

## Opinion, principles and perceptions By Pastor Tony Higginson 26/9/2010

**Text 1Kings 18:21** Elijah went before the people and said, "How long will you waver between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow him; but if Baal is God, follow him." But the people said nothing

- If I were to say to you that Roberto Mancini the manager of Manchester City football club teams selection last weekend for the game in the Carling Premiership against Chelsea was the wrong you could easily respond by saying that is your opinion. Roberto's opinion was the only one that counted as his team selection proved to be right as Manchester City won 1-0 to reduce Chelsea's lead at the top of the table.
- If I said to you taking all the news media attention surrounding England's and Manchester United footballer Wayne Rooney, should his wife Colleen stay with him after him being caught paying money to a prostitute for sex you would say it's my opinion but there is only one opinion that will count and that is his Wife's opinion.
- How many of us had an opinion on the methods with which Pastor Gerry Jones the American pastor used when threatening to burn Korans during the remembrance of 9/11
- How many of you sitting here today have an opinion as to how I and the elders should run the Dream Centre? Well it's our opinion comes the reply

**Elijah knew that wavering and shifting opinions that fill religious people's thinking so much so that he decides to help them by bringing them to a conclusion saying, If Ball is God then serve him but if he isn't then you better abandon your opinion and come into alignment with what is right and what is erroneous.**

### The anatomy of an opinion

1. **Truth:** *Truth is taught and from there it is either upheld or debated*
2. **Wavering indecisiveness:** *People debate and begin to waver as it now feels right to do so.*
3. **Disobedience:** *When people become disobedient they justify their actions by their opinions adopted.*
4. **Opinions:** *Opinions then begin to segregate and divide people groups as now people feel the need to vehemently defend their newly adopted stance as being new truth.*
5. **A different spirit enters into the house:** *This new spirit forces people to take sides*
6. **Religious traditions are now created:** *The next generation is expected to become the guarders and carriers of this so called traditional truth*
7. **Monuments are created and dates honoured:** *Services are now created in order to honour historical disobediences.*
8. **Relevance fades within 21<sup>st</sup> century society:** *Truth is lost all because of a men's wavering opinions*

**Romans 4:20** (speaking of Abraham) Yet he did not waver through unbelief regarding the promise of God, but was strengthened in his faith and gave glory to God,

**When we allow false opinions to become teachings and traditions new perceptions are developed within people derailing the very purpose of Christ and his mission for building his church. We cannot build the church on the interpretations of scripture by those who have stopped moving with God. When you stop moving with God you nullify the word and paralyse its affect then denying the fullness in those whom you lead**

**Colossians 2:6-8** So then, just as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, continue to live in him, 7 rooted and built up in him, strengthened in the faith as you were taught, overflowing with thankfulness. 8 See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy which; depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ.

**Matthew 16:17** Jesus replied, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah, for this was not revealed to you by man, but by my Father in heaven.

When Jesus asked Peter, 'who do people say that I am' Jesus was not really interested in the shifting opinions of men but more so he asked Peter the question so as the father could reveal to Peter key distinct revelation that otherwise could not be obtained by natural sources. Peter's confession of who Jesus was, was not an opinion but instead a revelation which is a major difference.

Peter allowed his own opinion to enter when distorting the words spoken to him that Jesus was going to the cross to be lifted up for all mankind. Jesus rebukes Peter for not having the things of God in mind. One minute Peter has entered a divine flow of revelatory truth only then for his next line to be denying the further work of Calvary's cross to which he eventually ends up being rebuked. The moment truth is debated and formed into an opinion the enemy steals our revelation and by it the word of God is nullified.

**Acts 17:11** Now the Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true.

**Next message on this subject to follow soon**