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THE SURE WORD by Jonnie Hutchison

RESTORING ORIGINAL CHRISTIANITY

Few would deny that we live in a religiously divided world. There are literally hundreds of diverse religious groups with conflicting beliefs, teachings, and practices. Yet, Jesus prayed that those who would believe on Him through the teachings of His chosen apostles would be ONE as He and the Father are ONE (John 17:20-21). It should be obvious that there is no division between the Father and the Son. God has not taught one thing and the Son something entirely different or contradictory. The word of God contains no contradictions, nor does it teach multiple ways to obtain salvation. What God requires for salvation, worship, the organization of the church and its mission in this world is not characterized by diversity but by ONENESS.

When religious division reared its ugly head in the New Testament church in Corinth did God praise their diversity? No! Paul was inspired by the Holy Spirit to instruct them exactly how to correct this sinful situation. 1 Corinthians 1:10 reads, "Now I plead with you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you, but that you be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment. "what was necessary to eliminate religious division among the Corinthians? To "speak the SAME thing" and "be perfectly joined together in the SAME MIND and the SAME JUDGEMENT." This solution to division is stated also in the words, "...let us walk by the SAME RULE, let us be of the SAME MIND" (Philippians 3:16). By what "rule" may we all walk which results in being of the "same mind" or being ONE as Jesus prayed? Here is the answer, "...according to the rule which God has distributed..." (2 Corinthians 10:3). The rule that God has distributed which applies to all living today is the New Testament of Jesus Christ. The unity for which Jesus prayed cannot be obtained by accepting religious diversity or agreeing to disagree, but by returning to the original New Testament pattern for salvation and for the work, worship and organization of the original church of Christ which our Lord established in the city of Jerusalem on the first Pentecost following His ascension into heaven (Matthew 16:18-19; Acts 1:9-11; 2:1-47).

Our constant plea is for all to give up the human creeds of modern churches and return to original New Testament Christianity as revealed in God's rule so that believers in Christ may be ONE in fulfillment of the prayer of our Lord, speaking the same thing and being perfectly joined together in the same mind and the same judgment.