

## WORD RELIGION

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*True Pentecost is a Word religion. Any form of Pentecostalism that undermines or rejects Word religion is in error.*

There are many erroneous ideas which have sprung up, which now have currency with people who call themselves “Pentecostal”. In order to maintain a true Pentecostal tradition, Christians must stay with the Word.

“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.” (2 Timothy 2:15). Study is good in regards to the Word itself. But as people get off the Word, and study other things at so-called “Bible” College, then they are going to increase in error.

One example is in James 1:26, “If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man’s religion *is* vain.” The preachers used to come against the hypocrites, who would profess to be righteous, yet they were not. And while the Pentecostals were right to reject “show” religion, they incorrectly rejected anything to do with religion at all. After a while it became a major false doctrine that all religion, tradition and anything old was bad. Instead of using the King James Bible, or speaking in line with the Authorized Version, they said, “we’ve got to be real”, and they threw it away.

Another example of where so-called “Pentecost” has gone out of line is in the area of Bible prophecy interpretation. Not only do they almost completely neglect the historical fulfilment of Scripture in the Church age, but many have a wrong view of things to do with the future Tribulation. Even at the present time, many are treating China as a great enemy, when the Bible has almost nothing to say concerning that nation, and much good indirectly in promises concerning the Gentiles. In fact, by believing the Scripture, Christians should be expecting that missionary endeavour should be making huge inroads into a future English-speaking China. (In 1842 Britain had economic control of China.)

“The heart of the righteous studieth to answer” (Proverbs 15:28). It is amazing that generally unintellectual people could be used of God in the Pentecostal Revival, and when the Pentecostals got over into modern unbelief (denying plain Scripture, going to the mysteries of the Hebrew and Greek and so on), that the intellectuals became fools, and most of their followers became dependant on what others believed for them. They might say, “I don’t know, I’m not very smart about all that theological stuff, I’ll have to talk to my pastor about it”, or, “tonight’s service was really anointed, I really felt God, and I had a word about not letting our minds get in the way”.

The Bible says, “And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” (John 8:32). True freedom must come from receiving godly instruction. “But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived. But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned *them*; And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

All scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works.” (2 Timothy 3:13–17).