

Messenger of Truth

"Holding forth the Word of Life" (Phil. 2:16)

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Orthodox

"People that are orthodox when they are young are in danger of being middle-aged all their lives."
Walter Lippmann

"One and all, the orthodox creeds are crumbling like ruins everywhere." – John Fiske

"The historical orthodox Christian faith is extremely wide and diverse." – Rob Bell

"The problem with liberal Protestantism in America is not that it has not been orthodox enough, but that it has lost a lot of religious substance." – Peter L. Berger

"Even Martin Luther and John Calvin believed that the Roman Catholic Church, up to the Council of Trent, was basically orthodox – a true church with sound fundamental doctrines as well as significant error." – Norman Geisler

We all have no doubt heard the term *orthodox* most of our lives. Some have thought that it is an isolated term to segments of the Jews and Greeks. It can be confusing if one doesn't have a clear understanding of what it means.

Webster defines *orthodox* as, "conforming to established doctrine especially in religion; conventional." It is interesting that in the second definition, if the term is capitalized, then it would refer to "conservative religious or political groups."

The general thought is that this term has reference to what was traditionally accepted early in religion. The "Free Dictionary", in its fourth definition, has a more loose approach, as it makes reference to what is "commonly accepted."

If one were to be strict in their use of Scripture, adhering to biblical doctrine as it is stated, then they may well be looked upon as being orthodox. Unfortunately, to some they see it as being rigid and given too heavily to early traditions of the church.

It is too bad that some are not more *orthodox* in their religious beliefs. They apparently feel that a "thus saith the Lord" is too old fashioned and outdated. Yet the Bible certainly stresses the importance of following Scripture. "Thus says the LORD: 'Stand in the ways and see, and ask for the old paths, where the good way is, and walk in it; then you will find rest for your souls'" (Jer. 6:16).

Even Jesus emphasizes the need to follow His teachings which are plainly found in the pages of Scripture. "He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him – the world that I have spoken will judge him in the last day" (John 12:48).

One does not need the label of Orthodox to be more orthodox in their holding to the Scriptures.