WHY?

Sermon by Donald Townsley

INTRODUCTION

1. There are many words in the Bible from which we can learn great lessons.
2. The word "WHY" is such a word.
3. "WHY" means: for what cause, reason or purpose.

I. "AND IF I SAY THE TRUTH, WHY DO YE NOT BELIEVE ME?" -- John 8:46

   1. Jesus said, "If a man keep my saying; he shall never see death" -- John 8:51; 11:26
   2. If Jesus taught the truth, one Church, why not believe Him?
      (1) He said He would build one -- Matt. 16:18
      (2) He said He would build one Kingdom -- John 18:36
      (3) His Kingdom and church are one and the same -- Matt. 16:18-19
      (4) He said there would be one fold -- John 10:16
      (5) This one fold is the church bought with His blood -- Acts 20:28

3. If Jesus taught the truth on the one baptism, why not believe Him?
   (1) Mark 16:16
   (2) John 3:3-5
   (3) Eph. 4:5
   (4) Acts 22:16
   (5) I Pet. 3:21
   (6) Rom. 6:3-4
   (7) Gal. 3:27

4. If Jesus taught the truth on Worship, why not believe Him?
   (1) John 4:24
   (2) All worship must come from the heart of man and be based on truth.
   (3) His word is Truth-- John 17:17
   (4) His Word reveals only five items of worship:
      1. Singing -- Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16
      2. Prayer -- Acts 2:42
      3. Lord's Supper -- Acts 20:7; I Cor. 11:23-26
      4. Teaching -- Acts 20:7
      5. Giving -- I Cor. 16:1-2
5. If Jesus taught the truth on Hell, **why** not believe Him?
   
   (1) Matt. 25:41, 46; II Thess. 1: 7 - 9
   
   (2) Matt. 13:42

II. "**AND WHY CALL YE ME, LORD, LORD, AND DO NOT THE THINGS WHICH I SAY**" -- Luke 6:46

1. "LORD" means: Master, ruler

2. It is inconsistent to call Him Lord and yet not obey Him.

3. To admit His right to rule and lay down laws for our life, and then not do the things He commands, calls for a **"why?"**.

4. Jesus taught in Matt. 7: 21 - 23 that many religious people would call him Lord and then not let Him RULE.

5. Many today call Him Lord and do not do His will.
   
   (1) They are in churches unknown to Him -- Psa. 127:1
   
   (2) They practice Baptism He did not authorize.
   
   (3) They engage in Worship He did not sanction.

III. "**WHY DO YE ALSO TRANSGRESS THE COMMANDMENT OF GOD BY YOUR TRADITION?**" -- Matt. 15:3

1. Jesus gives an example -- Matt. 15: 4 - 6

2. Many transgress the commandment of God today, by their tradition.
   
   (1) They teach one is saved by "faith only" -- the New Testament says it is not by faith only -- James 2:24
   
   (2) They teach that on is saved before baptism -- the New Testament teaches one must be baptized to be saved -- Mark 16:16; I Pet. 3:21
   
   (3) They teach that you don't have to eat the Lord's Supper every Lord's Day -- the New Testament teaches that you do -- Acts 20:7

IV. "**WHY IS THE HOUSE OF GOD FORSAKEN?**" -- Neh. 13:11

1. The Temple had ceased to be regarded as sacred to God -- a chamber in the courts had been converted into a dwelling house, and the Ammonite Tobiah had been allowed to take possession of it -- Neh. 13: 5, 7; 2:10


3. Their children could not speak the Jew's language -- Neh. 13:24

4. They had profaned the Sabbath -- Neh. 13: 15 - 17

5. They had not paid the tithes --Neh. 13: 10 - 12
   
   (1) The Levites were not supported -- Neh. 13:10

6. God's people should have been zealous for the honor of His Temple -- they should have honored His marriage law and respected His Sabbath day and have given to the support of His work.
7. The House of God TODAY is the church of the living God -- I Tim. 3:15-- and IT IS FORSAKEN BY MANY TODAY!
   (1) Many today cease to regard the church as sacred, with a divine mission.
   (2) They have turned it into a social organization.
   (3) Many have forsaken it by changing its organization -- they have formed all kinds of human organizations to do its work.

8. Many have just forsaken the church and gone back into the world -- Heb. 10: 25 - 26
   (1) Matt. 13: 20 - 22
   (2) Mark 4: 16 - 19

9. Many today have forsaken the support of the work -- they don't give as they should.

CONCLUSION
1. Friend, WHY have you put off obeying the gospel???

Preached at Hebron Lane 1987; TV 1987; Erwin, TN Radio 1987; Underwood Hts. 1982