

# Howards Corner

## Orthodox

One of my readers asked me about what orthodox means. I think she was asking more in line with religious beliefs such as Orthodox Jews I gave her a short but incomplete answer because it is a complicated subject with much to discuss. So, I decided to discuss it with all my readers. The first thing I would like to define is what it means in the English language for it is a word like many words that have many layers to explore.

### ADJECTIVE

1. *(of a person or their views, especially religious or political ones, or other beliefs or practices) conforming to what is generally or traditionally accepted as right or true; established and approved:*
2. *"Orthodox medical treatment" · · "the orthodox economics of today"*
3. *Orthodoxy –is a noun associated with Orthodox*

As you can see the word can be applied to many subjects not just to religion and not just to Protestant or Catholic or Eastern Orthodox church or to Jews but to any subject with which you use the word. So, if you apply this word to a specific group you would have to understand what that group has traditionally believed and accepted as right or true and approved. It does not mean that what they believe is right or true but is only what they believe and have been taught by that particular group.

So Orthodox medical treatment means what the medical profession has taught and has approved for treatment of a particular medical condition. That is at the current time, but we know that these approved treatments are constantly changing as new information and procedures are developed. So orthodox medicine today will most likely not be the orthodoxy of tomorrow.

## Now to orthodoxy of religion

So, I will not speak about the many religions of the world for that is impossible to explore in such a limited letter as this. It would require volumes of books and

documentation. Therefore, I am restricting this writing to the Judeo-Christian faith. There was a calling of the Hebrew nation of Israel, as they developed through many experiences and trials that led them through a confrontation with the Lord God after they were led out of slavery, but they had no appreciation of their deliverance from slavery, and they rebelled continually until the Lord gave them laws to control their rebellion. These laws were specific and were to be obeyed completely without disobeying even one law.

So, over many years they then took these laws and began to refine them in their own ways. Priests and leaders began to add to the laws over the years to refine them so they would not break a law again. These were called the Mishnah which were the oral additions to the law. These were thought to be the law and were from traditions and practices but were not the law.

So, traditions and practices which are orthodoxy are not necessarily the truth. So, when Christ Jesus came and witnessed the kingdom to Israel they were stuck in traditions and rituals and did not understand or accept Him as Messiah and savior of them. These leaders were the Pharisees and they then crucified Him.

So, you can see that traditions and rituals are not necessarily true and are therefore their orthodoxy. Therefore the orthodox Jew is stuck in their old traditions and rituals and have not crossed into another understanding of the change that happened with the coming of Jesus to offer the gift of the kingdom and the coming of their Messiah was rejected but they are still in their orthodoxy and will stay there as a nation until the coming of Jesus to save the remnant at His coming again.

The orthodox Jews will and are getting ready to re-establish their old system of a temple and sacrifice system for they have not understood that the temple is no longer on earth but resides in heaven with Jesus who is our high priest. So, their orthodoxy which they are stuck in will lead to the great tribulation for Israel.

## Christianity from the beginning until today

The churches from the beginning were led by the teachings of the apostles but over the years new leaders and bishops came into the picture and began to add things and make new rulings about the view of the church. This grew to the point of mainly the western church which was led by popes and the church organization with

power to rule kings and countries and to change whatever they wanted to change—they had become the authority of Christianity. In the eastern church the same thing was happening and the Eastern Orthodox ruled in the eastern area of the old Roman empire and they established their own Orthodoxy. They were conquered by the Muslim in about 1400 AD. So, we had two divisions of the church that had developed their own Orthodoxy. Their traditions then became the approved and accepted form of the church but were not necessarily true but were the established form of the church. So Christian Orthodoxy does not mean true. It may be and is riddled with error that crept in by following man's words and ideas.

## Churches of the modern world

We therefore have received all kinds of traditions from the history of the churches, but it is not for us to just accept all the traditions but to look to the word of God to see and understand the truth. Many denominations have come from all these Christian orthodoxy from the predecessors but what is the truth? Jesus is truth and we must seek the truth.

Many of these churches that came from the catholic church or from some spin off or from the former spin offs there is still the danger of the word being perverted by man's interference and added word or denial of the words already written. So there have been churches or denominations that have started out with correct understanding but have themselves found themselves with men/women that have changed the word to suit what they want it to say and not accepting the written word.

That is what is going on in today's churches with their traditions and rituals that have been added to the words of the bible. You can say that the word that came down through the churches from the beginning are true but you must understand that they have passed through many hands and have been altered by many church leaders and bishops and other leader for ages and you do not know what the real word is because we have a Christian Mishnah written by many men and distorted by many bishops and Popes.

The question then is what is the truth? It is certainly not the traditions of the churches that have been passed down to us through the centuries, so these are orthodoxy because they are based on traditions and rituals but we have another

source of the truth which is the written word of God which has been carried down through 2000 years and has not been altered by the hands of churches and bishops and rulers although they have tried to do so. But the written word has prevailed and has been preserved for us today, so we are not reliant on a Mishnah created by man's thoughts and ideas.

So, I say beware of traditions and words passed on from church doctrine for they have been polluted by man's words and ideas and maybe by perversions by their society.

Today we are not only faced with polluted church doctrine but with so called Christian organizations that are not Christian churches at all but make their claim by sounding like Christianity but have no claim at all. They are Satan's fake churches, and many are being gobbled up by those that have no understanding of the word and no presence of the Holy Spirit. You can be easily deceived because the enemy is the eternal expert at lying and deception. He can make it look like the real thing but only those who operate in the spirit of Christ Jesus will know the difference.

So, I beg you to not listen to orthodoxy but to search the scriptures and to seek the Holy Spirit to lead you to the real path which is the word of God which is given to us in the bible. Do not trust orthodoxy but be led by the word and spirit of Christ Jesus.

With sincere love for the world is filled with evil and it is growing worse by the day. Are you awake and attuned to what is happening in the world today. You don't have much time to accept the true word of God.

How can I say it any stronger than this?

***Howard***