

**Test your Bible Knowledge**

1. Amalek would have won the battle with the Israelites had not Aaron and Hur held up Moses':

- a. feet
- b. head
- c. body
- d. hands

2. As long as the cloud rested over the tabernacle, this was the Lord's sign to the Israelites to:

- a. pray
- b. keep going
- c. stay
- d. worship

3. Name the bird that let Noah know all was well:

- a. raven
- b. dove
- c. blue jay
- d. mocking bird

**Scriptures:**

- 1) Exodus 17:11-13
- 2) Numbers 9:15-23
- 3) Genesis 8:6-12

-Fred Singleton

**Private Bible studies available anytime!!**

**Schedule:**

Sunday Bible Study - 10:00 AM

Sunday Morning Worship - 11:00AM

Sunday Evening Worship - 5:00 PM

Wednesday Night Bible Study - 7:00 PM

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**"Tell me nothing but the truth in the name of the LORD?"-1King 22:16**

**THE GREAT APOSTASY  
A Falling Away**

The New Testament reveals the establishment and early growth of the church belonging to Christ (Matt. 16:18; Acts 2:41, 47). The Lord's will is that there be one church and Christ prayed for unity among His followers, those who would come to believe in Him through the word (John 17:20-23). Paul wrote the Ephesian church declaring that there is one body i.e., church, which Christ is the head (Eph. 4:4-6; 1:22-23). Yet, we see around us so much religious confusion, so many different churches. How did it happen? How is it that we have so many different churches wearing different names, that are contrary to the one we read about in the Bible? How is it that they all teach different doctrines, but all claim to be of the one body? The World Christian Encyclopedia tabulates **10,000 distinct religious groups, including 33,830 "Christian denominations"** (www.adherents.com). Here is a list of major religions of the world and approximate estimates of **their** members:

- a. Christianity: 2 billion
- b. Islam: 1.3 billion
- c. Hinduism: 900 million
- d. Secular/Nonreligious/Agnostic/Atheist: 850 million
- e. Buddhism: 360 million
- f. Chinese traditional religion: 225 million

Here is a small listing of some of the largest religious groups with at least 1,000,000 members.

- a. Catholic Church - 1,050,000,000
- b. Sunni Islam - 900,000,000
- c. Eastern Orthodox Church - 225,000,000
- d. Assemblies of God - 32,000,000
- e. Jehovah's Witnesses - 15,374,986
- f. Southern Baptist Convention - 15,000,000
- g. Latter Day Saints (Mormons) - 11,721,548
- h. United Methodist Church - 11,708,887

- i. Seventh-day Adventist Church - 11,300,000
- j. Churches of Christ - 2,000,000
- k. United Churches of Christ - 1,377,320  
(Why are there Division among Churches -- pg 1)

When we consider the massive number of varying religious groups and their beliefs and practices, we should ask the question, "Is that what Jesus had in mind when He said that He would build His church?" As one studies the Bible, he will find that the answer is a definite, "NO!" I pray that you will take out your Bibles and follow along with me as we study the scriptures regarding the "The Great Apostasy." If it be the Lord's will we will have more to say next week. -Fred Singleton

## A Religion of Feelings Part II

**"I feel all men will be saved by faith only."** Throughout the religious world, the tenet of salvation by faith only is heard. When asked for the authority for believing that salvation is by faith only, we often hear, "I feel man is saved by faith only." The scriptures are plain relative to the salvation or justification of man. "Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, and not by faith only," wrote the inspired James (Jas. 2:24). James is not teaching that man earns salvation, but works are an indispensable part of salvation.

**"I feel all religions are equal."** While people often feel this way, most do not really believe all religions are equal. How about the Unification Church, Church of Latter Day Saints (Mormons), and Church of Satan? These are all religions. God's objective standard shows that all religions are not equal (Matt. 5:20). There is such a thing as "vain religion" (Jas. 1:26). Jesus built his church and salvation is in Christ or his spiritual body, the church (Matt. 16:18, 19; Eph. 1: 3-6; 2 Tim. 2:10).

**"I feel truth is relative."** One may feel truth is relative, but that does not make it so. Jesus said, "If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (Jn. 8:31, 32). No, just because one believes a certain thing does not mean what one believes is necessarily the truth.

**"I feel that just as long as one is sincere, one will be saved, regardless of what they believe."** Believing that sincerity alone will save even when damnable error is believed, keeps many people from studying and learning the truth. Remember, Saul sincerely believed he should persecute Christians, but he was wrong (Acts 26: 9). Not only was he

sincerely wrong, but Saul was held accountable for his actions (Acts 22:3-16).

**"I feel that demanding authority is legalism."** Book, chapter, and verse teaching is a source of repulsion to many. They have no appreciation for the command to "prove all things; hold fast that which is good" (1 Thes. 5:21). To them, anyone who presents God's word as authoritative and definitive, is a legalist. "I feel baptism is unrelated to forgiveness" (no scripture) appeals to them rather than, "baptism is for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38)."

**"I feel feelings are the ultimate guide."** The religion of feelings is a religion that recognizes the supreme role of human subjective feelings as the sole standard in religious matters. "You must not deny your feelings," "let your feelings be your guide," and "listen to your heart" all express the philosophy of the religion of feelings. It is no wonder, then, that many in the world have embraced the philosophy of, "if it feels good, do it."

Concerned reader, the Bible explicitly and emphatically warns against allowing our feelings or heart to be our sole guide. God's external standard says, "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death" (Prov. 14:12). "The way of a fool is right in his own eyes: but he that hearkeneth unto counsel is wise," wrote the wise man (Prov. 12:15). Again, "Every way of a man is right in his own eyes: but the Lord pondereth the hearts" (Prov. 21:2). In most areas of life man realizes that feelings are not reliable and a proper criterion. What would the traffic officer think when he pulls over a motorist for running a stop sign only to hear, "Officer, I felt I should run the stop sign"? Do you think such an appeal would influence the officer? Do you view the statement, "I felt I did not need to file my tax return" as valid? There are laws to govern the motorist and the citizen; hence, feelings do not serve as the standard. So it is regarding man and his God, there are laws to govern how to become and live as a Christian (see Eph. 4: 20, cp. vs. 17-23). Therefore, the Bible says, "He that trusteth in his own heart is a fool: but whoso walketh wisely, he shall be delivered" (Prov. 28:26). In closing, may I kindly say that the religion of feelings is a religion of selfishness that especially appeals to the "me generation." Jesus said we must deny ourselves and follow him (Lk. 9:23). It really does not matter what you and I feel in the context of plain revelation. One reason for the thousands of different denominations is because people are going by their feelings instead of the word of God (see Eph. 4:3-6). After studying this material, which do you believe is the right way to be: "I believe thus and so because God's word says so!" or "I feel thus and so, it matters not what God's word says!?" -Don Martin