. Most people ask that question because they want to know where to "file" the things you say and do. They want to know if those moments of fellowship were real, and many of them have been taught that if you are not a member of their denomination, you might be dangerous to talk to - or listen to. (1 Thess. 5:12).

Only The Bible Sets The Standards For Sound Doctrine:

Your denomination's name does not protect you from false teaching. Years ago I ministered during the week at a retirement home. There were usually between thirty to fifty people who came to the chapel for the service. During the time I ministering there, I was invited to come as a guest speaker at a church where some of the residents attended, who were still able to go. After the service at the church, a woman came up to speak to me. I recognized her from chapel services at the retirement home. She said, "Now that you have been to my church, I know it will be all right if I read your Bible study materials." She had attended the chapel services faithfully, and she had been listening to me teach the Bible every week for several years, but she was afraid to read anything I had written, until I came to her church. In her mind, her church and her denomination were the standards that determined what was "sound doctrine" not the Bible. I have learned that many people think that way. The point the Bible makes is quite clear. You will not know them by their denomination. It is "... by their fruits you shall know them" - Matthew 7:15-20.

“Where Have All These Denominations Come From”?

This lady still wanted me to say the name of a denomination. Finally, I said, “You do know that denominations are not mentioned anywhere in the Bible, right?”

Sounding completely shocked, she said, “They aren’t?” Evidently, she hadn’t read the Bible very much. She believed that the Bible named all of our denominations. It doesn’t. So, where have all these come from? They have come about through the years, as the result of division and disagreements within the body of Christ. In the early church, it was not so. When Paul wrote to the church at Ephesus, it was not addressed to the Baptist church at Ephesus. It was addressed to the church in that city; that region – because there was only one church. All the Christians in that city were in fellowship with one another. Likewise, when Paul wrote to Colosse, to Corinth, to Rome, to Philippi – there was no mention of any denomination – because they didn’t exist yet. In the early church, the lines of fellowship were not drawn by denominational divisions. (1 Corinthians 1:10-13)

The Bible Asks The Question, “Is Christ Divided?”

Have you ever noticed that when missionaries take the Gospel into a region of the world where they have never heard – and people begin to come to the Lord – that there is only one church started there? Missionaries usually don’t ask them if they want to be Baptist, or Church of Christ, or Nazarene. They tell them about Jesus and ask them if they want to be saved, and become a child of God. It is later, after the work begins to “stagnate” and the church becomes divided – and the first division will always be between those who are sincerely serving the Lord – and those who are not. Those who want to serve “self” and still claim to be followers of Christ will start their own church – and then it just continues from there – until there are many more than “thirty-one” flavors. One of the problems of having these denominational divisions, is that it tends to “legitimize” ideas and teachings that would never be accepted by “one body” as it was in the early church.

Fundamental Truths of Christianity:

Today, we have entire denominations that do not believe in Biblical morality; who do not believe basic fundamental truths of Christianity. They do not believe in the authority of the Scriptures. They say the Bible is “fluid” and it’s meaning changes with the times.

1. “For I am the Lord, I change not; therefore, you sons of Jacob are not consumed. – Malachi 3:6
2. Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever. – Hebrews 13:8
3. “All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: - 2 Timothy 3:16

These excerpts were taken from the book “The Gospel According to Self” You may request a FREE copy of the book by emailing info@BibleTimeRadio.org. Bob Herriman has served in mission work in Haiti, as well as ministry to prisoners, evangelistic outreaches and pastoral ministry. He is the founder of the Internet Radio Station: BibleTimeRadio.org. He currently serves in pastoral ministry at First Free Will Baptist Church in Hazel Park, Michigan.

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