

IT IS SETTLED!

"Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man" (Ecclesiastes 12:13b)

By Howell Lasseter

From Heaven, or of Men? (Part 2)

Last week, we studied Jesus' teaching on the two ways. All who have ever lived, or are living, or will ever live, travel one of these two ways. Can we know of a certainty which of the two ways we are traveling? Hear Jesus: "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven" (Matthew 7:21). In the verses following, Jesus contrasts the wise man and the foolish man. We can know that each one who refuses to hear and do Jesus' words is on the broad way leading to destruction. The eight known writers of the New Testament (the writer of Hebrews is unknown to us) recorded all that God requires of us. John tells us, "And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that, believing, ye might have life through his name" (John 20:30,31). John also tells us, "And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments. He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him" (1 John 2:3,4). So, one who seeks in God's Word for God's narrow way can find it and walk in it.

In Friday's Gallipolis Daily *Tribune*, the *Religious Briefs* carried an article about a dispute in Durango, Colorado, over the baptism of a lesbian couple's "son." The law of procreation, understood by most human beings, will not permit a lesbian couple to bring a life into the world. However, the dispute among the religious group was, surprisingly, **not** over homosexuality. Read this quote: "Johnson said members who objected to the baptism disagreed more with the congregation's view that the Bible is **not infallible** (emphasis added) than on its policy on homosexuality" The article goes on to report that the Lutheran denomination is formally studying whether to accept same-sex unions and the ordination of gays and lesbians (pg. A-6, July 11, 2003). So, this group is not disagreeing over homosexuality or over baptism, but over whether God's Word is true or not! The situation reported in the article points out the dilemma faced by man-made religious groups: accept God's Word for what it is – the infallible, inerrant teaching of God – or reject it. God's Word boldly proclaims the absolute truthfulness of that which God records for us, and the absolute necessity of accepting and obeying His Word (Galatians 1:6-9). Bible students know that one who rejects the Word of God is definitely on the broad way leading to destruction, regardless of how "religious" that one might appear or believe himself or herself to be!