

## INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **John 6:60-69**.
- B. From Roy H. Enoch (02-25-94).
- C. Jesus had just fed the 5,000 men, besides the women and children:
  - 1. He then told them that he knew why they were following Him (6:26).  
Jesus answered them and said, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate of the loaves, and were filled."
  - 2. He taught them that He was the bread of life that came down from heaven (6:35).  
Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me shall not hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst."
  - 3. They could not come to Him unless the Father draws them (6:44-45).  
"No one can come to Me, unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day. **45** 'It is written in the prophets, 'AND THEY SHALL ALL BE TAUGHT OF GOD.' Everyone who has heard and learned from the Father, comes to Me."
  - 4. They had to eat His flesh and drink His blood to have Life (6:51).  
"I am the living bread that came down out of heaven; if anyone eats of this bread, he shall live forever; and the bread also which I shall give for the life of the world is My flesh."
- D. But they did not care enough about His teaching to try to understand (6:60-61).  
Many therefore of His disciples, when they heard this said, "This is a difficult statement; who can listen to it?"  
**61** But Jesus, conscious that His disciples grumbled at this, said to them, "Does this cause you to stumble?"
  - 1. Yes, they did take offense and most of His disciples never followed Him again (6:66).  
As a result of this many of His disciples withdrew, and were not walking with Him anymore.
  - 2. He turned to the 12 and asked them if they also wanted to go away (6:68-69).  
Simon Peter answered Him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have words of eternal life. **69** "And we have believed and have come to know that You are the Holy One of God."
- E. This lesson considers where some people go for religious authority and doctrine.

## I. SHALL WE FOLLOW **MOSES**?

- A. Moses was the great lawgiver for the Jews.
  - 1. But he pointed them to the X (Deut. 18:15, 18-19).  
"The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your countrymen, you shall listen to him. **18** 'I will raise up a prophet from among their countrymen like you, and I will put My words in his mouth, and he shall speak to them all that I command him. **19** 'And it shall come about that whoever will not listen to My words which he shall speak in My name, I Myself will require it of him."
  - 2. Peter quoted this prophecy and applied it to X (Ac. 3:22-23).  
"Moses said, 'THE LORD GOD SHALL RAISE UP FOR YOU A PROPHET LIKE ME FROM YOUR BRETHREN; TO HIM YOU SHALL GIVE HEED in everything He says to you. **23** 'And it shall be that every soul that does not heed that prophet shall be utterly destroyed from among the people.'
- B. The law of Moses was faulty (Heb. 8:7-8).  
For if that first covenant had been faultless, there would have been no occasion sought for a second. **8** For finding fault with them, He says, "BEHOLD, DAYS ARE COMING, SAYS THE LORD, WHEN I WILL EFFECT A NEW COVENANT WITH THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL AND WITH THE HOUSE OF JUDAH;
- C. Therefore, the law of X replaced the Law of Moses:
  - 1. It brought us to X (Gal. 3:24-25).  
Therefore the Law has become our tutor to lead us to Christ, that we may be justified by faith. **25** But now that faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor.
  - 2. It was taken away at the cross of X that He might give us the gospel (Eph. 2:15,16).  
by abolishing in His flesh the enmity, which is the Law of commandments contained in ordinances, that in Himself He might make the two into one new man, thus establishing peace, **16** and might reconcile them both in one body to God through the cross, by it having put to death the enmity.
  - 3. On the mount of transfiguration, X appeared w/Moses and Elijah, but God overshadowed them in

a cloud and told them to listen the Jesus (Mt. 17:5).

While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and behold, a voice out of the cloud, saying, "This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased; listen to Him!"

4. Today, we hear X rather than Moses or the prophets.

## II. SHALL WE FOLLOW **JOHN THE BAPTIST**?

- A. His work was to prepare the way for the X (Lk. 1:17; Jn. 1:23).

(Lk 1:17) "And it is he who will go as a forerunner before Him in the spirit and power of Elijah, TO TURN THE HEARTS OF THE FATHERS BACK TO THE CHILDREN, and the disobedient to the attitude of the righteous; so as to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."

(Jn 1:23) He said, "I am A VOICE OF ONE CRYING IN THE WILDERNESS, 'MAKE STRAIGHT THE WAY OF THE LORD,' as Isaiah the prophet said."

- B. He was to decrease, but X was to increase (Jn. 3:30).

"He must increase, but I must decrease."

- C. John did no miracles (Jn. 10:41), but Jesus did.

"While John performed no sign, yet everything John said about this man was true."

- D. John was considered at being the least in the kingdom (Mt. 11:11).

"Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has not arisen anyone greater than John the Baptist; yet he who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he."

- E. John died before the church was established (Mt. 14:10).

And he sent and had John beheaded in the prison.

## III. SHALL WE FOLLOW THE **PREACHER**?

- A. The influence of preachers can be great in the lives of people:

1. Some people depend too much on the preacher for doctrine.

2. Some think that preachers cannot err:

- a. But when they teach so many different/conflicting doctrines, they can't all be right.

- b. Through out the NT we are warned against false teachers (1Jn. 4:1).

Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

3. There were times when the apostles did not understand what Jesus was teaching them.

4. Even the apostle Paul limited how far we can follow him (1Cor. 11:1).

Be imitators of me, just as I also am of Christ.

- B. Peter told Cornelius not to bow down to him because he was also a man (Ac. 10:25-26).

And when it came about that Peter entered, Cornelius met him, and fell at his feet and worshiped him. 26 But Peter raised him up, saying, "Stand up; I too am just a man."

- C. Angels would not let men bow down to worship them (Rev. 19:10).

And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said to me, "Do not do that; I am a fellow servant of yours and your brethren who hold the testimony of Jesus; worship God. For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."

- D. If faithful apostles and faithful angels would not let a man bow down before them, no man faithful to X today would let a man bow down to him.

- E. Divisions or denominations result from following men (1Cor. 1:11-13).

For I have been informed concerning you, my brethren, by Chloe's people, that there are quarrels among you.

12 Now I mean this, that each one of you is saying, "I am of Paul," and "I of Apollos," and "I of Cephas," and "I of Christ." 13 Has Christ been divided? Paul was not crucified for you, was he? Or were you baptized in the name of Paul?

## IV. SHALL WE FOLLOW THE **OCCULT**?

- A. Many today are turning to alternative forms of self-help:

1. Some turn to alternative medicine is a possible cure for physical problems.

2. New Age and Occult practices are seen as cures for spiritual problems.

- B. Alternative forms of religious practice are anti-Xian. Occult belief and practice:

1. Replaces faith in God with faith in the arcane (secret). Those who practice the occult have little

- or no faith in God.
- 2. Are deterministic (predestined). Those who practice such believe they have very little control over their lives. No freedom of will.
- 3. Deny the necessity of revelation. If all of life is pre-determined why does one need revelation of the will of a god?
- 4. Denies divine providence. There is no compassionate heaven being that will intervene in behalf of believers in the occult system.
- C. Xianity makes so much more sense. It is based on faith in an interactive, caring God who allows our freedom of will, but makes available all that we need if we choose to take it.

## V. WE MUST FOLLOW JESUS, THE CHRIST.

- A. God speaks through Him (Heb. 1:1-2; 2:3-4).  
 (Heb 1:1-2) God, after He spoke long ago to the fathers in the prophets in many portions and in many ways, 2 in these last days has spoken to us in His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the world.  
 (Heb 2:3-4) how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation? After it was at the first spoken through the Lord, it was confirmed to us by those who heard, [4] God also bearing witness with them, both by signs and wonders and by various miracles and by gifts of the Holy Spirit according to His own will.
- B. He has all authority in heaven and earth (Mt. 28:18).  
 And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.
- C. He is able to save all who trust Him enough to do what He says (Mt. 1:21; Heb. 7:25).  
 (Mt. 1:21) "And she will bear a Son; and you shall call His name Jesus, for it is He who will save His people from their sins."  
 (Heb 7:25) Hence, also, He is able to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.
- D. He saves those who obey Him (Mt. 7:21; Heb. 5:8-9).  
 (Mt 7:21) "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven; but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven."  
 (Heb 5:8-9) Although He was a Son, He learned obedience from the things which He suffered. 9 And having been made perfect, He became to all those who obey Him the source of eternal salvation,
- E. He has the words of eternal life (Jn. 6:68-69).  
 Simon Peter answered Him, "Lord, to whom shall we go? You have words of eternal life. 69 "And we have believed and have come to know that You are the Holy One of God."

## CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. People seem to want to go everywhere but X to find the truth for their lives:
  - 1. They go to the Law of Moses.
  - 2. They go to John the Baptist.
  - 3. They go to the preacher.
  - 4. They go to the occult.
- B. It is our job to lift up X so that He can draw everyone unto Himself (Jn. 12:32).  
 "And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to Myself."
- C. Plan of salvation for non-Xians, erring-Xians.