

Christian Study

Lesson 253

Be Light

Focusing on Church beyond Sunday

A "Closer Look" At the "Word of God" (Continue)

Warning against False Teachers

A Moment of Reflection

Before beginning your study, get your favorite Bible, a dictionary for new word meaning, pray and ask God's Holy Spirit to show you the truth about the New Testament.

KEY VERSE Matthew 7:15 "Beware of false prophets, who come in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are ravening wolves."

According to the above passage, the true inward nature and message of false teachers is for their personal gain and our destruction. It is vitally important for Christians to be aware of the fact that not all teaching done under the Christian is of God. I cannot emphasize this enough especially in these last days and with all the disasters that are taken place around the world. The most recent was a pastor of a very well known church with more than 25 radio stations and over 150,000 followers around the world was telling everybody that the world is coming to an end. The New Testament warns of this danger continually throughout its pages. The following passages contains some danger signals to help you identify those attempting to make available a false gospel.

Matthew 7:21-23 "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven. **22** Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name we cast out demons, and in Your name we did many mighty works?' **23** "And then I will confess to them, 'I never knew you! Depart from Me, you who work iniquity!' Some of these false teachers will engage in great religious activities, they will call the name of Jesus in the process, but Christ's response to them will be "I don't know you." If Jesus Christ who is our hope will tell some prophets and teachers He doesn't know them, I want to emphasize the word "Beware."

A construction worker walked into a church service one Sunday morning in his not so clean jeans, T-shirt and work boots. Immediately after the service, the pastor approached him and told him to ask God how he should dress the next time he wants to come to his church

A couple of weeks later, he went back to the church after a long night at work in the same clothes he had on previously. The pastor again walked up to him after the church service and asked if he had asked God to tell him how to dress. With a big smile on the construction worker's face, he said, "Yes I did ask God, and God said to me that He does not know how to dress to come to that church, because He (God) has never been into that church before."

Here is what Paul says about anyone teaching a gospel different from what the apostles preach. **Galatians 1:8-9** "But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach a gospel to you other than what we preached to you, let him be accursed. **9** As we have said before, and I say again just now, if anyone preaches a gospel to you other than what you received, let him be accursed." This tells even present day teachers and preachers that are teaching contrary to the true gospel that they too will be "Accursed." We also see that even if the false teaching comes from an angel who is sent by God from Heaven changes the message, the same judgment will be upon him. It is very important to be totally familiar with the gospel, because there is no room for adding to the good news. Beware of "new" and "unusual" teachings by spending time with the truth from the Bible with the Holy Spirit as our teacher

It is possible for believers to be led astray, deceived by the craftiness of the evil one. It is possible to preach about a different Jesus than the one preached by the apostles and such teaching will be considered false. **2 Corinthians 11:3-4** "But I fear, lest perhaps as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. **4** For if he who comes to you preaches another Jesus whom we did not preach, or if you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you did not accept, you may well put up with him!"

False prophets and false teachers will declare that Jesus will appear the way they think He will and the place that they think He will come from, but Jesus Himself told His disciples and it applies to all believers today where and how He will appear. **Matthew 24:23-27** "Then, if anyone says to you, 'Look, here is the Messiah!' or 'There he is!'---do not believe it. **24** For false Messiahs and false prophets will appear; they will perform great miracles and wonders, in order to deceive even God's chosen people, if possible. **25** Listen! I have told you this ahead of time. **26** "Or, if people should tell you, 'Look, he is out in the desert!'---don't go there; or if they say, 'Look, he is hiding here!'---don't believe it. **27** For the Son of Man will come like the lightning which flashes across the whole sky from the east to the west." In our finite human intelligence, it is impossible to fully understand how one man will come in lightning flashing from east to west for all to know He is back. This is another reason why the Bible says, "Without faith, it is impossible to please God" We have to believe Him by faith

Luke 17:22-24 "Jesus said to his disciples: The time will come when you will long to see one of the days of the Son of Man, but you will not. **23** When people say to you, "Look there," or "Look here," don't go looking for him. **24** The day of the Son of Man will be like lightning flashing across the sky."

Such teachers are described by Paul as false, dishonest, deceitful workers, pretenders disguising themselves as apostles of Christ in **2 Corinthians 11:13** "For such *are* false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ." We should not be filled with wonder or astonishment at them because Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light, (**Verse 14**) because of that it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works, (**Verse 15**). Satan's workers would not be heavily involved in religious forms of activity.

The ultimate goal of false teachers during the first century and in present day has not changed. A large majority of them think that the gospel is for monetary gain, so they use the name of God in their schemes to reap people of whatever they can get from them. **2 Timothy 6:3-7** "If anyone teaches differently and does not consent to sound words, even those of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which accords with godliness, **4** he is puffed up, understanding nothing, but is concerned with disputes and word battles, from which come envy, strife, slanders, evil suspicions, **5** constant wrangling of men of corrupt minds and having been deprived of the truth, supposing that godliness is a means of profit. Withdraw from such *people*. **6** But godliness with contentment is great gain. **7** For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain that neither can we carry anything out!"

Our understanding of Christ will increase as we live by His truth recorded in Scripture. **John 14:21** "Those who accept my commandments and obey them are the ones who love me. My Father will love those who love me; I too will love them and reveal myself to them."

Before Christianity spread through the first century world, "god" was a word more often associated with fear and hope. A pagan had no concept of a just God, who loved him. For most men, the gods were unjust, unconcerned and unpredictable. Religions were their attempts to attract a god's attention and to appease his often vindictive attitude toward men. For others, especially among the Greeks, "god" was simply a force you will not know. Philosophy replaced religion and man's intellect was deified. The world's religions are diverse but they all share a single attitude: Mankind's religions are attempts to convert God. Christianity is God's plan to convert man.

Jesus Christ turned man's religious system upside down by teaching about a God who is not only interested in man, but who actually took the initiative to restore a relationship with them. In Luke 15, He compared God to a shepherd, who searches high and low for a single lost sheep out of a hundred (Verse 3-6). To a woman, who diligently searches her home for a single lost coin

(verse 8-9). And to a loving father, who still desires the return of a lost and foolish son (verse 11-24). Jesus said of Himself that He "came to seek and to save what was lost" Luke 19:10

It was the truth that the apostles wrote in the gospels. They recorded not their own ideas and impressions, but what they actually saw and heard as they walked and talked with Jesus. In the book of Acts, Luke the physician and historian recorded the impact that this life of truth had upon the world. The epistles apply His truth to our lives. No one has a more reliable knowledge of Christ than the New Testament writers. God revealed Himself in Jesus. (Hebrews 11:1-2) and has preserved that message for our time and all time in the New Testament.

It is no secret, what God can do. What He's done for others, He'll do for you.

Our mission is to help people find strength and security on the foundation that can never be shaken, cracked or shattered. This foundation is the remarkable truth of God's unconditional love and His indisputable grace experienced in a relationship with Jesus Christ. The critics of Christianity have launched a full attack to discredit the person and works of Jesus Christ and the reliability of His word. We cannot be silent anymore. Let us as children of light, stand firm in the faith, because He who has taken us this far will never forsake us. You are called Christians, be careful of that name. Let not our Lord Jesus Christ be blasphemed on your account

Believe this, "Jesus did not come to make bad people good, He came to make dead people live."

Keep It Simple

Jesus loves me this I know, for the Bible tells me so.

If you have any questions, comments or you know anybody else who will benefit from this study please feel free to give us their email address and they will be added to our mailing list to receive weekly lessons. The email address is santigiemando1@yahoo.com,

Remember: A candle loses nothing by lighting another candle (Ephesians 5:8)

Let's go light another candle!