



The Camden Companion

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"Come let us reason together says the Lord" (Isaiah 1:18)

WILL ALL BELIEVERS BE SAVED?

A popular doctrine among religious folk is that all who believe in Christ will be saved regardless of what individual practices are. For this reason, many in the church teach that fellowship can be granted to any who profess such a belief. While many in various religious groups believe in Christ, most are practicing things not found in God's word and this leads to confusion rather than unity.

James 2:19 says, "the devils believe and tremble." If belief is all it takes then the argument can be made that the devils are saved. Now if they are saved, why did James call them "devils?" Doesn't seem as though the two terms go together.

As Saul was going to Damascus he saw the Lord. Being blinded, he was led into the city where he prayed and fasted for 3 days. There is no doubt that Saul was not only a believer but a penitent believer. The gospel preacher came to Saul and told him to "*arise and be baptized and wash away your sins...*" (Acts 22:16.) Isn't this a funny thing to say to someone already saved. And how could he be saved without his sins being "washed away?" Why don't preachers today tell penitent believers to do the same?

Read Matt. 7:21 and tell me obedience to God's will doesn't matter!

THE HEART OF IT ALL

A lawyer came to Jesus with a question. *"What is the greatest commandment in the law?"* (Matt. 22:36-37.) Jesus answered, *"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind."*

Jesus was not simply looking to choose one law from among many when He answered the lawyer. The fact is that no teaching or command of God can be ignored and the Lord's answer tells why. Our loving God with everything we have to offer is the basis upon which our reaction to all laws is judged. Because of our love of God we consider all His commands equally important and seek with all our heart, soul, and mind to keep them all.

This was probably not the answer the lawyer expected. He was probably wondering which of the 10 commandments was the greatest but Jesus didn't go there. Many feel there is some universal law at work in the 10 commandments for murder, theft, adultery, etc is and always has been wrong. I don't suppose I would debate the issue but a study of the Bible makes it clear that each dispensation has had its peculiar law from God to follow. Jesus went to the heart of the matter by giving an answer that prepares the heart for whatever dispensation God gives a law. Love of God is the true universal command.

Jesus spoke to the Pharisees in Matt. 23:23 about the weightier matters of the law and said these ought to have been done and not leave the others undone. Again all God's commands are important. The "offend in one - guilty of all" principle holds true today just as it always has. We are judged by our fruits and to a very real degree the test becomes, as Jesus said, *"If a man love me, he will keep MY words"* (John 14:23.) The more love for Christ - the more obedience.