

Are Christian preachers allowed to add to the gospel? Why is religious practice so different from what Paul describes in 1 Corinthians 14? Have we buried the Jesus of scripture under our traditions such that He now looks like us more than himself?

Modern day Pharisees attempt to nullify God's word by their traditions (Mk 7:13, Jud 11). Christians must hold fast to the word (Hab 2:4, 1 Co 15:1-3, Eph 2:8-9). Pastor Chuck Smith said, "Ritualism is nothing more than a rut and the only difference between a rut and a grave is the length and the depth."

Christian preachers and teachers are not free to add or subtract from scripture (Re 22:18-19). They are to handle God's word accurately (2 Ti 2:15) teaching as the spirit leads (Jn 3:8, Ro 8:14). Individuals have an obligation to measure everything by scripture (Ac 17:11)

Christian ministers are entrusted with the gospel (1 Thess 3:2). It should be proclaimed: to all people (Mk 16:15, 16), everywhere (Ro 15:19, 20), at all times (Re 14:6), with great urgency (1 Co 9:16) and boldness (Eph 6:19).¹

Men should: believe (Eph 1:13), submit (2 Co 9:13) be established in (Ro 16:25), live by (Phil 1:27) and defend (Phil 1:7, 16, 27) the gospel of Jesus Christ.²

Whereas sinners are never able to come to the knowledge of God (2 Ti 3:7), the Lord shows himself to the righteous (Ps 11:6-7). They know him (Jn 10:14, 27) and find stability (Is 33:6, 2 Ti 1:7). His church will not be overcome (Mt 16:18).

In 1 Corinthians chapter 14 Paul compares and contrasts tongues with prophecy. Tongues—like all gifts—should edify believers (1 Co 14:26).

¹ Thomas Nelson Publishers. (1996). Nelson's quick reference topical Bible index (p. 261). Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers.

² Ibid, pg. 261.