

Proclaiming the Gospel

For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness;
But unto us which are saved it is the power of God" (*1 Cor. 1.18*).

Edifying the Body of Christ (*Eph. 4.10-16*)

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The Wise Still Seek Him

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Message
of
Jesus Christ

Jesus, the Only Way The Way, the Truth and the Life

In the February message, Dr. Cole asked the question, "How do bankers decipher the real from the counterfeit?" This is important in light of the teaching that is running rampant in the world and "churches" today.

Christians are being encouraged today to get acquainted with other religions: read their literature and "sacred" writings, discuss their beliefs with them, learn about their gods, tolerate the differences of religions – then you can work together and feel comfortable with them. They know God (or is it god?); they believe in Jesus (just don't ask them which Jesus). It is said that you need to read about their beliefs and understand them in order to know how to minister to them. What? To know how to minister to them? Whose ministry is it?

You who promote becoming one with those of other religions, do you plan to win them with your own knowledge, your own ability, your own strength? One does not, and cannot, minister to the sinner unless it is by the Holy Spirit working through His saints in power and authority over Satan. Jesus already knows them and their beliefs. Jesus tears down strongholds through us, yes, but not of ourselves.

Saints, we must abide in Him and He in us that His Word go forth through us in the anointing and power of the Holy Spirit to break down strongholds of Satan in the lives of others. Our knowledge and understanding of other cultures and religions will **never** bring people to Jesus Christ, the only Begotten Son of God. God's Word alone, pure and unadulterated, applied through the shed blood of Jesus Christ, has the power to bring one out of darkness into salvation light.

What does the Word of God say? Paul writes to the church in II Corinthians 6.14-18:

It is His way or no way. Moses, in Deuteronomy 28-30, makes it clear that we can choose death – or we can choose life. This is life in the Lord Jesus Christ. Joshua said, Choose ye this day whom ye will serve (Jos 24).

Let us go forth in the Name of the Lord, rejoicing that we have been counted worthy to walk with Him and suffer with Him – come what may, even if we lose all our worldly belongings but **not** our soul (Phil 3.8-10).

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Co-laborers together for Jesus Christ

Come apart and rest (Mark 6.31).

Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?

And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?

And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in *[them]*; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.

Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean *[thing]*; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.

Notice verse 17. In no way does he even hint that we should become one with the world or other religions.

Haggai 2.12-13 says, in essence, that if one bearing holy flesh touches bread, pottage, etc. it does not make the item touched become holy; however, if an item is touched by something unclean, the item does become unclean. In other words, UN-holiness is infectious.

Brothers and sisters, we dare not join forces with ungodly people, their beliefs, or their lifestyles. Our joining them does not cause Christ's holiness to "rub off" onto them. Instead, their UNholiness will cause us to become unclean, weakened in our relationship with Jesus, ineffective in ministry, and, ultimately, partakers of idolatry. IT WILL WORK DEATH IN US!

"Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you" (II Cor 6.17). We are called to be set apart from the world. It is a command; do NOT be yoked with unbelievers.

When the Israelites came out of the Babylonian captivity to Jerusalem to rebuild the temple, the enemies around them said (Ezra 4.2), "Let us build with you: for we seek your God, as ye do: and we do sacrifice unto him . ." The enemy was steeped in idolatry; they sacrificed to many gods. Zerubbabel and Jeshua and the elders of Israel knew this and answered (v 3), "Ye have nothing to do with us to build an house unto our God: but we ourselves together will build . ." ("... come out from among them ... be ye separate . . .")

In Nehemiah Six, Jerusalem's defenses were being built up; the wall was being rebuilt, and Nehemiah had enemies. The enemy wanted to meet with Nehemiah. Nehemiah refused; he was too busy doing the Lord's work. He had to refuse five times! Then he was faced with one who prophesied that he should meet him in the temple for a conference. Verse 12, "And, lo, I **perceived** that God had not sent him..." (*emphasis is mine*). Not only did Nehemiah refuse to confer with the enemy, but he was also **perceptive**. He knew the real; he knew the Lord God, his God, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

What then, specifically, are we to do to know the real from the counterfeit? Dr. Cole gave the answer: "By studying the real document."

The Psalmist said, "Thy word have I hid in my heart, that I might not sin against thee" (Ps 119.11). Psalm 119.16: "...I will not forget thy word."

If we hope to stand strong in these last days, we must be filled with His Word, not with just head knowledge (Jn 5.37-40). The Word must be alive in our hearts. The Psalmist knew the importance and the power of the indwelling Word; it could keep him from sin. He would not forget God's Word.

We are not to turn from God's law (His Word) to the right or to the left (Jos 1.7). Verse 8 states "...but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mightest observe to do according to all that is written therein . . ."

This is a command, a command to saturate ourselves with God's Word. II Timothy 2.14-17 tells us to study.

Of these things put *[them]* in remembrance, charging *[them]* before the Lord that they strive not about words to no profit, *[but]* to the subverting of the hearers.

Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

But shun profane *[and]* vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness.

The Psalmist made clear God's command as well.

Blessed *[is]* the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. But his delight *[is]* in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night (Ps 1.1, 2).