**[B] 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. IF I AM SATISFIED?**

 A. Our salvation is ***NOT*** dependent upon [our] satisfaction.

 1. The Lord is the One who must be satisfied with [us] (Jn 8:29; Rom 15:3).

 B. God is ***NOT*** pleased until His Will is done (Lk 11:28; Jn 14:23).

 C. Our LIFE is to be a LIFE of conformation to God's Will (Rom 12:1, 2).

**2. WHAT NAME ONE WEARS IF ONE LIVE THE CHRISTIAN LIFE?**

 A. Obedience to Christ includes the wearing of His Name (Ac 11:26; 1 Pet 4:16).

 B. Christians were “married” to Christ (Rom 7:4).

 1. Husbands, would you want your wife wearing someone else's name?

 C. Man can ***NOT*** wear the name of one, other than Christ, by faith (Ac 4:12; Rom 10:17).

 1. ALL Spiritual BLESSINGS are in Christ (Eph 1:3).

 A. To live a Spiritual LIFE and draw our reinforcements from the unseen and eternal

 world, which is focused in [our] Lord.

 B. [We] are in Him as far as justification is concerned for [our] understanding.

 C. He is in [us] for sanctification as the source of a Holy and Useful LIFE.

 D. The condition of a Blessed LIFE is the conscious maintenance of this oneness.

**3. HOW ONE IS BAPTIZED AS LONG AS ONE’S HEART IS RIGHT?**

 A. What difference does it make as to which medication you take as long as you are willing

 to believe that it will work? You know the difference.

1. ***NOT*** all have been prescribed by the same physician nor authorized for the same

purpose and reason; henceforth, why take this chance?

 2. Likewise, ***NOT*** all “baptisms” have been prescribed by the “Great Physician”.

 A. Thus, the ultimate problem because there is only ONE (Eph 4:5).

 B. The New Testament tells [us] exactly what baptism/baptized is for:

 1. Mk 16:16; Ac 2:38; 8:35 – 39; 22:16; Rom 6:3, 4; Gal 3:27; Col 2:12; 1 Pet 3:21

 C. One who substitutes for the Lord's Way does ***NOT*** have a right heart (Pro 3:5, 6; 14:12).

 1. Jer 10:23; Isa 55:6-11; Mt 7:21-23; 15:14; Heb 2:9, 10; 5:8, 9; 8:1-13; 12:1, 2

**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).