

# Wrong Measuring Sticks

2 Cor. 10:12

## Introduction:

- A. A wise master builder has two things at hand as he builds and is careful to use them:
  - 1. The official project blue print.
  - 2. A good set of measuring tools – to measure length, width, height, angels, etc.
- B. As spiritual builders we need the same tools to build up our personal lives and the Lord's church.
  - 1. The blue print and measuring tool for life and the church is the word of God (cf. Jas. 1:25).
  - 2. Paul warns against other measuring sticks or adding or subtracting for the one (Rev. 22:18-19)
- C. Let us examine some faulty measuring sticks that we sometimes use to measure right and wrong.

## Discussion:

### I. Ourselves.

- A. Paul says this is not wise (2 Cor. 10:12).
- B. It is not wise because:
  - 1. Even a fool is right in his own eyes (Prov. 12:15)
  - 2. What seems right to us may be fatal (Prov. 14:12)
  - 3. Woe to those wise in their own eye (Isa. 5:21)

### II. Others.

- A. Judged by our works, not another's (Rev. 20:13; 2 Cor. 5:10).
- B. Sentiment that expresses such measurement.
  - 1. "If he/she does, so can I"
  - 2. "If the preacher, elders, deacons approve or do it, it's ok." (Acts 20:30)
  - 3. "What I do is no worse than what he/she does"
  - 4. "Brother Well Read Preacher said...."

### III. Standing Practice

- A. This is how religious authority shifts from the New Testament to traditions of men (cf. Matt. 15:9).
  - 1. This has resulted in the religious confusion we have today.
  - 2. Early subtle deviations from the New Testament pattern occurred (cf. 2 Thess. 2:7)
  - 3. Each deviation became standing practice and a pattern for the next generation– not word of God.
  - 4. It was this kind of thing that necessitated the "restoration movement."
- B. New questions, problems and situations arise – how do we determine the right course?
  - 1. By what we have always said or done, or what we said or did the last time in a similar matters?
  - 2. By what our present practice may or may not be?
  - 3. By what is the current consensus of "the brotherhood"
  - 4. Or do we go back to the Bible each time and measure by it.
- C. Our beginning illustration of the master builder shows the folly of this approach.
  - 1. No good carpenter measures a new cut by the past cuts – goes back to original for each cut.
  - 2. Ill. Two boys cutting wood for stove – over time wood became too long.
  - 3. It may be that we need to go back and do some re-cutting – let not use past cuts to measure.

### IV. Peace

- A. All too often the greatest consideration to solving a problem is so it will preserve peace.
  - 1. Peace and unity among brethren is wonderful (Gen. 13:8; Psa. 133:1; Eph. 4:3)
  - 2. Peace is secondary to purity (Jas. 3:17; Matt. 10:34; Lk. 12:51)
- B. The greatest consideration must be does please God (Gal. 1:10 NIV)

### V. Sentimentalism

- A. The way I want it to be rather than the way it ought to be.
- B. How this will affect those that I love most:
  - 1. Our parents or our children.
  - 2. Our beloved brother or sister.
  - 3. Our beloved congregation – its attendance and finances.
  - 4. May be ok in purely judgment calls, but not in matters of clearly taught right or wrong.

## Conclusion:

- A. God left us the scriptures as the blue print and measuring stick for us to build by (Heb. 8:5)
- B. Let us be care that we are not using the wrong measuring stick.

C. Let us begin by going back to the Bible for the plan of salvation from sin.