

Rom. 14:19
So then let us
follow after
things which
make for
peace, and
things
whereby we
may edify one
another.

THE LENEXA EDIFIER

Anne Surace 2010

John 8:32 And
ye shall
know the
truth and the
truth shall
make you
free.

August
4
2019

RECOGNIZING A FALSE PROPHET

by Jim Stauffer

When we read Scripture we view false teachers/prophets as evil men led by Satan to spread his message to the hearts of mankind. It is very interesting then that we are so hesitant to identify false teachers as such when we meet them or come in contact with them in our daily lives.

We are warned by the apostle John to *not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.* (1 John 4:1) The message is clear. We must, *be on your guard so that you are not carried away by the error of unprincipled men and fall from your own steadfastness,* (2 Pet. 3:17). Peter tells us these false teachers will *secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing swift destruction upon themselves.* (2 Pet. 2:1)

So, just what is a false teacher/prophet? Well, according to John they are those who are not from God. How do we know they are not from God? Obviously when what they teach does not match what God has revealed to us in His word. He claims His revelation is complete and sufficient and that it did not come from the ideas of any man, but was breathed by God Himself (2 Tim. 3:16,17; 2 Pet. 1:20,21)

Of course that would be easy to determine if we know what God has revealed. What is required of us, is to become acquainted with God's word so we cannot be deceived by such men. There are, of course, some easy signs. One of which is when a teacher uses something other than God's word to tell us what we are to do in worship or service to Him. Many religions have creed books. While claiming to believe the Bible they are guided in their religious conduct as a church by the creeds written by men. There is an old statement, true then as it is today that says if what is in the creed book agrees with the Bible, the creed book is unnecessary and if what is in the creed book is different from what is said in the Bible, it is wrong. That realization brings us

back to the Bible as our guide. This is the reason Jesus said this, *"Beware of the false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits. Grapes are not gathered from thorn bushes nor figs from thistles, are they?"* (Matthew 7:15-16)

It is true that some of the most reliable men we know can become carried away by false teachers. Paul lamented the fact that the elders of the church at Ephesus would find themselves, *speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them.* (Acts 20:28) The reason it happens is because they are *deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons* (1 Tim. 4:1). Paul encountered such in Corinth and described them this way. *"For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. No wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. Therefore it is not surprising if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness, whose end will be according to their deeds."* (2 Corinthians 11:13-15)

Paul tells Timothy to *"Take heed to thyself, and to thy teaching. Continue in these things; for in doing this thou shalt save both thyself and them that hear thee."* (1 Timothy 4:16) We have a personal responsibility for not only our soul but those of others. Far be it from any of us to lead someone to practice religious error.

But, to avoid religious error, we must first admit it exists. We live in a day and time when men change and alter God's word based current ideas of just what religion should be.

"O Jehovah, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps." (Jeremiah 10:23) Man is not capable of charting his own path. God guides us with His word and we are to follow. God's message to His children has not changed since originally revealed. It does not become archaic. It will never be obsolete.

True Religion Vs. False Religion

By Allan Turner

According to **Ecclesiastes 12:13**, the whole duty of man is to fear the Creator of the Universe and keep His commandments. This is not something just for those who are in covenant relationship with God through Christ, but for all mankind. The Creator has natural dominion over us even before He has authority over us by consent when we are converted. Why? Because, quite frankly, He is the Creator/Sovereign of the Universe: He's the Creator and we are the creature; He's the Potter and we are the clay! Consequently, He has the authority to make demands upon us and we are under obligation to obey His commands. Apart from this understanding there are no real ethical *norms* (i.e., What should I do?) or *obligations* (i.e., Why should I do it?); no such things as absolute norms of conduct—no such things as moral absolutes! This, we learn in **Romans 1:18-32**, is why those who wanted to satisfy their own lusts chose not to retain in their minds the proper concept of God as Creator/Sovereign. According to the Scriptures, they *“exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator”* (**Romans 1:25**).

True religion (i.e., *man made in the image of God*, **Genesis 1:26,27**) and false religion (i.e., *God created in the image of man*, **Romans 1:22,23**) are complete opposites. The antagonism between these two is constant. Consequently, the apostle Paul warned, *“Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ”* (**Colossians 2:8**). In this passage we can see the antagonism between the “tradition of men” and “basic principles of this world” and the teaching of Christ. As Jesus said elsewhere, there are only two sources for religion—God or man (**Matthew 21:23-27**).

In **II Corinthians 10:4,5**, Paul wrote: *“For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ.”* Making use of military metaphors, the apostle is contrasting vain philosophy (man-made religion) with the truth revealed in the Bible (God-breathed or inspired religion). He is contrasting the secular worldview with the Biblical worldview. Our weapons, he tells us, are not carnal. In other words, they are not *“according to the tradition of men”* nor are they *“according to the basic principles of the world.”* Nevertheless, they are mighty *“in God”* for the pulling down of *“strongholds.”* These *“strongholds”*, according to Paul, are philosophies, arguments, reasonings, concepts, ideas, and every man-made ism (i.e., *“every high thing”*) that exalts themselves against

the *“knowledge of God.”* Primarily, this knowledge of God is derived from just one source, namely, the Bible.

In the very first verse of the Bible, we are told: *“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.”* In this simple and uncomplicated sentence are concepts with the most profound implications. If one believes this sentence to be divinely inspired truth, then it completely destroys the *“strongholds”* of atheism, polytheism, materialism, and pantheism. **Genesis 1:1** says the atheist is definitely wrong when he says there is no God, because *Elohim* (the name used to identify God in this verse and one that suggests His triune nature) identifies Himself as the Creator. This one true God (viz., the one and only state of being divine, which the Bible tells us is shared by the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit) is contrasted with all the false gods of polytheism. Furthermore, materialism, a theory that says physical matter is the only fundamental reality and that all being, processes, and phenomena can be explained as manifestations or results of matter, is thoroughly defeated by the divinely revealed truth of Creation. The heavens and the earth, with all the matter contained therein, were simply spoken into existence by Almighty God. Finally, the transcendent God identified in **Genesis 1:1**, the One who had, and continues to have, an existence apart from His Creation, is contrasted with the pantheistic concept that teaches God consists of the forces and laws of the Universe. In other words, instead of the Biblical concept of a God who is different from His Creation, the pantheist sees God and the Creation as being One. Specifically, such a pantheistic belief is identified as “Monism” (viz., “All is One”).

The Christian must not ignore Paul's warning about the doctrines of men or vain philosophy. According to Paul, vain philosophy is a brigand that, if we are not careful, will take us captive and steal from us our spiritual possessions. Deception, long the technique of those who would cheat us and steal our physical possessions, is the major device of all man-made philosophy. Promising everything, it delivers nothing; and claiming to be one thing, it turns out to be something else entirely!

Unfortunately, many Christians, living in the twilight of the twentieth century, have either forgotten Paul's warning or no longer believe it. For whatever reasons, Christians, because of their ignorance, have been seduced into thinking that man-made philosophies are religiously neutral. Therefore, they have become enchanted by the smorgasbord of secular thought that obscures the way, perverts the truth, and totally wrecks one's spiritual life. These must be reminded that it was Jesus who said: *“I am the way, the truth and the life”* (**John 14:6**). What this means is that apart from the way, there is no going; apart from the truth, there is no knowing; and apart from the life, there is no spiritual

living. This, quite frankly, is why the apostle Paul said that *“every thought”* must be brought *“into captivity to the obedience of Christ.”*

In **Colossians 3:17**, Paul wrote that everything one does in *“word or deed”* is to be done *“in the name of the Lord”* (i.e., by the Lord's authority). But how can one's actions be correct if one is not thinking properly? And how can one be thinking properly if one has not brought *“every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ”*? It is clear, then, the Lord calls upon His disciples to out-think, out-live, and out-die the polytheistic pagans and atheistic humanists around about them.

Finally, all man-made philosophies are destined for total defeat. Consequently, it is ludicrous that Christians, who have been *“called out of darkness into His marvelous light”* (**I Peter 2:9**), would want to return again to the *“weak and beggarly elements”* of this world, symbolized in the Bible as spiritual darkness (cf. **Galatians 4:9; Ephesians 4:17-20; Colossians 1:9-14**).

Taken from allanturner.com

Knowing the Difference Between Truth and Error

If you look into “Webster’s New World Dictionary of the American Language” and find the word “discriminate” you will see that it means “to constitute a difference between: differentiate. 2. To recognize as being different; distinguish. v.i. 1. To see the difference (between things); to distinguish” and only then does it begin the popular use of the word today concerning ill or unfair treatment of others. It is therefore a very important and good word essential for making a good life if our discriminations are made on the proper standards.

Jesus often put the Pharisees and the Sadducees to flight with his logical use of the scriptures and one of the best is in **Mark 12:19-27** where the Sadducees posed a question based on the words of Moses. (The Sadducees, like modern day liberals, deny the Resurrection from the dead, and that’s why they’re sad, you see?) Jesus’ response in **verse 24** was, *“Is this not the reason you are mistaken, that you do not understand the Scriptures or the power of God?”* He pointed directly to the reason they were so deceived – They didn’t know the scriptures!

Isn’t that the reason so many professing Christians today swallow such garbage today – they don’t know the scriptures! They think they’re saved by repeating the “Sinner’s Prayer” not realizing there is no such thing in the scriptures! They think they can start any kind of church they want since they know nothing of the church we can read about in Scripture. They don’t know the Scriptures! I know because I swallowed both those

errors! It’s sad but it’s the truth! And the only way to correct matters is by knowing the scriptures! Jesus said, *“Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.”* (**John 17:17**)

Cleveland Reddinger

Billy Graham On Whether Jews And Muslims Are Saved Because They Believe In The God Of Abraham

by Patrick Donahue

The question has come up often on my Bible Crossfire radio program – “Will Jews and Muslims and those of other non-Christian religions be saved even though they don’t believe in Jesus?” Evidently Billy Graham thought so. Notice these two quotes from him: “Whether they come from the Muslim world, or the Buddhist world, or the Christian world, or the non-believing world, they are members of the body of Christ because they’ve been called by God. They may not even know the name of Jesus, but they know in their hearts they need something that they don’t have and they turn to the only light they have and I think they’re saved and they’re going to be with us in heaven.” (interview with Robert Schuller, 5-31-1997)

“I used to believe that pagans in far-off countries were lost — were going to h-e-l-l — if they did not have the Gospel of Jesus Christ preached to them. I no longer believe that. ... I believe that there are other ways of recognizing the existence of God—through nature, for instance—and plenty of other opportunities, therefore, of saying ‘yes’ to God.” (McCall’s magazine, Jan 1978) But what does the Bible say on the question?:

John 14:6 *Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*
John 8:24 *I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins.*

Who are you going to believe – Billy Graham or God’s word?

And if Billy Graham was willing to compromise on this issue, might he have compromised on other issues – teaching contrary to God’s word? I can think of at least two other major issues he compromised on. Write me if you want to know what they were.

hear Bible Crossfire every Sunday night at 8:04 central on SiriusXM radio Family Talk 131 non-subscribers can listen live at www.BibleDebates.info

“Every one therefore who shall confess me before men, him will I also confess before my Father who is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny before my Father who is in heaven.” (**Matthew 10:32–33**)

Psa. 1:1 Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the wicked, Nor standeth in the way of sinners, Nor sitteth in the seat of scoffers: 2 But his delight is in the law of Jehovah; And on his law doth he meditate day and night. 3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the streams of water, That bringeth forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also doth not wither; And whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. 4 The wicked are not so, But are like the chaff which the wind driveth away. 5 Therefore the wicked shall not stand in the judgment, Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. 6 For Jehovah knoweth the way of the righteous; But the way of the wicked shall perish.

HOURS OF WORSHIP

Sunday A.M. 9:30 Bible Study

Sunday A.M. 10:20 Assembled Worship

Sunday P.M. 5:00 Assembled Worship

Wednesday P.M. 7:00 Bible Study and Worship

Visitors welcome

We conduct in home Bible Studies

We offer Correspondence Courses

Evangelist and Editor Jim Stauffer

Elders: Ron Peck and Jim Stauffer

Deacons: Bill Miller

Brandon Jimison

Casey Dent

Joe Hurd

OUR ADDRESS IS:

7845 Cottonwood Dr.

Lenexa, Kansas 66216

913-764-9170

Check out the following websites:

facebook.com/LenexaChurchofChrist

lenexachurchofchrist.org

NEWS AND NOTES: SICK IN NEED OF PRAYERS:

JAN PATRICK, ALMA BAUMGARTNER,
STEVE WIMP, LINDIA JACKSON AND
TRUDY MULLEN.

SUZANNE WIMP IS IN SHAWNEE PARC,
ROOM 118

BIBLE CLASSES - SUNDAY -
STUDY OF AUTHORITY - TEACHER
BILL MILLER

WEDNESDAY - 1&2 TIMOTHY
JIM STAUFFER - TEACHER

SUNDAY MORNING

SERMON:

A GOD OF PARTICULARS?



What Must I Do To Be Saved?

Hear the gospel - Romans 10:17

Believe in Jesus Christ - Hebrews 11:6

Repent of sins - Acts 17:30

Confess Christ as Lord - Romans 10:9,10

Be Baptized for remission of sins - Acts 2:38

Be Faithful unto death - Revelation 2:10