

All Authority

- *And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. 19 Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen. Mt. 28:18-20*
- Jesus now has all authority ... No one else has any
- His command: Make disciples baptizing them...
- Teach them to observe **ALL** that **I** commanded
- I am with you **ALWAYS**...to **END OF THE AGE**

God Made No Plans for Changes

- *Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you **abide in My word**, you are **truly My disciples**. 32 And you shall **know the truth**, and the **truth shall make you free**." Jn. 8:31-32*
- If we follow anything not in His word we are no long His disciples but the disciples of new teachers
- *Anyone who goes too far and **does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God**; the one who **abides in the teaching**, he has both the **Father and the Son**. 10 If anyone comes to you and **does not bring this teaching, do not receive him** into your house, and do not give him a greeting; 2Jn 9-10*

Those who did Make Changes

- **Hypocrites!** Well did Isaiah prophesy about you, saying: 8 "These people draw near to Me with their mouth, And honor Me with their lips, But their heart is far from Me. 9 And **in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.**" Mt. 15:7-9
- If they are not in the teachings of Christ ... they are the teachings of men. If we teach any doctrine in the church that is not in the Jesus' Word we are hypocrites.
- I am not calling them hypocrites Jesus is!
- I did not say their worship is in vain, Jesus did!

His Disciples were Concerned

- They came to warn Him ... you offended them:
- *Then His disciples came and said to Him, "Do You know that **the Pharisees were offended** when they heard this saying?" Mt. 15:12*
- Jesus' strong words of rebuke would eventually lead them to kill Him. His answer:
- *But He answered and said, "**Every plant which My heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted.** 14 Let them alone. **They are blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind leads the blind, both will fall into a ditch.**" Mt. 15:13-14*
- Jesus came to save ... These words will save ... If we heed them.

When the Blind are Leading the Blind

- *Preach the word!... 3 For the time will come when they will **not endure sound doctrine**, but **according to their own desires**, because they have **itching ears**, they will heap up for themselves teachers; 4 and they will **turn their ears away from the truth**, and **be turned aside to fables**. 5 But **you be watchful in all things**, endure afflictions, **do the work of an evangelist**, **fulfill your ministry**. 2 Tim 4:2-5*
- The command to those who abide in His word.
- Some “disciples” don’t want to see. They want to be blind so they can believe fables. They want to be blind so they seek the blind to lead them.

Jesus Demands we Make our Choice

- | <u>Truth and Eternal Life</u> | | <u>Error and Destruction</u> | |
|-------------------------------|--|------------------------------|---------|
| ● A Narrow Gate | | A Wide Gate | 7:13-14 |
| ● A Straitened Path | | A Broad Path | 7:13-14 |
| ● Prophets from God | | False Prophets | 7:15 |
| ● Good Fruit | | Evil Fruit | 7:16-20 |
| ● Disciples do God's will | | Disciples never known | 7:21-23 |
| ● Miracles confirm Word | | Deceiving Miracles | 7:22-23 |
| ● Foundation on Rock | | Foundation on Sand | 7:24-26 |
| ● Hear these words and do | | Hear and don't do | 7:24-26 |

Two Gates - Mt 7:13-14

- *Enter by the narrow gate; for **wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction**, and there are **MANY** who go in by it. 14 Because **narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life**, and there are **FEW** who find it.*
- These are not my words ... I would never make such a statement. But Jesus made it.
- The gate to destruction has **MANY** entering it.
- The gate to life has **FEW** entering it.
- Which gate did you enter?
- What is the gate and when did we enter it?
- Are we absolutely sure we entered the right gate?

What is the Gate?

- Which gate did you enter?
- If Jesus asked what would you say?
- Mt 16:19 – I will give you the keys
- Acts 2:37-41 Those who were baptized were added to them
- Gal 3:27 Everyone baptized into Christ
- Rom 6:3-4 buried with Him in baptism and raised with Him in baptism
- Col 2:12-13 – Dead, buried in baptism, Made alive – All sins forgiven.
- 1Cor. 12:12. By one Spirit baptized into One Body
- Mt 28:19 Make disciples baptizing them ...

The Narrow Path Leading to Life

- *Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. Jn. 14:6*
- This brings us back to our starting point:
- Mt 28:18-20 All authority given to me... teach them to observe all that I commanded.
- 2Jn 9 Don't abide in teaching of Christ have not God
- *Trust in the Lord with all your heart, And lean not on your own understanding; 6 In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths. 7 Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the Lord and depart from evil. Pr. 3:5-7*
- Few will enter this gate and walk this path. Many will be blind, led by the blind falling into the ditch.

Choices: 2 Teachers / Prophets

- *Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. 16 You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles? 17 Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. **Mt 7:15-17***
- Teachers who are sheep who are really sheep
- Teachers who are wolves in sheep's clothing.
- *Then Jesus said to them again, "Most assuredly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. 11 11 "I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives His life for the sheep. Jn 10:7*

By Their Fruits You will Know

- Those who follow good shepherd are truly sheep.
- Those who follow others are wolves pretending to be sheep of the good shepherd (blind guides).
- *They are of the world. Therefore they speak as of the world, and the world hears them. 6 We are of God. He who knows God hears us; he who is not of God does not hear us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error. 1 John 4:5-6*
- The apostles and prophets who wrote the NT are the standard for the sheep. Those who are God hear them ... Those who are not do not hear them.
- The Fruits: spirit of truth and the spirit of error