"FROM THE BEGINNING IT WAS NOT SO"

Matt. 19: 1 - 9

INTRODUCTION:

1. Comment on the text.

2. The words of our Lord in the 8th verse are spoken with reference to deviations from the standard God gave for marriage, and are equally as appropriate when applied to many departures from God's standard in the Gospel.

3. The pattern revealed in the New Testament for the church is perfect -- Heb. 8:5

4. The church as it is revealed in the New Testament is to be the pattern of the church always in faith, work and worship.

5. There are warnings of departures from the truth -- II Thess. 2: 4 - 10; I Tim. 4: 1 - 4

6. In this study, we want to point out many of the grievous departures from the simplicity of the New Testament church.

I. IN THE BEGINNING, NO DENOMINATIONS

1. In the world today there are hundreds of religious denominations.

2. Religious division prevails in almost every place; but "from the beginning it was not so".


   (1) I Cor. 1:10 - 13; 3: 1 - 3; 4:6; Eph. 4: 1 - 6; Phil. 1:27; 3:16

   (2) Jesus -- John 17: 20 - 21

II. IN THE BEGINNING, NO HUMAN NAMES.

1. In the first century, those who were saved from sin were members of the same church and that church was called:

   (1) The church of the Lord -- Acts 20: 28 (ASV)

   (2) The church of God -- I Cor. 1:2

   (3) Local congregations "churches of Christ" -- Rom. 16:16

   (4) My church -- Matt. 16:18

2. Members wore the God-given name -- CHRISTIAN -- Isa. 62:2; Acts 11: 26; I Pet. 4: 16

3. "From the beginning it was not so"...

III. IN THE BEGINNING, NO SPRINKLING OR POURING

1. Some of the larger denominations today commonly practice sprinkling or pouring for baptism.

2. This is another departure from the gospel.
3. Baptism as taught in the New Testament is immersion -- Rom. 6:3, 4; Col. 2:12; Acts 8: 37 - 39

4. Sprinkling and pouring -- "from the beginning it was not so..."

IV. IN THE BEGINNING, NO INFANT BAPTISM

1. A great number of religious people believe that infants are proper subjects of baptism.

2. They do not need baptism, they are not lost -- Matt. 18:3


4. From the beginning it was not so.

V. IN THE BEGINNING, NO INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC

1. It was not introduced in worship until the middle of the seventh century.


3. Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16

VI. IN THE BEGINNING, THE LORD'S SUPPER WEEKLY

1. Acts 20:7

2. From the beginning it was not so to eat it: once a month, quarterly, semi-annually, or annually.

VII. IN THE BEGINNING NO MONEY RAISIGN "SCHEMES"

1. Many religious bodies raise money with: carnivals, bingo games, raffles, and in other ways.

2. But, "From the beginning it was not so..."

VIII. BACK TO THE BIBLE, THE BEGINNING

1. We must go back to the Bible for authority for everything we do -- Matt. 28:18; Heb. 1: 1 - 2

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