**MURPHY’S LAW**

**A Look At Bible Authority**

Ever heard of Murphy’s Law?  In it’s basic form it states: “If anything can go wrong, it will go wrong!”  I would like to play upon that “Law” – but with a twist.

I keep a quote in my files that I read many years ago that perfectly illustrates a point I like to make concerning Bible authority.  Let me read for you the exact words of former baseball legend Dale Murphy, who won two MVP awards for his skills playing for the Atlanta Braves in 1982 and 1983.   In 1990 the MLB (Major League Baseball) had just enforced their standing rule that baseball gloves could not be any longer than 12 inches from top to bottom.  Some of the players were now using gloves 14 and 15 inches long in order to catch balls they couldn't reach with a 12 inch glove.  As an outfielder he was upset about that enforcement of the rule.  He said:

***“Twelve inches is the rule but that is not the spirit of the rule.  Now, all of a sudden 12 ¾ inches is not acceptable.  I don’t think the MLB Rules Committee handled this very well.”***

It is interesting that Dale Murphy was a very religious man who was a practicing Mormon.  As a fan I always admired him because he lived a clean life, no cursing, no drinking or smoking or cheating on his wife.  That is rare among professional athletes (i.e. think Tiger Woods).  He was a superstar and highly respected by all who knew him.   But there is something about what he said that makes this preacher stop and say, “Whoa, wait a second Dale Murphy!”  Let’s think this through, and apply it to life, and to your religion.

Baseball is based on rules.  You can only have 9 players on the field.  You can only get 3 outs per inning.  You are only allowed 4 balls or 3 strikes per at bat.  The pitcher’s mound must be exactly 60 feet 6 inches from the rubber to home plate.

Mr. Murphy, suppose your opponent decides they want to add an extra player to the outfield to catch your line drives?  Or if they said they are only going to give you 2 strikes and 5 balls because you are so good?  What if the pitcher could move in closer to 55 feet to pitch to you?  Should the MLB Rules Committee “all of a sudden” think this was acceptable?  No, I didn’t think so.  Murphy’s Law would not be “the spirit of the rule” in that case would it?

Dale Murphy argued for his glove to be allowed on the exact same logic that his Mormon faith makes allowances with God’s Word to include modern day prophets and engage in many business activities to raise millions of dollars.  But even more to the point, he believes we can “add” the Book of Mormon to supplement the Bible!

The LDS (Latter Day Saints, i.e. Mormons) believes that Ezekiel 37:15-19 claims the Bible predicted the coming of the Book of Mormon.  They claim the following words “prove” God would reveal another prophetic book 2,000 years later that would be “joined” to the Bible as God’s word.  Just read what Ezekiel said and see if you can clearly see that:

***15 Again the word of the LORD came to me, saying, 16 “As for you, son of man, take a stick for yourself and write on it: ‘For Judah and for the children of Israel, his companions.’ Then take another stick and write on it, ‘For Joseph, the stick of Ephraim, and for all the house of Israel, his companions.’ 17 Then join them one to another for yourself into one stick, and they will become one in your hand.***
***18 “And when the children of your people speak to you, saying, Will you not show us what you mean by these?’— 19 say to them, ‘Thus says the Lord GOD: “Surely I will take the stick of Joseph, which is in the hand of Ephraim, and the tribes of Israel, his companions; and I will join them with it, with the stick of Judah, and make them one stick, and they will be one in My hand.”***

The ”stick of Joseph” and the “stick of Judah” would be joined to become one stick.  They claim this is a grafting in of two books into one, the Bible and the Book of Mormon.  But there is just one little (major) problem.  The next two verses define the meaning for us.

***“And say unto them, Thus saith the Lord God; Behold, I will take the children of Israel from among the heathen, whither they be gone, and will gather them on every side, and bring them into their own land: And I will make them one nation in the land upon the mountains of Israel; and one king shall be king to them all: and they shall be no more two nations, neither shall they be divided into two kingdoms any more at all.”***

The two sticks are the kingdoms of Judah and Israel which were scattered in the exiles to Assyria and Babylon.  They would be gathered together again into one nation under the reign of “one king.”  That is without doubt a Messianic prophecy of Christ and His church.  The church, the people of Christ, are now “*the Israel of God*” (Gal. 6:16).

If you can add 3/4th of an inch to your baseball glove, violating the authority of the game, then you can add another book to God’s Bible.  If not, why not?

Once you take a step down that slippery slope without authority, there is no stopping place.  While Dale Murphy did not think the Rules Committee handled their “spirit of the rule” very well when they insisted 12 inches meant exactly a foot and no more, there are millions of religious folks today just like him who walk where angels fear to tread.  They bend the rules by adding to God’s word, or subtracting from it, just to fit their own man-made doctrines and desires.

Would you dare to tell God’s “Rules Committee” (i.e. The Holy Spirit) that you prefer Murphy’s Law to God’s Law regarding something you want (instrumental music, one-man "pastor" rule, easy divorce and remarriage, etc.)?

Murphy’s Law states “If something can go wrong, it will go wrong.”  That certainly applies to Dale Murphy’s “law” in baseball, and in his religion.  In baseball it would change the game.  In Judgment it would change your eternal destiny.

*“The law is holy, and the commandment holy and just and good”* (Rom. 7:12).

 - Rick