

Pseudo-Conversion Traditions Exposed!

by Anthony Gulyas

The ideas herein presented, are not, the writers ideas or concepts alone, as others have put forth these concepts previously, but sad to say, as usual, the majority have not taken heed and have pretty well altogether rejected them.

It is amazing how when one honestly evaluates the practises In modern day churchianity, that In the light of God's Word; there Is really no foundation for them at all whatsoever. But If this Is so, then why does man continue to willfully want to cling to his abominable traditions and practises, which are not found In the Bible?

The answer to this can be found In one explanation, and that Is that these modern day pharisees and relligionlsts love their traditions and commandments of men, more than God. THEY DO NOT REALLY LOVE GOD AS THEY CLAIM THAT THEY DO. The religion of today is basically peaceful, very solemn and quiet. Jesus Christ came to disturb and shake the foundation of your nice little religion.... WITH THE TRUTH.

'..THUS HAVE YOU MADE THE COMMANDMENT OF GOD OF NONE EFFECT BY YOUR TRADITION. YE HYPOCRITES. WELL DID ISAIAH PROPHECY OF YOU, SAYING, THIS PEOPLE DRAWETH NIGH UNTO ME WITH THEIR MOUTH, AND HONOURETH ME WITH THEIR LIPS; BUT THEIR HEART IS FAR FROM ME. BUT IN VAIN THEY DO WORSHIP ME. TEACHING FOR DOCTRINES THE COMMANDMENTS OF MEN' MATTHEW 6b-9 [KJV]

Now lets look at some of the traditions and commandments of men, which I repeat are ANTI-BIBLE.

1. The 'Arminian' traditions of 'making a decision for Jesus Christ' or 'making Christ your savior.'

It is very disturbing when something unnecessary and foreign is added to the Gospel. The use of the terminology 'making a decision for Christ', shows a kind of mindset that is willing to invent, and then allow these to be preached as if they were actually found In the Bible.

But why must we do this? Why must we add needless things to the Gospel, which are almost meaningless?

This is only one example of how a non-biblical concept can be elevated to reverence by the Church, as If to say, 'Well even If It Isn't In the Bible-It should be!'

2. The Altar Call

Invented about one hundred and fifty years ago by the American Presbyterian revivalist evangelist Charles Finney, and popularized before the masses by none other than the Protestant pope himself - Billy Graham. Isn't It Interesting how Jesus Christ never engaged In such crowd and peer pressure tactics, which is exactly what this is. Many religionists think that making fun and ridiculing the 'ALTAR CALL', is making fun of God or offending Him, but it isn't. Traditions die hard, because

they take so long to form; If a preacher doesn't give an alter call, then the Pharisees of today think that he's committed the unpardonable sin.

Charles Finney started using the alter call originally as a means of separating out those who wanted to talk further about the subject of salvation. Finney called the front pew 'THE ANXIOUS SEAT'(for those who were anxious about the state of their souls) or 'THE MOURNER'S BENCH.'

Finney never led them in a prayer, but he and a few others would spend a great deal of time praying with and giving specific instructions to each, one by one, until finally, everyone was sent home to pray and continue seeking God until 'they had broken through and expressed hope In Christ', as Finney would say.

The early Salvation Army, going a bit further on Finney's innovation, developed what they called 'THE PENITENT FORM' or 'MERCY SEAT'. After a rousing time of singing and preaching, they would invite any sinner present who wanted to confess his sins to God and repent, to come to the front, and they would be prayed for Individually.

This is a bit of history on what the alter call was originally like. Gradually though, it began to become a fixed part of every meeting and like all traditions it began to lose its original spirit. The 'coming-forward' part started to be more Important than the 'sorrow, confession, repentance and instruction part of it.' Eventually, anyone who would 'come down the aisle' was excitedly proclaimed 'a new believer in Christ!' No matter how they felt, they were told 'your sins are forgiven, brother I Rejoice in Christ.' How many a miserable, defeated and confused person has come away from a meeting like this?

See JEREMIAH 6:14 regarding this.

At Billy Graham crusades it a common fact- that his organization: uses planted workers in the audience, who come forward at the alter call who have no intentions whatsoever of seeking salvation, but only do so to encourage people to come forward and make a good show in the flesh.

What does the Bible say about all this? hundreds, sometimes thousands of people all over a football stadium turf, being led by counselors in psychologically induced sinners prayers.

'BUT ALL THEIR WORKS THEY DO FOR TO BE SEEN OF MEN;' MATTHEW 23:5 KJV

All these multitudes of people coming forward; only God knows their motives, but mark the words of Jesus Christ;

'...FOR WIDE IS THE GATE. AND BROAD IS THE WAY, THAT LEADETH TO DESTRUCTION, AND MANY THERE BE WHICH GO IN THERE AT....NARROW IS THE WAY, WHICH LEADETH UNTO LIFE, AND FEW THERE BE THAT FIND IT.' MATTHEW 7:13a,14b

3. THE SINNER'S PRAYER:

God wants your heart, not just lip service. Honestly though, could, you see Jesus Christ leading someone in the sinners prayer; 'Now it's very simple, you just repeat this little prayer after Me, and then you're a Christian! Now it doesn't really matter whether you fully understand the prayer....it works just the same. Now ready? Repeat after Me.... 'Dear Jesus.... come into my heart...' and so on...

As you can see, when we try to picture Jesus Himself using our modern methods of evangelism, it seems completely foolish. The best path to follow. Is ask yourself; 'Could I see Jesus preaching or teaching like this?' The Bible tells us;

'HE THAT SAITH HE ABIDETH IN HIM OUGHT HIMSELF ALSO TO WALK. EVEN AS HE WALKED.' 1 JOHN 2:6

It is obvious that there is no set sinner's prayer. Some of these canned prayers don't even have the word sin or repentance in them. What do we need canned sinner's prayers for anyway; a 'true sinners prayer' will gush out of anyone who is truly seeking God and is tired of 'being enslaved to sin; MATTHEW 5:6. The very act of 'leading someone in a prayer is utterly ridiculous. You will find nothing even remotely like it in the Bible, or among the writings and biographies of the early church. This technique completely savors of crowd and peer pressure tactics or more plainly brainwashing techniques. Jesus Christ does not want His disciples to 'repeat after Me', He wants them to 'follow after Him'.

The 'ALTAR CALL' and so called 'SINNER'S PRAYER' are-two of the tools used by man, which make it alarmingly easy for someone to consider himself a Christian, when he or she has absolutely no understanding of what 'counting the cost' really means; LUKE 14:28

The greatest danger these tools of tradition pose, are that they give confidence to a guilty sinner, who needs to hear the truth about his or her continued practicing of unrighteousness. With an emotional splash that usually doesn't last more than a few weeks, we believe we're leading people into the truth, when really we're leading many to hell by trying to interfere with what the Spirit of God is doing in a person's life.

We are so afraid that we'll see a 'big one that got away', that we'd rather rush someone into a shallow decision, and get the personal gratification of seeing him 'go down the aisle', than take the time to fully explain things to him, even if it takes long hours and nights of travailing prayer for his soul.

'WE JUST DON'T HAVE THE TIME TO DO THINGS GOD'S WAY ANYMORE.'

God would rather see 'ONE TRUE CONVERT', than an ocean full of decisions. Oh, can't you see what a mess we're in? What we've done to the gospel? And when those 'converts' no longer want to fellowship with us, when they want to go back to their old friends and their old way of life, we have the nerve to call it 'backsliding', when in reality the person was never saved to begin with. On top of all this, the greatest sin in all this is that the 'altar call and getting sinner's decisions, is designed by religionists to put aside the true gospel, and take glory for that which only belongs to the Holy Spirit in the 'effectual call', that heard within the preaching of the gospel.

4. QUICK AND EASY '1-2-3 STEPS TO SALVATION' BOOKLETS & TRACTS;

You know the ones I mean, we've all seen this material before. Again, unless these or any other gospel booklets or message contain the exact same message that our Lord preached and commanded His disciples to spread 'to every kindred and nation' then they are worse than 'inadequate tools', they are wicked! The bible states;

‘LIKE VINEGAR TO THE TEETH AND SMOKE TO THE EYES SO IS THE UNFAITHFUL MESSENGER TO HIM WHO SENDS HIM.’ PROVERBS 10:26

Booklets and tracts like these mention a ‘SORT OF’ repentance like ‘YOU MUST TURN FROM YOUR SINS, TO JESUS.’ But rarely explain what ‘turning’ really means. This is also true of such other vital terms such as ‘LORD’ - they usually refer to Jesus as ‘LORD’, but again they seldom define ‘LORDSHIP’ - and people go their merry way, believing they have the full right to continue running their own lives as long as they call Jesus ‘LORD’. See what MATTHEW 7:21 & LUKE 6:46 say concerning this. Many think It Is wise to ‘get the word out’ in this fashion, using even lapel pins, bumper stickers, etc., but what they are really accomplishing is they are really just innoculating the world with bits and pieces of truth - giving them their ‘gospel shots’ which results in being ‘intoxicated’ with scripture, without recognition of the truth in illumination by the Holy Spirit. People (especially in our culture and society) become numb to the truth when we splash our gaudy sayings in their eyes at every opportunity. Do you really think this is ‘opening them up to the Gospel?’ Or is this really just another way for us to get smiles, waves and approval from others In the ‘BORN-AGAIN CLUB’ out in the supermarket parking lot, who blow their horns with glee when they see your ‘honk if you love Jesus’ bumper sticker?

5. THE FOLLOW UP PROGRAM:

There is one last great mistake being committed in the name of so called evangelism. It is rightly called ‘follow-up’, I say ‘rightly called’ because it is following up the same miserable and incomplete satanic false gospel, with a miserable, incomplete and false replacement for what the Bible calls ‘discipleship’.

The follow up usually consists of a ‘packet of literature’ which almost always Includes a complete list of all church services and functions. This ‘packet’ also may include many ‘essential’ items, like a complete Bible study on ‘tithing’. Also enclosed is usually at least one tithe envelope. It’s amazing that this is one ‘principle’ that nearly every new believer learns right away! Studying the life of Jesus Christ, it is amazing how He never had ‘a follow-up program’. It was usually His habit to let people ‘follow Him up’. He never had to go door to door, looking-for that fellow who He healed last week, wanting to share another parable or two. He always seemed to have the attitude of, ‘IF YOU WANT LIFE THEN THEY’LL HAVE TO COME AND FOLLOW ME.’

Can't you see what fools we are? We preach a man made plastic gospel. We get people to come forward to ‘the altar’ by bringing psychological pressures that have nothing to do with God. We ‘lead them’ in prayer that they are not yet convinced they need to say. And then to top it all off, we give them ‘counseling”, telling them it is a sin to doubt that they're really saved. JAMES DOBSON and LARRY CRABB (so called) integrationist ‘christian psychology’, has more or less replaced the pastoral ministry of the new testament ‘eldership’.

The world around us is going to hell, not because of communism, television, drugs, sex, alcohol or the devil himself. It is because of your personal ‘depravity’.

YOU ARE TO BLAME. You claim to have the commision, the power, 'and the truth of God and also claim to have this at your constant disposal to deliver sinner after sinner from eternal death.’ Even though some are willing to go into the streets, the prisons, foreign lands, or even next door, you are taking a watered down distorted version of God's message which He has not promised to anoint. That is why you are failing. Unless you admit that you are failing, then there really is no hope for us or the world around us. Thank God, His purpose and will as demonstrated in the grace of Jesus Christ will never be frustrated or fall. Let's , get back to the Gospel of unmerited Grace, which is the only true way of salvation.