

Competing According To The Rules

II Tim. 2:1-5

I. Scriptures Which Teach The Necessity of Following God's Rules...

•In the Old Testament:

- Deut. 4:2 → Do not add to or take from; Dt. 29:29 → ...that we may do all the words of this law.
- No longer under the Old Testament: (Rom. 7:1-7; II Cor. 3; Col. 2:11-12; Heb. 8, etc.)

•In the New Testament:

- Matt. 7:21 → ...he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.
- Phil. 3:16 → ...let us walk by the same rule, let us mind the same thing.
- II Jn. 9-11 → whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God...
- Rev. 22:18-19 → Do not add to or take from

II. Cases Which Illustrate The Necessity of Competing By The Rules

•The Jews of Jesus' Day: (Matt. 15:7-9)

- Their heart was far from him.
- If we love God, it will not just be verbal, but seen in obedience.
- They had taken his rules and rewritten them –added to, subtracted from, substituted for...

•The Galatians: (Gal. 3:1; cf. 4:10)

- Here were Christians who had been deceived.
- They had embraced a corrupted gospel. (Gal. 1:6-9)

•The case of Apollos: (Acts 18:24-26)

- Was eloquent, but did not set forth the will of God in its fullness.
- Aquila and Priscilla taught him the word of God more perfectly.

•12 Disciples in Ephesus: (Acts 19:1-6)

- They knew only the baptism of John.
- Paul did not say, "God is not really concerned about your baptism; just believe, etc."
- They had to compete according to the rules.

III. A Sample of Errors That Arise From A Failure To Compete According To The Rules

•Those who teach that salvation is a matter of salvation by good works are not competing according to the rules. (Acts 10:2,22; Lk. 10:17; Rom. 4:1-4; II Cor. 5:10)

•Those who turn the work of the local church over to human institutions.

- Some think they have a better way than the simple New Testament pattern, and seek to rewrite the rules.
- (Phil. 4:14-15; Eph. 4:12)
- A question of authority: Col. 3:17

•Those who say you can be saved by "faith only".

- What gives one the right to require belief in Jesus?; Where does the Bible say that one is justified by faith only?
- James 2:24 → the only occurrence of "faith only".

•Those who practice sprinkling/pouring for baptism. (Rom. 6:3-4; Col. 2:12; Acts 8)

•Those who use human schemes to finance the work of the church. (I Cor. 16:1-2)

•Those who substitute another kind of music for singing. (Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16)

•Those who fail to assemble with the saints. (Heb. 10:24-25)

•Those who fail to grow in knowledge and in godly character. (II Pet. 3:18)

•Those who fail to obey the gospel. (II Thess. 1:7-9)