

"Not Biblical Anymore"  
Exodus 1:6-10

Where is the Bible and our convictions these days? Many people feel abandoned by their spiritual leaders. Hello, I'm Phil Sanders; and this is a Bible study, "In Search of the Lord's Way." Many people today feel spiritually empty because their denomination or church has forgotten God. Do you feel empty? Stay with us.

Hello, I'm Phil Sanders and we're here to search God's Word for the Lord's Way. The Lord Jesus said in John 14, verse 6, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. And no one comes to the Father except through Me." Now, if Jesus is the way to the Father, we need to know what the Lord Jesus teaches. And if we love the Lord, we need to be obedient to what He says. If He has given us His way in the Scriptures, then we need to know what they teach and hold firmly to them. We want the Lord's way because we know that nothing else can take its place. Thanks for taking time with us today. We want to be part of your life each week.

Many people today feel a little like Rip Van Winkle. You remember Washington Irving's story about the fun loving man, who was a hen-pecked husband, and who hated profitable labor, and how he was continuously nagged by his wife. And so he escapes to the mountains; and while there Rip drank some liquor that caused him to sleep for twenty years. Well, when he awoke, he finds that the American Revolution has taken place and everything seems different.

You've probably noticed that our culture has changed in recent years. Both morality and religion seem to have turned upside down. What used to be sinful is now legal, so society is telling preachers not to speak out against immorality. Society says we can't call certain immoral behaviors sinful any more. Some say that marriage is obsolete. Society says husbands and fathers are no longer the heads of their homes. Some are pushing women to take leadership roles in the church. Many who stand with God's Word are amazed and they ask, "What has happened that people no longer hold to the Bible?"

Well, you might want to study more about this topic, and so we offer the information on this program free. If you would like a printed copy or a CD of our study and you live in the United States, mail your request to In Search of the Lord's Way, P.O. Box 371, Edmond, OK 73083 or send an e-mail to Search at searchtv.org. Or you can call our toll-free telephone number; and that number is 1-800-321-8633. Now, if you live outside the United States, we have materials that are free online, and you can stream this program on our website at [www.searchtv.org](http://www.searchtv.org). The Edmond church will now worship in song; we will read from Exodus 1:6 to 10, and we'll see how much of modern religion isn't Biblical.

Our reading today comes from the book of Exodus, chapter 1, verses 6 to 10. "Joseph died, and all his brothers and all that generation. But the sons of Israel were fruitful and increased greatly, and multiplied, and became exceedingly mighty, so that the land was filled with them. Now a new king arose over Egypt, who did not know Joseph. He said to his people, 'Behold, the people of the sons of Israel are more and mightier than we. Come, let us deal wisely with them, or else they will multiply and in the event of war, they will also join themselves to those who hate us, and fight against us and depart from the land.'" That's a reading from God's Holy Word. Let's pray together. Father, we are grateful that You love us in good times and bad. And, Father, as our world changes we pray that we may be able to hold tightly to You and You to us. In Jesus' name, Amen!

I once had a dinner with an acquaintance who belonged to a prominent denomination, and the conversation turned to religion. This man told me how much his church had changed and how

alienated he felt. He grimaced at the moral and spiritual compromises that the leadership of his denomination had embraced. And he felt like he was no longer in the same denomination. What he knew growing up and what he saw in the present were very different. And he felt that his denomination had abandoned what it had believed and had become something unbiblical.

Well, society and secular progressives have pushed many religious groups to accept views that dismiss the Bible. They told the religious world that they were childish and backward believers and must accept what a more advanced society thinks or they will die. They said evolution is proven, and the church must give up its belief in creation. They said the unborn are not viable people until they are born and may be aborted. They glorified non-traditional families and said marriage was obsolete. They said the Bible wasn't for us today but spoke to people in other ages. They decided that love for people was more important than loving and obeying God. They argued that the grace of God meant that we didn't have to keep any rules at all. And in the end they denied that God has any authority over their lives or that He matters to them.

Sadly, the more any culture pushes God out of their thinking, and their ethics, or their morals, the more miserable and difficult their lives will become. Now, societies can't thumb their noses at God and expect the Lord to favor them and bless them. And just because the thinking of a people changes with time doesn't mean that God has changed His mind. Psalm 33 and verse 11 says that, "The counsel of the LORD stands forever, and the plans of his heart to all generations." People's attitudes may change, but God's views on the sanctity of life and the sanctity of marriage haven't changed. Just because people permit themselves to violate God's law doesn't mean that God will permit it. We can't vote on God's will. God is God, and we are not. And wherever you live, whoever you are, God's Word is still binding on you.

The prophet Jeremiah revealed the will of God in Jeremiah 18, verses 7 to 10; God said, "If at any time I declare concerning a nation or a kingdom, that I will pluck up and break down and destroy it, and if that nation, concerning which I have spoken, then turns from its evil, I will relent of the disaster that I intended to do to it. And if at any time I declare concerning a nation or a kingdom that I will build and plant it, and if it does evil in my sight, not listening to my voice, then I will relent of the good that I had intended to do to it." You see, God is far more in charge of the affairs of every nation than we might think. God plants nations, and God plucks nations. He deals with nations on the basis of whether they are willing to listen to His voice. Are you listening to God?

I fear some think that because everyone believes or practices something, that it must be approved by God. God, however, doesn't take a poll to determine what is right and wrong. The Lord Jesus said in Matthew 7, verses 13 to 14, "Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it. For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it." You know, the popular, easy way is not safe but leads to destruction. And only a few people will follow God's narrow way, but it leads to life! You know, even if everybody tells lies, lying is still wrong. Even if everybody steals, stealing remains sinful. No matter how popular a sin is, sin will never be okay with God. You can't solve the problem of sin by making it popular.

The same is true with regard to religious groups. When people hear the Lord's voice and follow His teaching, He blesses them and counts them as His own. But when an individual or some group ignores His teaching or departs from the way of the Lord into moral or doctrinal error, God holds them all accountable. Sometimes people create religious groups and cults according to their own thinking rather than listening to God. But even if that group grows very large, it's still accountable to God. The

Lord created every person and will someday judge each one according to the words that are found in the books. He commands all men everywhere to repent. We're all accountable to the Lord whether we know it, whether we acknowledge it, or whether we agree to it.

Hebrews 4 and verses 12 and 13 says, "For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and spirit, of joints and marrow, and discerning the thoughts and the intentions of the heart. And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give an account." Time and distance don't erase accountability. A change in the winds of cultural worldviews doesn't release anyone from God's jurisdiction. We're accountable to the Lord in matters large and small. And rebellion over a small matter is still rebellion against God.

But I must tell you, more than accountability love is our motivation to follow the way of the Lord. When people love the Lord they enjoy being like Him. The Lord's way lifts up virtue and makes every person better and nobler. Aren't you tired of all the ungodliness, dishonesty, and indifference in our world today? Aren't you weary of the selfishness, greed, pride, and power-hungry attitudes? Aren't you hungry for what's pure and good? Don't you wish people were kind and trustworthy? We love the Lord, because we have seen what the love of the Lord does in the hearts and lives of the people who turn from sin to righteousness. You see, they become new people filled with faith, and hope, and love. Men become faithful and loving husbands and fathers when Christ is in their life. Wives become warm and loyal wives and mothers when Christ is in their life. Children look to parents with grateful hearts when Christ is in their life. Neighbors respect each other and bear one another's burdens whenever Christ is in their life. Second Corinthians 5 and verse 17 rightly says, "Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; and the old things passed away; behold, new things have come." And those new things are so much better than the old ways.

Take God and His Word out of people's lives, and people will be empty and in misery. They'll turn to destructive behaviors that enslave them. They will become indifferent to other people; they will be selfish, and ungrateful. They'll seek in vain to find something to take God's place, but nothing will. The Lord's way is so much better than the ways of the world; and we have to wonder how anyone could prefer sin to righteousness, or prefer lies to the truth, or prefer selfishness to love.

Now, when churches substitute story-telling, and pop-psychology, and humor for a study of the Word of God, they've moved from following the instructions of Scripture to being a social club. Paul charged the young preacher Timothy in 2 Timothy 4, verses 2 to 5 to, "preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction. For the time will come (he said) when they will not endure sound (or healthy) teaching; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths. But you (Timothy), you be sober in all things, you endure hardship, do the work of an evangelist, and fulfill your ministry." God expects preachers to preach the Bible, not their opinions, not their experiences, and not their imaginations.

Now, if you attend a worship service that doesn't study the Bible, you're being cheated out of God's message. Has your religious group deserted the truth of Scripture so they can entertain you or make you feel good? One popular speaker has decided that he will not speak out against sin or speak about salvation; he said he would leave that to others. He may be a famous motivator, but he's no preacher of the gospel. He has made his own religion that has references to some of the Bible, but he has cheated his listeners out of the whole counsel of God.

Some religious groups study religious books written by men but never open the Scriptures. They may not realize that the human author may be contradicting Scripture or teaching something false. People who stop studying Scripture often fill their minds with half-truths and mistaken ideas. The Lord Jesus said in Matthew 4 and verse 4, "It is written, that Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of God." We need all of God's Word to live as God wills. Second Peter 1, verse 3 says that, "His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who has called us to his own glory and excellence." In the Bible we find the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth. When we stop hearing the Bible, we can't be sure that what we're hearing is true. And just because someone calls himself a preacher doesn't mean what he says is true.

And this is why the Lord Jesus charged the apostles in Matthew 28, verses 19 to 20, "Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." We must know the truth so we can distinguish what God really says from what people think. Acts 17, verse 11 calls the Bereans noble, because "they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so." And we too must begin examining the Scriptures so that we won't be fooled by something that is unbiblical. Colossians 2, verse 8 says, "See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, and according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ." My friend, study your Bible; don't let anyone lead you astray from the truth of God's Word.

Now, perhaps you attend where they substitute entertainment for worship; you may be cheating yourself out of true Biblical worship in spirit and in truth. Many religious groups have given themselves over to religious entertainment, where worship leaders and soloists perform religious music like at a concert. God wants everyone to worship Him, not watch someone else perform for them. The Lord Jesus said in Matthew 6, verse 1, "Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven." When people take the focus off of God and put it on themselves as in a concert, they aren't worshipping God; they're performing. Jesus said in John 4, verses 23 to 24, "But the hour is coming, and now is here, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for the Father is seeking such people to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and in truth." Don't substitute praising someone's talent for the worship of God.

Well, why have I said this? Because I've met people who say their denominations and congregations have moved away from the morals and the teaching of the Bible; and they feel empty and abandoned. Friend, some still hold firmly to the truth of God's Word and still examine the Scriptures daily to see what is true. Please consider studying with one of the churches of Christ in your area. Let's pray together. Father, we are thankful You gave us Your Word so that we might know the truth. Help us to hold firmly to the things that You teach. In Jesus' name, Amen!

For some time you may have sensed what we've discussed today. Perhaps you're attending a religious service or you belong to a religious group that doesn't hold to Bible authority anymore. You're hearing preaching that isn't preaching from the Word of God and isn't leading you closer to God. You are being entertained rather than called to worship. My friend, you need the Lord. God said through Isaiah 55, verses 8 to 9, " 'For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Nor your ways My ways,' declares the LORD. 'For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways And

My thoughts than your thoughts.' " What our sick world needs is not more looking from side to side at what people think or feel; we need to look up to God for His wisdom. What God teaches is far better than the ways of the world. Don't substitute human ways for what is genuinely from God, and then by doing that rob yourself.

Isaiah 55 and verse 7 says, "Let the wicked forsake his way And the unrighteous man his thoughts; And let him return to the LORD, And He will have compassion on him, And to our God, For He will abundantly pardon." God yearns for every heart to come to Him, for people to leave their own ways and follow His teaching. And when people turn their hearts, God abundantly pardons their past and blesses their future. Don't cheat yourself out of a genuine faith.

To get right with God, place your faith in Jesus as the Christ, the Son of the living God. Now, believing in Him as Lord means believing His teaching is true and necessary to be obeyed. Real faith and real love leads to repentance. Now, repentance means I will forsake every wrong and turn to what is right and be Biblical. Repent and be baptized into Christ upon the confession of your faith. And when you are baptized, the Lord will wash away your sins according to Acts 22:16; and He will add you to His church according to Acts 2 and verse 47.

We hope that today's study about these matters of giving ourselves to God has given you hope. Please think about what we've studied. Now, if you live in United States and you want a free printed copy or CD of this message, mail your request to In Search of the Lord's Way, P.O. Box 371, Edmond, OK 73083 or send an e-mail to [searchtv@searchtv.org](mailto:searchtv@searchtv.org). Or you can call the Search office toll-free at 1-800-321-8633. Now, if you live outside the United States, you can download our material or watch the program online at our website: [www.searchtv.org](http://www.searchtv.org). Don't worry, we won't ask you for money or put you on a list.

We ask that you please get involved with a church of Christ. They love you and they support our ministry, for which we're grateful. And if you're looking for a healthy, Biblical church home, we'll be happy to help you find one. Churches of Christ want guests, and you'll be glad you worshiped with them. Well, we will be back next week, Lord willing. So keep searching God's Word with us and tell a friend about the program. God bless you and we love you from all of us at In Search of the Lord's Way.