"If a man will do His will, he shall know of the doctrine"

John 7:17

based on a sermon by C.A. Smith

**(John 7:17)**

If anyone wills to do His will, he shall know concerning the doctrine, whether it is from God or *whether* I speak on My own *authority.*

**Introduction:**

Most of us are aware of the fact that there are many conflicting things being taught in the religious world which have, consequently, caused much confusion. So many honest people are just confounded as to what is right and what is wrong. What a shame! Our Lord informs us in the text that they need not be confounded, for all men desirous of "Doing His Will" can and must "Know of the Doctrine."

Let us notice some of the "Conflicting Teachings." Of course, we must understand that all claims made by religious folk must be measured and tested by the Word of God, or the Bible.

I. Conflicting Teachings

 A. Is salvation by grace alone, faith only or faith and works?

 B. Is baptism for the remission of sin or because of remission?

 C. Is baptism by sprinkling or immersion?"

 D. Does the Bible teach the Bible class arrangement of dividing the assembly or an undivided assembly?

 E. Does the Bible teach the use of multiple cups and loaves in the observance of the Lord's Supper or does it teach "one loaf" and "one cup" in each assembly?

 F. Is obedience required or not?

 G. Are modern miraculous healings, healing or not?

 H. Is fellowship to be extended to all professed believers, or only to those who "walk in the light"?

II. Man by doing the Father's will can know...

 A. We should not be tossed to and fro by all the claims of the religious world, but we should "try the spirits" by the Word of God

 B. Many will perish because of "lack of knowledge"

**(Ephesians 4:14)**

...that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting

**(1 John 4:1)**

Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

**(Hosea 4:6)**

My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being priest for Me; Because you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children.

III. God's will for us is to...

 A. Search the Scriptures

 B. Study the Scriptures

 C. Prove all things

**(John 5:39)**

You search the Scriptures, for in them you think you have eternal life; and these are they which testify of Me.

**(Acts 17:11)**

These [of Berea] were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily *to find out* whether these things were so.

**(2 Timothy 2:15)**

Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

**(1 Thessalonians 5:21)**

Test all things; hold fast what is good.

IV. God wants us to...

 A. Love truth

 B. Heed his Son

 C. Learn and come to Him

**(2 Thessalonians 2:9-12)**

The coming of the *lawless one* is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, **10**and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. **11**And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, **12**that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.

**(Matthew 17:5)**

While he was still speaking, behold, a bright cloud overshadowed them; and suddenly a voice came out of the cloud, saying, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Hear Him!”

**(Hebrews 2:1)**

Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away.

**(John 6:44-45)**

No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day. **45**It is written in the prophets, ‘And they shall all be taught by God.’ Therefore everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to Me.

V. We are to...

 A. Love and obey God

 B. Abide and continue in His Word

**(1 John 5:3)**

For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome.

**(John 14:15)**

“If you love Me, keep My commandments

**(John 14:21)**

He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and manifest Myself to him.”

**(2 John 9)**

Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son.

**(2 Timothy 3:14)**

But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned *them*

**Conclusion:**

Simply stated: There is just no need for people to be confused, but there are many reasons that they should know and do "The Doctrine!" Do not be misled!

**(John 8:32)**

And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”

**(John 8:36)**

Therefore if the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.