

How Many Is One?

1 Cor. 8:5, 6

Introduction:

- A. Should not be a hard question.
 - 1. Seems hard for many religious people.
 - 2. Was not hard for New Testament preachers to answer.
- B. Paul had to give the answer to the gentile world.
 - 1. At Athens (Acts 17:16, 22, 23).
 - 2. At Thessalonica (1 Thess. 1:9).
- C. We must give the answer to our world today.
- D. Let's consider the one's of the Bible versus the many's in the world.

Discussion:

I. When One Was One.

- A. Paul's List of Ones (Eph. 4:4-6).
 - 1. God, the Father (cf. Acts 17:16-31).
 - 2. Lord, Jesus Christ (cf. 1 Cor. 8:5, 6).
 - 3. Spirit, Holy Spirit (cf. 1 Cor. 12:13).
 - 4. Hope, of heaven.
 - 5. Faith, the gospel (cf. Phil. 1:27; Gal. 1:23; Jude 3)
 - 6. Baptism, in water for remission of sins (cf. Acts 2:38; 8:38-39).
 - 7. Body, the church (cf. Eph. 1:22, 23; Matt. 16:18; 1 Cor. 12:20; 4:17).
- B. For each one, there can be no less, no more, no other.

II. How One Became Many.

- A. The evolution from one God to many. (Rom. 1:18-32).
 - 1. Depreciation of the importance of the one God (v. 21).
 - 2. Reshaping of God as it pleased them (vv. 22-23).
 - a. One more like them (v. 23).
 - b. One more accommodative to them (v. 28)
 - 3. Eventually a god for every man's taste — god of his choice.
 - 4. Perpetuated by ignorance, prejudice and tradition.
- B. The evolution from one faith, baptism, and church to many.
 - 1. Depreciation of their importance.
 - 2. Reshaping them as it pleases them (cf. Gal. 8, 9).
 - 3. Eventually one to each man's taste.
 - 4. Perpetuated to succeeding generations by tradition.

Conclusion:

- A. How many is one?
- B. What must be done in a world of many?
 - 1. The Thessalonians turned from many god to serve the one original God.
 - 2. We must turn from many faiths, baptisms, churches to accept the original ones.