

Humans and Monkeys

This past week, I heard a story on the radio about a contest that has been going on for several years. The contest is simple: Two groups pick certain stocks that they think will be the most prosperous throughout the year. The winner is determined by the overall profit the group makes for that year. There is, however, a catch. One group is made up of highly trained financial investment professionals. The other is a group of monkeys who throw darts at a newspaper. Whatever stock the dart lands on is the stock that the monkeys buy. According to the story that I heard, the professionals have never defeated the monkeys.

It can be scary to put our trust in other humans. However, there are some things that we must trust others to do for us. We trust that other people will stop at the red light. We trust that the doctors will have our best interest in mind. We even trust others with our money. While it can sometimes be a scary thought, there are some things on this earth that we have to trust other people to do.

However, when it comes to the word of God, we can never put our trust in man. The things of God are far too important for us to trust others. The consequences of misunderstanding His word are far too severe. If we trust someone to tell us what God expects from us, and they are wrong, then we will spend an eternity in hell.

There is no man on this earth who has the authority to change the word of God. There is no preacher that has the authority to add to or take away from the word of God. Paul warns us of teaching or following another gospel that is different than that which we have been given (*Gal. 1:6-9*). He also warns us not to think beyond what is written for us (*I Cor. 4:6*). John warns us of adding to or taking away from the word of God (*Rev. 22:18-19*).

When we put our trust in any man to teach us what God says in His word, we are putting our trust in the wrong being. Even if we have good intentions, there is the capability for us to be wrong. Even though all preachers of the gospel believe that they are teaching the truths of God, they are human and can be wrong. Therefore, we must search "*the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things are so*" (*Acts 17:11*).

We cannot afford to trust man with the word of God. The consequences of being wrong are eternal. May we all be students of the word of God so that we will know what we must do in order to inherit eternal salvation.