

You may be shocked to learn....

Matthew 7:28-29

I. INTRODUCTION: I

- I. **2** The people who heard Jesus preach were amazed at His teachings.
 - A. At the beginning of His ministry the people of Capernaum were amazed at His teaching:
Lk. 4:32: *"And they were astonished at his doctrine: for his word was with power."*
 - B. When Jesus finished His "Sermon on the Mount" the multitude of listeners were shocked by His teaching:
Matt. 7:28-29: *"And it came to pass, when Jesus had ended these sayings, the people were astonished at his doctrine: 29 For he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes."*
 - C. When Jesus taught with parables the people were also amazed:
Matt. 13:54: *"And when he was come into his own country, he taught them in their synagogue, insomuch that they were astonished, and said, 'Whence hath this man this wisdom, and these mighty works?'"*
 - D. Jesus' teaching even amazed the Jewish authorities:
Jn. 7:15: *"And the Jews marvelled, saying, 'How knoweth this man letters, having never learned?'"*
Jn. 7:46: *"The officers answered, 'Never man spake like this man.'"*
2. Jesus' teaching still shocks most people; even people who claim to be Christians.
3. **3** When God's book is opened and honestly examined there are a number of things the Bible teaches that most folks are shocked to learn.

II. DISCUSSION:

You may be shocked to learn the Bible teaches...

- I. **4** One church is NOT as good as another:
 - A. When I was a boy I remember the public service announcements at the drive-in movie on Saturday night said, "Be sure to attend the church of your choice tomorrow."
 - (1) Encouraging attendance at church services is good.
 - (2) But the public service announcement expressed a falsehood that was common in that day and is still common today: One church is as good as another.
 - (3) That spirit has produced some 40,000 "Christian" denominations.
 - (4) That spirit is the "spirit of error" (1 Jn. 4:6).
 - B. But that is NOT what the Bible teaches:
 - (1) The Bible says: **Col. 1:18:** *"And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence."*
 - (2) And the Bible says, "There is one body." (Eph. 4:4); if the "one body" is the "church"; how many churches are there?! **ONE!** So, Christ only built one church.
Matt. 16:18: *"And I say also unto thee, 'That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.'"*

- (4) Reiterate the singular nature of Matthew 16:18 and how it perfectly agrees with Ephesians 4:4.
- (5) **5** Are the churches Jesus didn't build just as good as the one He did build?
 - (a) That would make man's works as good as God's work.
 - (b) Jesus said, "Every plant, which My Heavenly Father has not planted, shall be rooted up" (Matt. 15:13).
 - (c) You see, Jesus didn't seem to think that one church is as good as another.
- C. The Bible says Jesus "is the head of the church: and He is the Savior of the body." (Eph. 5:23).
 - (1) That means the saved are in the "church."
 - (2) Which church? The one and only church Jesus built (Matt. 16:18; Eph. 1:22-23; 4:4).
 - (3) What church do you want to be in? One built by Jesus or one of thousands upon thousands built by men?
 - (4) If you want to be saved the answer should be a "no brainer"!

You may be shocked to learn the Bible teaches...

2. **6** Christ will NOT reign on earth for 1,000 years:

- A. That would be a shocking fact for more than 80% of religious people who believe this.
- B. However, the verse that so teaches is yet to be found.
 - (1) There are some verses that mention a 1,000 years:
 - (2) A figurative 1,000 years is found in 2 Peter 3:8 (explain meaning);

2 Pet. 3:7-8: "But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men. 8 But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day."
 - (3) Another figurative 1,000 years is found in Revelation 20:4 (explain meaning):

Rev. 20:4: "And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years."

Rev. 1:1: "The Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave unto him, to shew unto his servants things which must shortly come to pass; and he sent and signified it by his angel unto his servant John."
- C. ****** The Bible gives us at least three clear facts that indicate Christ will NOT return to reign on the earth for 1,000 years:
 - (1) First, when He comes again it will be at the end:

1 Cor. 15:23-24: "But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming. 24 Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power." (explain deliverance of the kingdom vs reception of the kingdom; Dan. 7:13-14)
 - (2) Second, when He comes again it will be when the earth ceases to exist:

2 Pet. 3:10: *“But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.”*

(3) Third, when He comes again He will not set foot on earth:

1 Thess. 4:16-17: *“For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: I 7 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.”*

You may be shocked to learn the Bible does not teach us to observe...

3. **7 Holy Days:** e.g., Christmas and Easter

(1) Most people (even those claiming to be Christians) would be shocked to find out the Bible does not teach Jesus was born on December 25th.

(a) In fact, the Bible gives no month, day or year for Jesus' birth.

(b) Also, the Bible does tell us how many “wise men” there were:

(c) It is true the “wise men” brought three gifts, but it is pure speculation there were three “wise men.”

Matt. 2:1: *“Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem,”*

Matt. 2:11: *“And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh.”*

(2) Most people (even those claiming to be Christians) would be shocked to find out the Bible does not teach Christians to observe the religious ‘holy day’ called Easter.

(a) The word “Easter” is found in the KJV:

Act 12:4: *“And when he had apprehended him, he put him in prison, and delivered him to four quaternions of soldiers to keep him; intending after Easter to bring him forth to the people.”*

(b) The Greek word translated “Easter” in the KJV is the Greek word *pascha*, which occurs 29 times in the New Testament.

(c) Every other occurrence of *pascha* in the New Testament is translated “passover” by the KJV translators; and is so translated **all** 29 times by every other major translation (e.g., ASV, NASV, NKJV, NIV). Acts 12:4 is an obvious mistranslation in KJV!

(d) Do you know how the date for Easter is determined? What Bible book, chapter and verse do we turn to? NONE!

*******“In 325CE the Council of Nicaea established that Easter would be held on the first Sunday after the first full moon occurring on or after the vernal equinox. (i.e., March 21).” (Source: Google)

(3) To my knowledge the only mention of Christmas or Easter, or how Christians are to observe these so-called “holy days” is in the Gospel of Matthew:

****Matt. 15:8-9:** *“This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. 9 But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.”*

You may be shocked to learn the Bible does not teach us to use religious titles like...

4. **8 Reverend, Pastor, and Father:** neither are they proper terms for a gospel preacher

A. The term “Reverend” is only used one time in the Bible, and that time it applies to God.

Psa. 111:9: *“He sent redemption unto his people: he hath commanded his covenant for ever: holy and reverend is his name.”*

(1) Surely anyone can see a term describing God should not be used to describe men.

(2) The very concept of elevating one Christian above another is antithetical to the teaching of our Lord:

Lk. 22:24-27: *“And there was also a strife among them, which of them should be accounted the greatest. 25 And he said unto them, ‘The kings of the Gentiles exercise lordship over them; and they that exercise authority upon them are called benefactors. 26 But ye shall not be so: but he that is greatest among you, let him be as the younger; and he that is chief, as he that doth serve. 27 For whether is greater, he that sitteth at meat, or he that serveth? is not he that sitteth at meat? but I am among you as he that serveth.”*

B. The concept of “pastor” does appear in the New Testament, but it is not used as a title. It simply describes a shepherd over a flock; over a local congregation.

Act 20:17: *“And from Miletus he sent to Ephesus, and called the elders of the church.”*

Act 20:28: *“Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.”*

1 Pet. 5:1-2: *“The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed: 2 Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind;”*

Act 14:23: *“And when they had ordained them elders in every church, and had prayed with fasting, they commended them to the Lord, on whom they believed.”*

C. To serve as an elder a man must meet certain qualifications (1 Tim. 3:1-7; Titus 1:5-9).

(1) Many denominations operate under the “pastor system.”

(2) A denominational “pastor” is basically the CEO of a local church; he/she serves as the preacher and chief administrator; such an “office” is not found in the Bible.

(3) Furthermore, the New Testament teaches that pastors are not necessarily preachers:

2 Tim. 4:5: *“But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry.”*

D. Also, some denominations give the religious title “Father” to their preacher/pastor; Jesus condemned the use of such religious titles as “Father”:

Matt. 23:9: *“And call no man your father upon the earth: for one is your Father, which is in heaven.”*

You may be shocked to learn the Bible teaches we are to...

5. **9** “rejoice” and “forgive one another”;

A. In fact, these are commands of God:

Phil. 4:4: “Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, ‘Rejoice.’”

Eph. 4:32: “And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.”

(1) These are not just suggestions that will make us better people; neither is there an option to choose or not to choose.

(2) These are commands! Violating them is sin (1 Jn. 3:4).

(3) To sin is to separate oneself from God (Isa. 59:1-2).

B. Many Christians are sourpusses and down on life; one preacher described some brethren as looking as if they were raised on a dill pickle pacifier and weaned on vinegar.

C. Christians have very good reasons to naturally, logically and willingly obey these commands:

(1) God has solved the one problem we can never solve for ourselves (Rom. 3:23; 6:23).

(2) God has given us the greatest gift imaginable:

Rom. 5:8: “But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”

Rom. 8:32: “He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?”

(3) We should rejoice that God has given us the grand hope of eternal life:

Titus 1:2: “In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;”

Heb. 6:19-20: “Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast, and which entereth into that within the veil; 20 Whither the forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus, made an high priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec.”

(4) And we should fulfill Ephesians 4:32 because we are all “one in Christ Jesus”: Acts 17:26

Gal. 3:28: “There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus.”

You may be shocked to learn the Bible teaches...

6. **10** “faith” is a work:

Jn. 6:29: “Jesus answered and said unto them, ‘This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent.’”

A. If we are saved by “faith only,” we are saved by a “works only.”

B. If “works” do not save us at all, then we are not saved by “faith.”

C. The simple truth is we are saved by an active, “working” faith:

Jas. 2:24-26: “Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only. 25 Likewise also was not Rahab the harlot justified by works, when she had received the messengers, and had sent them out another way? 26 For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith

without works is dead also.”

Eph. 2:8-10: “For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 9 Not of works, lest any man should boast. 10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.”

You may be shocked to learn the Bible teaches...

7. !! Only members of the church of Christ will be saved:

- A. “Oh, you’re part of that arrogant bunch, the ‘Church of Christ,’ that believes they are the only ones going to heaven!”
- B. Everything about that statement is true except the “arrogance” thing. It is not arrogant to teach what the Bible teaches!
- C. And, God’s Word undeniably teaches that only those that are “*in Christ*” will be saved:
2 Tim. 2:10: “Therefore I endure all things for the elect’s sakes, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.”
Act 4:12: “Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.”
- D. Remember, we read Christ is “*the Savior of the body*” (Eph. 5:23); thus, He only promises to save those in the body. His body and church are one and the same and there’s only “*one body*”; so there’s only one church (Col. 1:18; Eph. 4:4).
 - (1) Christ’s church was purchased with His blood (**Act 20:28:** “Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.”).
 - (2) Christ was the builder of His church (Matt. 16:18).
 - (3) Christ is the foundation of His church (**1 Cor. 3:11:** “For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.”).
 - (4) The church is the “fulness” of Christ (**Eph. 1:22-23:** “And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church, 23 Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all.”).
 - (5) So, it should not come as a surprise His church is called “*the churches of Christ*” (e.g., Rom. 16:16).
 - (6) I recognize not all churches claiming to be a “church of Christ” are indeed a “church of Christ.”
 - (a) To be a “church of Christ” a group of Christians must follow Christ in all things (Col. 3:17; 2 Jn. 9-11).
 - (b) But I also know that when a church calls itself by any other name than Christ that they are not following Christ in all things.
- E. 12 Most people believe you “join” a church; that is true for denominational churches, but not for Christ’s church.
 - (1) On the Day of Pentecost when Christ’s church came into existence not one person joined the church on that day! Even though 3,000 souls became members (Acts 2:41).
 - (2) Instead, **Act 2:47:** “Praising God, and having favour with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.”

(3) Notice two very key things:

(a) People did not “join” the church, the Lord “*added [them] to the church.*”

(b) When did the Lord add people to the church? When they obeyed the gospel!

✓ Hear: Rom. 10:17; 2 Thess. 2:13-14; Rom. 1:16-17

✓ Believe: Heb. 11:6; Jn. 8:24

✓ Confess: Rom. 10:10; Acts 8:37

✓ Repent: Acts 2:38; 17:30

✓ Baptized: Mk. 16:16; Acts 2:38; 22:16; Gal. 3:27

F. ** You can't be saved in a denomination! Jesus will only save those He adds to His church!
Acts 2:47; Eph. 5:23; 4:4; 1:22-23

G. Which church do you want to belong to?

If you found #7 a “shocker,” this will shock you even more! The Bible teaches...

8. **13** Not all of those in the body of Christ will be eternally saved:

A. In God's book we read how only the faithful will receive a crown of life (Rev. 2:10).

B. Some of those that were once sanctified by the blood of Christ will turn aside and be lost:

Heb. 10:26-29: “Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him. 39 But we are not of them who draw back unto perdition; but of them that believe to the saving of the soul.”

C. Notice the Hebrew writer describes two types of Christians:

(1) Those that “live by faith” (i.e., faithful) and by implication do not “draw back” (i.e., do not fall away, remain faithful); “them that believe to the saving of the soul.”

(2) Those that “draw back unto perdition” (i.e., do not remain faithful); “them that DO NOT believe to the saving of the soul.”

(3) ** Which category are you in?

III. CONCLUSION: **14**

I. There are many more things most would find shocking that the Bible teaches.

A. e.g., Did you know the vast majority of people are going to hell?!

B. That sounds very harsh, but do you know who tells us this sobering fact? Jesus!

Matt. 7:13-14: “Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: 14 Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.”

C. You see, there are only two roads traveled in life:

(1) The road less traveled “which leadeth to life” (“few there be that find it”).

(2) The road traveled by the majority “that leads to destruction” (“many there be which go in thereat”).

2. ** Which road are you traveling? Invitation