

THE FRUIT OF PERVERTED RELIGION

JOHN 5:10-16

I. THE LORD DELIBERATELY PROVOKED THE CONTROVERSY SURROUNDING THE HEALING OF THE MAN AT THE POOL OF BETHESDA (5:10-16)

- A. The Next Two Events In the Lord's Public Ministry Were Also Surrounded By Sabbath Controversy (Matthew 12:1-13)
- B. The Internal Evidence Regarding The Lord's Miracle At The Pool Of Bethesda Points To A Divinely Ordained Provocation
 - 1. The Lord Had Commanded Him To Carry A Burden On The Sabbath
 - 2. The Lord Later Hunts Him Down In the Temple To Identify Himself, Knowing That The Man Will Go Back To The Jews With The Incriminating Information

II. THE LORD DELIBERATELY PROVOKED THE CONTROVERSY, BUT HE NEVER TRANSGRESSED ANY CLEAR PROHIBITION OF THE MOSAIC LAW

- A. The Lord Was Exposing One Way That Religion Becomes Perverted
- B. This Case Demonstrates That Religion Becomes Perverted When It Adds To God's Commands
 - 1. Not One Of The Ten Passages That Deal With Sabbath Observance In The Mosaic Law, Forbids What Took Place When The Lord Healed This Man
 - 2. The Jews Had Misapplied Jeremiah 17:21-22 & Nehemiah 13
 - 3. The Jews Had Elevated Their Traditions To The Same Level As God's Commands

III. THE LORD DELIBERATELY PROVOKED THE CONTROVERSY TO MAKE THE POINT THAT SINCE THE FALL GOD HAS BEEN AT THE CONTINUAL WORK OF SALVATION AND RESTORATION (5:17)