

Pitting verses on "faith" against verses on "baptism" was the kind of thing Pharisees did that Jesus condemned.

"Thus you have made the commandment of God of no effect by your tradition." (**Matthew 15:6**)

Some say, "baptism is non-essential," but Jesus said it was. Since "baptism" is into Jesus' death, how can anyone be saved before it?

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10/19/2022

Legal Threat to Nehemiah

God removed His people from the Promised Land 70 years because of their sins. His promise to return them to their land was fulfilled in the Books of **Ezra** and **Nehemiah**. As Jerusalem was being rebuilt, outside opposition mounted a campaign to cause their work to cease.

Now it happened when Sanballat, Tobiah, Geshem the Arab, and the rest of our enemies heard that I had rebuilt the wall, they sent a letter calling us "rebels" and that "these matters will be reported to the king." (**Nehemiah 6:1-7**)

Then I sent to him, saying, "No such things as you say are being done, but you invent them in your own heart." (**Nehemiah 6:8**)

Bible believers are getting letters charging them with violation of separation of church and state. Our reply should be Nehemiah's: You're making this up.

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10/20/2022

Death Threat to Jesus

Jesus Christ, in one of the synagogues, was teaching about the kingdom and healing on the Sabbath.

On that very day some Pharisees came, saying to Him, "Get out and depart from here, for Herod wants to kill You." (**Luke 13:31**)

However, these Pharisees were lying:

For [Herod] feared John [the Baptist, jtpII], knowing that he was a just and holy man, and he protected him. And when he heard him, he did many things, and heard him gladly. It was Herod's hasty, lustful promise that forced that beheading. (**Mark 6:16-29**)

Jesus' response to the Pharisees was:

“Go, tell that fox, ‘Behold, I cast out demons and perform cures today and tomorrow, and the third day I shall be perfected.’” (Luke 13:32)

Jesus was, in effect, saying, “Nothing you say will stop Me from doing what I must do.”

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10/21/2022

Preaching Threat to Apostles

After the church of Christ was begun in Jerusalem on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2), Peter healed a man lame from birth (Acts 3:1-10). When “all the people ran together,” Peter preached to them (Acts 3:11-26).

Now as they spoke to the people, the priests, the captain of the temple, and the Sadducees came upon them, being greatly disturbed that they taught the people and preached in Jesus the resurrection from the dead. And they laid hands on them, and put them in custody until the next day, for it was already evening. (Acts 4:1-3)

And they called them and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus. ... But Peter and John answered and said to them, “We cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard.” (Acts 4:18-20)

Religious leaders cannot stop Gospel Preaching.

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