

THE IMPORTANCE OF DIVINE GUIDANCE IN  
RELIGION Text: Matthew 15:9, 13; Psalm 127:1

INTRO: Man is a religious being. In every age, in every land, in every society, man seeks after & years for fellowship with a Supreme Being. Our texts tell us that any religion is vain unless it has God as its author. Man needs Divine guidance in religion. Let us note some spiritual truths in this area.

I. THE NEED FOR A DIVINE STANDARD IS REASONABLE.

A. It is reasonable because a standard is needed in every important area of life. Time—volume—weight—monetary values—mathematical values, etc.

ILLUSTRATE: Suppose I ask you, "What is the sum of  $2+2$ ?" There is no limit to the wrong answers you could give to that question & some of them would be very close to the truth—but the ONLY correct answer is "4." I'm sure that neither of us would accept any other answer, for no other answer is correct.

B. In religion, God has set the standard. His word is right. Anything that is in conflict with His word is wrong. Isa. 55:8-9; Psa 33:4.

II. WE MUST CONSULT GOD'S STANDARD TO KNOW WHAT IS RIGHT. Jer. 10:23.

Ps 119:104-105, Thru Your precepts I get understanding; Therefore I hate every false way. Your word is a lamp to my feet & a light to my path.

Eph 3:1-6, For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus for you Gentiles--if indeed you have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which was given to me for you, how that by revelation He made known to me the mystery (as I have briefly written already, by which, when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ), which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles & prophets: that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body, & partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel.

III. WE MUST APPLY GOD'S STANDARD TO BE RIGHT.

John 13:17, If you know these things, blessed are you if you do them.

Matt 7:24-27, Whoever hears these sayings of Mine, & does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: & the rain descended, the floods came, &

the winds blew & beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. Now everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: & the rain descended, the floods came, & the winds blew and beat on that house; & it fell. And great was its fall."

James 1:22-25, Be doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves. For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man observing his natural face in a mirror; for he observes himself, goes away, & immediately forgets what kind of man he was. But he who looks into the perfect law of liberty & continues in it, & is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does.

A. God's standard tells us how to become right spiritually. In a word: conversion. Change from wrong to right.

1. Faith to change the heart.  
Acts 11:21. The hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number believed and turned to the Lord.
2. Repentance to change one's direction.

Matt 21:29, He answered & said I will not: but afterward he repented, and went. (KJV)

3. Confession to change the allegiance.

2 Tim 2:19, The solid foundation of God stands, having this seal: "The Lord knows those who are His," and, "Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity."

4. Baptism to change the condition or state. Mark 16:16; Acts 22:16

B. God's word tells how Christians can maintain their right standing with God. Rev. 2:10

C. God's standard tells how one who has ceased to enjoy fellowship with God can renew that fellowship. Acts 8:22; 1 John 1:9.

CONCLUSION: Establishing & maintaining a right relationship with God is the only thing that really matters eternally. Matt. 25:31-46.

La Porte, TX, March 29, 1981

Exton, PA, June 8, 1986

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