

# How to Settle Religious Questions

Matt. 16:13-19

## Introduction:

- A. Answers to religious questions is most important.
  - 1. Shape the makeup of the religious world.
  - 2. Determine the way we live and the hope (or lack of it) we have.
- B. Answer to the question: "Who is this Jesus?" was the burning question of that day.
  - 1. Without the right answer one would be lost. (John 5:39,40; 8:24).
  - 2. Story illustrates two approaches that people take to religious questions:

## Discussion:

### I. Rely On Human Opinion.

- A. Men gave conflicting answers. (v. 13,14).
  - 1. Human opinion foster division - one is as good as another.
  - 2. Human opinion often confuses similarity with identity - Jesus & prophets similar.
- B. Men give conflicting answers to almost any religious question.
  - 1. What must one do to be saved from condemnation of sin? - Just pray, just believe, nothing.
  - 2. What is baptism? Sprinkling, pouring, emersion?
  - 3. Who baptize? Infants, saved people, etc.
  - 4. What to do in worship? Piano, count beads, light candles, etc.
  - 5. When should we have Lord's Supper? Monthly, annually, Thursday night.
  - 6. Which church? Methodist, Baptist, etc., or all of them.
  - 7. What is church's mission? Social, recreation, political & economic reform, lonely hearts club.
  - 8. How should the church be organized? Conference, associations, committees, etc.

### II. Rely On Divine Revelation.

- A. Divine revelation gave Peter the only correct answer. (vs. 15-19).
- B. Divine revelation gives only correct answer to our questions.
  - 1. What must one do to be saved from condemnation of sin? Acts 2:37,38;16:30-34; Mk. 16:16; 1 Pet. 3:21.
  - 2. What is baptism? Rom. 6:4; Col. 2:12; Acts 8:36-39; John 3:23.
  - 3. Who baptize? Acts 8:37; Acts 16:30-34; Acts 2:38).
  - 4. What to do in worship? (Acts 2:42; Acts 3:16; 1 Cor. 16:2.
  - 5. When should we have Lord's Supper? Acts 20:7
  - 6. Which church? Matt. 16:18; Eph. 4:4; Rom. 16:16.
  - 7. What is church's mission? Eph. 4:12; 1 Tim. 3:15; 1 Tim. 5:16, 1 Cor. 11:22,34.
  - 8. How should the church be organized? Phil. 1:1; Acts 14:23; 1 Pet. 5:2.

## Conclusion:

- A. Human opinion fosters division and error, divine revelation unity and truth.
- B. Each one here must answer an important religious question.
  - 1. The faithful Christian - To continue or slack up?
  - 2. The backslider - To sink deeper into sin? or be restored?
  - 3. The alien sinner - To continue in sin? or to obey the gospel?