

The Correspondent



SUNDAY

Bible Study 9:30 AM
Worship 10:30 AM & 1:30 PM

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study (Adult) 1:30 PM
Bible Study (All Ages) 7:00 PM
www.collinsville-troycoc.org
(618) 667-6708

For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth... in every place. (1 Thessalonians 1:8)

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Man-Made Religion Will Always Fail

-Renn Ferguson

When studying the book of Acts we see so much history about the church in the first century. One thing that will always stand out is the persecution that the early Christians faced. In fact, the first persecution we read of is in Acts 4 when Peter and John are before the council. The council threatened them to not preach Jesus any longer and sent them on their way. Then we come to chapter five. In verses 12-16 we see that the apostles were performing many miracles and healing many who were sick. In verses 17-18 it reads, “but the high priest rose up, and all who were with him (that is, the party of the Sadducees) and filled with jealousy they arrested the apostles and put them in public prison.” (NKJV) However, during the night an angel released them from prison and they returned to the temple to preach. Of course, they were then brought to the council yet again. It is while they are being questioned we read of a man named Gamaliel. This man was very prominent during this period of time as a teacher of the Law of Moses. In fact, he was the one that trained Paul (Acts 22:3). During the questioning he makes a very interesting statement. This statement is recorded in verses 38-39, “And now I say to you, keep away from these men and let them alone; for if this plan or this work is of men, it will come to nothing; but if it is of God, you cannot overthrow it—lest you even be found to fight against God.”

Gamaliel made two interesting points to the council. The first was that if the apostles were not from God then they would be brought to nothing. I encourage you to read the context of Gamaliel’s statement. He gave two examples of men who sought to grow a following of their own. Both of these men eventually were defeated and their followers dispersed. The same is true of any false religion that has ever or will ever exist. Think about the gods of the land of Canaan, where are they now? Or the ancient Greeks gods such as Zeus. What happened to them? They were brought to nothing. They are looked at and used almost exclusively in academic settings. What about the many denominations that we see today? Yes, there are some that are incredibly popular right now but how many came before them? How many groups have been created and died before anyone even knew of them? Even those that are extremely popular will face the same fate. Why? Because they are from man. Man-made religion will always fail.

The second point that Gamaliel makes is that if the apostles were from God they could not be overthrown. As Daniel stood before the king intercepting his dream Daniel said, “And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever.” (Daniel 2:44) The kingdom that Jesus built, the kingdom that the apostles preached, the kingdom that you and I are a part of will never be defeated. Though many religions come and go and this one will stand forever. Why? Because it is from God.

When we look at the world it may seem like we are losing the battle. Yet, we will be victorious. “If God is for us, who can be against us?” (Romans 8:31).