**[A] WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE?**

**Philippians 1:9 – 11**

**INTRODUCTION:**

1. The tendency of today is to ignore or, perhaps, overlook the differences in religion.

 A. For many it is hard to conceive Christianity being free from and independent or separate

 of denominationalism because of:

1. Comfortable Traditions
2. False Beliefs or
3. Preconceived Ideas

 2. Questions often arise about making a big thing out of which “church” one belongs.

 A. The question is, “***What Difference Does It Make***?” in the area of religion?

**BODY:**

**1. WHAT ONE MAY BELIEVE AS LONG AS ONE IS HONEST?**

 A. Doctrine influences life, morality, honesty, etc (Tit 1:9 – 11).

 B. It determines religious practices (1 Tim 3:15, 16).

 1. Some clear examples how doctrine affects [our] lives:

 A. Lord’s Supper, Baptism, The Gospel, Law of Moses, etc…

 C. Only the truth can set one free, religiously (Jn 8:32).

 1. The truth must be believed, loved and obeyed (2 The 2:10 – 17; 1 Pet 1:22).

 D. Honesty in religion is essential, **BUT** it is ***NOT*** an “only” concept (Jn 17:17).

 E. If it makes ***NO*** difference what [we] believe, then…

 1. There would be ***NO*** false prophets (Mt 7:15; 1 Jn 4:1).

 2. There is ***NO*** such thing as error (Eph 4:14; 2 Pet 3:16, 17).

 A. Error would be as valuable as truth (Mt 22:29).

 4. There would be ***NO*** need to teach (Mt 28:18 – 20; Mk 16:15, 16).

 5. The Scriptures would ***NOT*** be needed for correction or instruction (2 Tim 3:16, 17).

 F. Clearly there is but one gospel, one body, one faith (Gal 1:8; Eph 4:4, 5).

**2. WHICH “CHURCH” ONE BELONGS AS LONG AS ONE LIVES BY THE BIBLE?**

 A. Is it possible to live by the Bible and belong to a religious organization ***NOT*** mentioned?

 B. Jesus built **BUT** “one church” (Mt 16:18; Eph 1:22, 23; 4:4).

 1. His Church teaches the Plan of Salvation as taught/practiced in the New Testament.

 2. Likewise, [we] worship as outlined in the New Testament, which demands the proper

 Spirit and truth (Jn 4:23, 24).

**3. WHY ONE HAS BEEN BAPTIZED AS LONG AS ONE HAS?**

 A. Understanding a commandment is essential to obedience (Mt 13:15).

 B. The reason for doing something plays a major part in one's motives (Rom 6:17).

 C. Since baptism is for salvation, one must clearly understand (Mk 16:16; 1 Pet 3:21).

 D. If one is baptized incorrectly, it breaths the aroma one can do wrong and still be right.

 1. One can***NOT*** be taught wrong and baptized right.

 A. For example, if one has been taught baptism has nothing to do with salvation,

 then one could ***NOT*** have been baptized properly.

 E. Since one’s soul is at stake, it is extremely dangerous to take any [unScriptural] chances.

**CONCLUSION:**

1. So, the Bible question is: “Does it make a Difference?”
2. The Bible answer is: **IT DOES**!! (Rom 8:35; 1 Pet 3:15)