

THE BELLEVILLE MESSENGER

November 9

2008

FORM OF DOCTRINE

In Romans 6:17 Paul expressed thanks for the fact that these brethren were no longer servants of sin having been made free from sin. How had this wonderful transformation taken place? Paul said that it had come about by their obeying *“from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you.”*

The word *“form”* is from the Greek word *“τυπος”* (tupos). In defining this word Vine says: "the representation or pattern of anything... , that form (or mold) of teaching whereunto ye were delivered, (RV). The metaphor is that of a cast or frame into which molten material is poured so as to take its shape."

By obeying from the heart the doctrine delivered them they had been molded by that doctrine. Just as the molten material poured into a form or mold is now conformed to the shape of that mold our lives must be conformed to this doctrine. Since Paul preached the same message in all the churches (1 Corinthians 7:17) we know the *“doctrine”* which was delivered to these brethren was the gospel of Christ (Romans 1:16; 1 Corinthians 15:1-4).

Later in this same epistle, Paul admonishes these brethren to *“be not conformed to this world”* (Romans 12:2). Far too many allow the world to be the *“mold”* or *“form”* for their lives. Their speech, conduct, dress, values, etc. are all patterned after the world. When we obey the *“form (pattern) of doctrine”* Paul speaks of we will not be conformed to the world but, instead, we will be *“conformed to the image of his Son”* (Romans 8:29).

What had these brethren done to make it possible for Paul to say

they had obeyed the form of teaching delivered them? To answer this question all we have to do is look at the preceding verses in Romans 6. Paul said, *“Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin”* (Romans 6:3-6). Elsewhere in this letter Paul refers to their *“obedience to the faith”* (Romans 1:5) and *“the obedience of faith”* (Romans 16:26).

When these individuals acted upon their faith in Jesus as the Christ, the Son of the living God by being baptized into Christ for the remission of their sins (Romans 6:3; Acts 2:38) they were *“then made free from sin”* (Romans 6:18). Having been made free from sin their lives were to be continually molded by that teaching they had received. This means being *“servants of righteousness”* (Romans 6:18) and walking in *“newness of life”* (Romans 6:4).

Friend, have you obeyed that *“form of doctrine”* the Romans had obeyed? Have you been baptized into Christ? If not, you are not in Christ and you are not that *“new creature”* reconciled unto God (2 Corinthians 5:17,18). What will be the *“mold”* or *“pattern”* for your life? *“And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God”* (Romans 12:2).

✍ James Hahn



"God Gave Them Up"

When man refuses to see the abundant proof of God's "eternal power and divinity" in the created world he "glorifies Him not as God, neither is thankful." (Rom. 1:19-21)

This asserts that the Creator has so demonstrated Himself in His product that, even without the inspired word, we should be able to see that the "First Cause" must have always existed (arguing it always will exist) and is therefore "eternal." And this leads us forcibly to the

conclusion that this "First Cause" is of a nature different from that of His creatures; has a divine nature. All who so recognize God "look up" to Him with the honor so justly due Him, and reckon themselves subject to Him. Such a respect for the Creator has a sobering effect upon mankind. We "live, move, and have our being" in His presence; aware that "all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do." (Heb. 4:13) Perhaps this is basis enough to conclude that except we walk circumspectly before Him, we "sin against Heaven" and must repent. (Acts 17:28f)

When man denies the presence of the eternal and divine God, (does not like to retain God in his knowledge) God (1) gives him up to uncleanness; (2) gives him up unto vile affections; (3) gives him over to a reprobate mind. (Read Rom. 1:21-24-26-28) This seems to be another way of saying God allows man to "stew in his own juice" or reap the consequences of his own folly. Man is incomplete without God. It is "not in man that walketh to direct his steps." (Jer. 10:23) On this basis alone we should see that "righteousness exalteth a nation; but sin is a reproach to any people." (Prov. 14:34) A nation that tries to substitute fear of punishment, respect for law, patriotism, or even Emperor-worship to upgrade the state and its citizens, will fail. There is no satisfactory substitute for faith in and respect for the God of us all.

Godless Evolution, and other materialistic concepts which enthrone human reason and seek to leave God out of the universe – these must bear much of the blame for our a-moral and immoral society.

Religions which place their stress upon social welfare seem, on the surface, to be so "relevant;" so intent upon solving current problems. But to the extent they divert the attention and resources of the church from its chief function – the promotion of spiritual values – faith in the real, personal God to whom belongs our full and complete allegiance – to this extent these religions join hands with all other soul and nation wreckers.

"God gave them up" "God gave them over" – re-read those verses from the Roman letter. "Like a terrible refrain" says Lenski. "This is more than permission to fall into uncleanness, and it is less than causing the fall. God's action is judicial...Thus God uses sin to punish itself and the sinner."

When man does recognize and respect His Creator, even as he sees Him in the universe, he is ready to hear God's word, and obey Him.
✍ Robert F. Turner



RELIGIOUS DECEPTION

I never cease to be amazed at how gullible people are when it comes to anything done in the name of religion. As you watch and listen to the preachers on TV and radio it makes you wonder how anyone who has any knowledge whatsoever could be deceived by some of the schemes used by these men. During the time I lived in the St. Louis area I heard one of these TV preachers say that the Lord had told him to take some dirt from the tomb where Jesus was buried and to make this available to the people. He claimed to have taken this dirt from the tomb and was making it available in small bottles that could be worn around the neck. Of course these were "absolutely free" to every person that would send \$20.00 to this preacher. I wonder how many people responded to this lie. I know it was a lie because the Lord did NOT tell this man to do this. God's will has been revealed and is complete and final (2 Timothy 3:16,17; Jude 3). Nowhere in the word of God is anyone told "to take the dirt from the tomb of Jesus." When this man, or any other man, claims that the Lord instructed him to do so he is either deceived or is guilty of seeking to deceive others. I am persuaded it is the latter. (JH)

<i>Belleville church of Christ</i>	
<i>5635 S County Rd 200E - Belleville, IN - (317) 539-5258</i>	
www.bellevillechurch.net	
Schedule of Services	Elders
Sun. Bible Study..... 9:30 a.m.	Charles Carpenter.... (317) 839-3873
Sun. Morning Worship... 10:30 a.m.	James Hahn. (317) 745-1507
Sun. Evening Worship. 5:00 p.m.	
Wed. Bible Study..... 7:00 p.m.	
Evangelist	Deacons
James Hahn. (317) 745-1507	Leon Nevins (317) 272-2966
	Don Perry..... (765) 676-5825
	Alvin Stanley. (317) 831-3514