

Human Circumstances and God's Law

Enemies of God speak against Him in society

- M. M. O'Hair
- "Pope"
- satan persuades people that human circumstances take priority over God's law

I. Biblical Examples

- Gn.3, concerning a prohibition
- 1 Sm.15, concerning a command
- Mt.22, concerning a doctrine
- Mt.25, concerning personal ability and accountability
- Lk.14, concerning personal invitation

Excuses come when the kingdom
is not as they want or expect

I. Biblical Examples

II. Modern Examples

A. Calvinist circumstances

1. Soldier dying on battlefield

- If preacher necessary, what if he dies before preacher gets to him?
- “Can’t preach to the dead”

A. Calvinist circumstances

2. “If dead man hears, he is already saved...before he has faith”

- Sproul: “A sinner is stone cold dead, therefore unable to act in his own salvation”
 - Confuses physical death with spiritual
 - The dead can hear: Jn.5:25 (= Lk.16)
 - Jn.11:...23ff., physical death...heard
 - Ac.2:37...
 - Gal.5:24
 - Col.3:3... yet, v.5...

B. Baptist circumstances

1. Man on way to water; limb falls on him...

- Did a tree limb fall on you?
- Unbeliever on his way to hear sermon on salvation by faith alone...
- Mk.16:16

B. Baptist circumstances

2. Man in critical condition; can't be immersed. Lost?

- Suppose he goes into coma before preacher can get there to teach him salvation by faith alone... He dies... Is he lost?

B. Baptist circumstances

3. Thief on cross could not be baptized, yet was saved. If he...then why can't I?

- Questions:

- a. Was he saved by faith alone? (Context)

- b. Was thief baptized? (Mt.3:5-6)

- c. Is baptism a condition of salvation?

 - Mk.16; Ac.2

- d. When was thief saved? Hb.9:16-17

- e. What did the thief do?

One who uses the thief to justify his own disobedience is not trying to be saved like the thief

B. Baptist circumstances

4. “Sincerity alone is enough to be saved.”
 - a. Sincerity does not deny plain passages
 - b. If I don’t follow directions, am I sincere?

C. Methodist circumstances

- Man in hospital, can't be immersed. Why not sprinkle?
 1. To justify practice of sprinkling, they appeal to writings of men, not to NT
 2. For centuries, many opposed sprinkling...
 3. They admit that baptism means immersion, but allow circumstances to change the practice. Cf. Lv.10

D. Christian Church circumstances

- Introduced mechanical music into worship because singing was so bad

No one ever turned to mechanical music because the NT authorizes it

- Some listen to 'contemporary Christian music' for edification at home... Inconsistent
- Lv.10

E. Christian's circumstances

- MDR

1. Some say that since God's marriage law does not apply to the world, when a person becomes a Christian, baptism washes away past marriages
2. Or: guilty party is as free to remarry as innocent mate
3. Or: "You don't know how hard it is to live with that person"

- Mt.19:3-9...

E. Christian's circumstances

- Attendance, Hb.10:25
 - Reason for not attending is either 1) legitimate, or 2) based on choices / excuses
 1. Indifference. Hb.10:19-23
 2. Improper example. Hb.10:24
 3. Willful disobedience to NT. Hb.10:26-31

What do these groups have in common?

Rv.2:4-5

Lk.16:27-31, Abraham and rich man

- If OT could do this for rich man's brothers, what could NT do for us?
- 2 Tim.3:15-17

No human circumstance is more powerful than God's word...if we want to obey Him