

# PARK HEIGHTS CHURCH OF CHRIST

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*Thus Saith the Lord*

## DOING HIS WILL

By Jeff Sweeten

It sincerely breaks my heart to see such dedication, such devotion, and such sacrifice amongst religious people whose beliefs are based upon the traditions of men. I have friends in various and sundry religious groups, wearing man-made names, worshiping by tradition and proselyting with an enviable energy that, unfortunately reminds me of Jesus' condemnation of the Pharisees: "*Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye compass sea and land to make one proselyte, and when he is made, ye make him twofold more the child of hell than yourselves*" (Matthew 23:15). But, Jesus' warning to them is even clearer: "... *all too well you reject the commandment of God, that you may keep your tradition*" (Mark 7:9).

Jesus once asked the piercing question, "*Why do you call Me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do the things which I say?*" (Luke 6:46). What is the answer? When one finds a statement in the Bible that contradicts a traditional belief system, would it not be expected of a sincere, God-seeking person to humbly submit to the Master's will? To reject Jesus' words is to reject Him, and His words will be judge and jury in the last day (John 12:48). To ignore these life-giving words would be rank foolishness.

The fundamental issue then is: who is wrong, and **Who** is right. In our longing for lost souls to accept the truth and our efforts to convert *them*, we must not forget that it is not a matter of winning an argument, flexing our Bible muscles or puffing up with some perceived religious superiority. It is a matter of what Jesus' words say, and whether or not one chooses to follow them.

Religious people in this world follow after some of the strangest notions, but the child of God is no less in eternal danger if, when presented with the truth, that child refuses to cease from sin. All the dedication, devotion and sacrifice in the world will not compensate for ignorance or rebellion. And, frankly, I'm not convinced that reading the simple words of Christ are so complex and fraught with mystery that a sincere Bible student cannot find the truth. Therefore, Jesus says: "Not everyone who says to Me, "Lord, Lord," shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of my Father in heaven" (Matthew 7:21)

**JOIN US ON SUNDAY AND WEDNESDAY!**

**SUNDAY: 9:30 a.m. Bible Study • 10:25 a.m. Morning Worship • 1:30 p.m. Bible Study**

**WEDNESDAY: 7:00 p.m. Bible Study • Contact the minister at 254-370-4130**