

Most of you have read or heard something about the change in Senate rules that eliminate the filibuster. Now there is a worry by “conservatives” about whether liberal judges will be appointed without any way to stop them.

Even some Democrats voted against the change for fear of what will happen when the Republicans control the Senate. The “liberal” or “left” viewpoint is that judges need to loosely interpret the constitution which was written over 200 years ago to bring it up to date. They believe that a judge can do this much easier than the Congress, since judges have lifetime appointments and can and have made sweeping changes in the law.

The conservatives mostly don't
want to change the constitution
but some want to let just a little
liberalism in.

But only for those things they
agree on.

As we look at these arguments flying back and forth, we often fail to realize that we have the same situation within the religious world. There are conservatives and there are liberals when it comes to looking at the constitution which guides the church – the Bible.

Some liberal theologians want to change things to suit the current political situation while others only want to change a little bit.

I will just let you all know when it comes to the Scriptures, I believe that I am a strict constructionist. In fact, there are people who associate with me who marvel at how closely I want to stick to the Scriptures.

At the same time, there are those who think I'm so liberal, they would like to run me out of the church.

2 Tim 3:16 All Scripture is
inspired by God and profitable for
teaching, for reproof, for
correction, for training in
righteousness; 17 that the man of
God may be adequate, equipped
for every good work.

James 1:25 But one who looks intently at the perfect law, the law of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man shall be blessed in what he does.

I reached a crisis in my life many years ago when I reached the age of about 18, and knowing everything that was important, I decided that my elders had been deceiving me. I wanted some changes in my life.

Although the church was filled with good people, they wouldn't approve of everything I wanted to do.

As I moved through the crisis, I decided I would examine those rules which had previously guided my life to see whether they were valid. I examined them critically.

Ps 19:1 The heavens are telling of the
glory of God; and their expanse is
declaring the work of His hands. 2 Day to
day pours forth speech, and night to night
reveals knowledge. 3 There is no speech,
nor are there words; their voice is not
heard. 4 Their line has gone out through
all the earth, and their utterances to the
end of the world. In them He has placed a
tent for the sun,

Rom 1:20 For since the creation
of the world His invisible
attributes, His eternal power and
divine nature, have been clearly
seen, being understood through
what has been made, so that they
are without excuse.

I examined these statements to see whether they were so and finding that God had left a great deal of physical evidence that He had created the heaven and the earth, I set out to find out how He revealed Himself to man.

Once I decided, on the basis of the
evidence, that God revealed
Himself through the Bible, I
looked at it carefully.

2 Pet 1:3 seeing that His divine
power has granted to us
everything pertaining to life and
godliness, through the true
knowledge of Him who called us
by His own glory and excellence.

Where was this information – all
that I ever needed?

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John 17:20 "I do not ask in behalf
of these alone, but for those also
who believe in Me through their
word;

Where did the apostles to whom
Jesus spoke these words get their
knowledge? – from God!

John 14:26 "But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.

Jesus requested the Holy Spirit,
whom God sent to give the Word
to man. His apostles wrote it
down and we have it!

1 Cor 14:37 If anyone thinks he is a prophet or spiritual, let him recognize that the things which I write to you are the Lord's commandment.

Paul said he wrote Scripture!
And it came from the Lord!

2 Pet 3:15 ... as also our beloved brother Paul,
according to the wisdom given him, wrote to
you, 16 as also in all his letters, speaking in
them of these things, in which are some
things hard to understand, which the untaught
and unstable distort, as they do also the rest
of the Scriptures, to their own destruction.

Peter said Paul wrote Scripture! And those
who disobeyed it would be lost!

1 Pet 1:25 But the word of the Lord
abides forever." And this is the word
which was preached to you.

The word of the Lord is what is to be
preached. The word of the Lord is what
we are to abide by. I gather that we are
to abide with no deviations.

II Jn 1:9 Anyone who goes too far and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God; the one who abides in the teaching, he has both the Father and the Son.

God's word is our constitution.
We are specifically told that we
are to be strict constructionists.

2 Pet 1:3 seeing that His divine
power has granted to us
everything pertaining to life and
godliness ...

Our view of God and his
relationship with us is to be
governed solely by the Scriptures.
Not by a synod of man, but by the
Scriptures.

When it comes to the introduction of novelty in the church, we are not to be led by men but by the Word of God “which liveth and abideth forever.” Women preachers, praise teams (both singing and dancing), approval of homosexuality and bishops of one church over multi-congregation efforts are simply innovations not found in the word of God.

Adhering to the standard may rub off on our way of thinking about politics, however, we must not equate the US Constitution with the word of God.

They came from different sources. One from men (who recognized there might be a need for changes – called amendments) --- and the other from God (who doesn't allow amendments)!

On the other hand, if we are told that we are to be guided by a specific source, our duty is to follow that source. People will invent all kinds of ways to get their way. They may present sophisticated arguments. Recently, one justice on the Supreme Court said that other nations believed ...

Why does it matter? If you are going to be guided by our constitution, you have to decide who has the right to change it.

But know this – What other people believe or what they do does not change the law of our Creator in this gospel age. His word has been given and should be sufficient. All children of God must all be “strict constructionists” for if we twist these things we do so “to our own destruction.”

So consider the words given by the Holy Spirit to Peter carefully, Acts 2:38 *And Peter said to them, "Repent, and let each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.*

Act 2:41 *So then, those who had received his word were baptized; and there were added that day about three thousand souls.*

If you want to be added to the church Jesus built, you must receive this word, repent and be baptized for the forgiveness of your sins.