

“For Us There Is Only One”

I Cor. 8:5,6

Introduction:

- A. Early Christians faced a two-fold task in evangelizing their world.
 - 1. To broaden the Jewish concept of God to include Jesus as God.
 - 2. To narrow the Gentile concept of God to exclude many gods.
- B. American Christians face a two-fold task in evangelizing their world.
 - 1. To broaden the concept of some religious people to include the one's of the N.T.
 - 2. To narrow the concept of other religious people to only the one's of the N.T.
- C. Every Christian needs to take a close look at many versus one.

Discussion:

I. The One's Of Divine Revelation (Eph. 4:4-6).

- A. One God, Jehovah, in spite of what religious Athenians thought about it. (Acts 17:22,23).
- B. One Lord, Jesus Christ, in spite of what religious Jews thought about it. (Acts 2:36)
- C. One Spirit, Holy Spirit, in spite of what idolaters thought about it.
- D. One hope, heavenly hope, in spite of what premillennialists think about it.
- E. One faith, the gospel (cf. Jude 3), in spite of what the world thinks about it.
- F. One baptism, immersion in water for remission of sins, regardless of what the religious world thinks. (Acts 8; 1 Pet. 3:21).
- G. One body, the church, regardless of what Protestants think about it. (Eph. 1:22,23; Matt. 16:18).

II. The Many's Of Human Tradition.

- A. The evolution from monotheism to polytheism. (Rom. 1:18-32).
 - 1. Neglect of the one true God. (v.21).
 - 2. Reshaping the one God into image of their liking. (v. 21-24).
 - a. One that more like them. (v. 23).
 - b. One that would let them do their thing. (v. 28).
 - 3. As different men had different interests, many God's came into being.
 - 4. Perpetuated in succeeding generations by ignorance, prejudice and tradition.
- B. The evolution of other ones to many.
 - 1. From one faith to many faiths.
 - a. Usually starts with perversion of gospel. (Gal. 1:8,9).
 - b. Evolves into new systems of faith and salvation.
 - c. Following generations accept it as matter of course.
 - 2. From one baptism to many baptisms.
 - 3. From one body to many bodies.
 - a. Usually begins with small perversions of N. T. church.
 - b. Evolves into a restructured version of the church.
 - c. Different groups restructure the restructure to their liking.
 - d. Succeeding generations then accept it all in ignorance and tradition.

Conclusion:

- A. Paul had a big task on his hands in a many-gods society.
 - 1. He had to convert them to truth about the original God.
 - 2. He had to counter their long standing tradition of many Gods.
- B. We have a similar task in a many-faiths, many-baptisms, many-bodies society.
 - 1. We have to convert people to the truth about the originals.
 - 2. We have to convince them to give up long standing traditions of many.
 - 3. We must remember: When the Bible says, one, to us there can only be one - no matter what our traditional ties may be go many - Remember the early Christians had emotions too and they had friends and loved ones who worshiped other Gods.

