

Don't try to be God!

A New Age onslaught on the Body of Jesus?

There's a corps of Christian teachers who are not walking in the fear of the Lord and this is clearly a sign of New Age that has entered the Body of our Lord Jesus Christ at these crucial end-times full-blast! Many listening eagerly to them and following their apostate teachings will not be able to escape from this ungodly influence as they have not prepared themselves to do so. They are moving then on shifty sands. So let us take heed of this ungodly trend lest we may loose our grip on the right path altogether!

Be ye watchful! Watch and Pray! is indeed a command of Jesus we will have to take note of in these end-times. Be in other words on your guard or full alert against false doctrines and lies and especially coming from so-called "good" teachers who are trying to impress naïve Christians who are eager to learn yet always learning but never gaining real insight in the Word of God!

The apostle Paul also referred in his days to those "spiritual" teachers who came with good and friendly words, but who were in reality wolves in sheep's clothing as they were robbing innocent believers of God's blessings.

Know that we can only receive God's blessings (His promises stored up for us in His Word), should we do as God desires of us. Wilfully clothing the good message (the Good News from of old) in with a semblance of "new" reality yet distorting the Truth God desires His servants to bring - changing the apostolic message into a lie and then done with the purpose to more easily fall in with the spirit of the times - is something that will never be condoned by God as this is the message that in reality spells death. "Listen! and your soul shall live", is indeed a godly command God has given via the prophet Ezekiel to all of us should we need guidance what to do in difficult situations - meaning of course listening to God's directives contained in His Word for us.

The bad shepherd will then also come with kind words, giving encouragement left, right and centre, and the gardener who is not altogether faithful will also look forward to a good crop, but the fruit budding on the trees he is now taking so much pride in will in the end lack conformance to God's standard! And who will suffer most in the day when we will have to give account of what we have done with the message that was delivered to us by Jesus and His apostles? The individual souls who have hung on the lips of shepherds who have not tended the sheep and their particular spiritual needs properly! Therefore God's warning through James, His faithful apostle (3.1).

The fruit that does not conform to God's standard will then be regarded as useless (Jn 15). Therefore, guard your own spirituality lest false teachers, especially those bringing the Gospel for self-glory and self-gain, will rob you of the wages you are looking forward to receiving at the return of Jesus our faithful Master: "Blessed are those who (as from now) die in Christ for they rest of their labour and their works (how they have lived and what they have done for Christ) will follow them!" (Book of Revelations).

Let's ask God today to give us discernment of false spirits and so that we will be able to detect what is of God and what is false. It is indeed as though false teachers do not want to bring the old-time message "about" Jesus anymore, but such ones rather prefer acting as though they are gods unto themselves and in particular unto those who are naively gobbling up their unbiblical messages.

The Gnostics who denied sin and a sinful lifestyle, were propagating the "God-within-me" theory, acting in vaunting pride and taking the honour that rightfully belongs to Jesus for themselves, as though they were the ones who could instil life in others. Watch out for this type of impact on the body of Jesus currently! It's manifestation and impact is subtle but those who want to make the Bride, desiring the presence of Jesus in their lives, will be led by the Spirit of God and they will abide in (Scriptural) Truth. This is our only safe refuge in these days! So let's remain in Jesus and in His Word for this means standing firmly on the Rock Jesus Christ.

Where the "I" is central to any preacher's gospel, then we must be on our guard for the "I" must culminate into the big "C" - standing for the crucified Jesus the Christ! He is the only one who can impart LIFE, and although we can speak this LIFE over people, we can only involve those who truly belong to Christ and we can also only do so properly IF we bring the message of Life to the thirsty ones - conforming to the Word and in accordance with its prescriptions! And of course then doing so IF we are indeed vessels of the Holy Spirit - bearing the fruits of the Spirit and discarding the works and ways of satan and so that we can please God in all we may be doing and especially for His cause. This is conformance to His will! And false teachings, discarding God's prescriptions, are always instilled by satan, the father of lies, as Jesus rightly stated.

Let's therefore know that being spiritually whipped up for a moment, is not the same as having Life within us in a lasting way. Life comes directly from God and we cannot then glibly speak life over people as if to spiritually resuscitate them and especially over those who are living in sin - those who do not want to acknowledge and confess their sins in accordance with God's prescriptions.

Life is in Jesus, the Son of God, Saviour of the world! (1 Jn 5.12). And because He bled and died to give us Life, you and I must therefore always give the glory back to Jesus, not trying to impress people as though we are gods unto ourselves and as though people must stand in awe while we are claiming this immense spiritual power (=life) of God for ourselves and as though God will approve of what we are doing in an unbiblical way.

It seems resorting to and glibly proclaiming "grace" as though it is a convenient crutch to lean on all the time without making any personal effort to follow Jesus in accordance with His prescriptions (=laying off the fruits of the flesh! - Col. 3; Gal. 5 and many more texts should we be keen to get to know the Word of God) seems to be so popular among millennium Christians nowadays as it is indeed the easiest gospel to bring! And there is nothing that suits a lazy shepherd bringing a laissez-faire gospel, so neatly than bringing the popular so-called "Grace" message in season and out of season. Why? Nobody has to make any real effort to follow Christ as the apostles and their fellows indeed were bent on doing daily and of course "for the sake of Christ and His Gospel Truth"!

I think the surest way to find Life in Christ, is to honour the Name of Jesus the apostolic way (Col. 3.17). This blessing will definitely open God's storeroom of spiritual treasure to us and lack of conformance to this command of Paul, is a good sign - a starting point at least - that a teacher is not conforming to God's will.

Let's begin then to walk in humility giving the honour to Jesus and especially in the days we are living in, satan often taking hold of especially those who are bringing the Gospel, those who are given excellent opportunities to preach the Word without restraint yet never desirous to conform to its prescribed (!) standards, not walking the way of God and as God prescribes it to the saved, making themselves instead, and through their stubbornness of heart and mind, guilty of bringing untruths and lies to those who want to follow Jesus. Such guilty ones cannot and will not be acknowledged by God as "faithful servants" in the end. And it is always the end that will determine the rewards!

The onus then indeed rests upon every follower of Jesus - regardless of denominational ties - to watch and pray and to see to it that the Gospel we are bringing is kept wholesome. A teacher who condones for instance adultery, standing heavily on hyper grace - to stretch the message of grace clean out of proportion and so that the prescriptions of God then becomes useless, even making a mockery of the Cross by acting as though they have been appointed as gods to reinterpret Scripture their way - will surely be judged by the living most high God who did not even spare His own dear Son but He wedged Him in timely to die on a cruel Cross but doing so regardless of the shame and mockery and so that you and I could know that only His Truth will set us free from satan's deception (Jn 14)!

It is then not our own approach and declarations of the Scriptures, but holding tightly on to God's blessings AND His reprimands, His conditions and His prescriptions, i.e. Old and New Testaments, that counts, for the God of the Old Testament is indeed the Christ of the New and Better Covenant!

Be then careful should you encounter so-called "Power" or "Biblical" teachers who glibly speak "Life" over you!

And especially claiming to be able to "resurrect" the spiritually dead - as though they are gods unto themselves.

If we want people to be spiritually alive, we must bring the message of repentance and rebirth and then Jesus, via His Word that is preached, will release the Power of God's Spirit over them and so that they can be saved just as Peter had brought the message on Pentecost Day (Acts 2; Rom. 8 -9). It is the Word that brings LIFE and if we have lost our edge to bring the Gospel in the power of God's Spirit it is because we have lost our love for Christ and we are therefore not following Jesus in Spirit and in Truth anymore (Jn 4).

We need to return to the Lord and so that He can first and foremost instill LIFE in us and then we will be able to spark this Life in others! Claiming to have this gift is not always possessing it! Putting up a show of words is easily detectable by especially those who can discern the spirits, those who have the Spirit of God and who knows the ploys of Satan to blind the eyes of God's flock. Focusing then on numbers - basic to the mega church culture that has come along with the New Age onslaught - is so contrary to the example Jesus and His apostles had laid down for us in their ministries : "Where two or three are gathered in my Name, in their midst I shall be" - clearly pointing to the narrow way in comparison with the lush broad way and where the wishy-washy ones love to be.

We know that Jesus resurrected the (physically) dead because He was anointed to do so and those who want to imitate Jesus in this way, must also know that there is a time to live for us humans and then also a time to die!

So, let's not make a mockery of the message of Jesus for Jesus did not send us to resurrect the dead but He sent His disciples to heal the sick AS we are bringing the Gospel of Life IN HIM! Playing Jesus and just to make an impression will only make a mockery of our Saviour and His Gospel Truth. Besides, He was and is the Son of God in whom no blame and especially of arrogance was never found (Heb. 4; Rom. 1.4).

Every pastor or teacher bringing the Gospel of Jesus is then obliged to follow closely in the footsteps of Jesus, not trying to whip up emotions and to lead people astray, all for the sake of popularity - a definite New Age trend as the Gnostics were the very ones who were always popular and their message was also acceptable everywhere whereas the narrow way of the apostles were always steeped in persecution and the onslaught of Satan.

No wonder! for Satan hates the Truth about Jesus and he will then continually do his utmost to exchange the Truth for a lie (Rom. 1.25). He did this in Paul's day and age and he will continue doing so up until the very end. But know that those who bring the Gospel are going to be more severely judged by God in that Day when the sheaves of the harvest will be brought in (Ja. 3)! Why? Because they were called as WATCHMEN, therefore not to seek their own gain, and distorting the Gospel of Jesus for their own sakes, this way boosting their comfort zones in stead of fighting like a good soldier for the real version! Isn't this analogy inscribed in the Pauline letters and so that we can take note of how the Gospel must indeed be brought even in our day and age?

So be careful of glib "saved by Grace" teachers and preachers - who do not adhere to the full Grace message and especially its proper apostolic application - lest your spiritual life will become so numb that eventually you will not be able to discern "false" from "truth" any longer!

What we then teach and especially how we interpret the Scriptures, should therefore at all times, and as best as we can do so, remain Scripture bound! This surely is our first-century apostolic legacy, the only "deposit" that we need in order to spiritually survive in these days of spiritual error (New Age impact).

"Watch and Pray!" is a motto we can and must then carry in our hearts, especially in these wicked days of wishy-washy Christendom! Also know that "Grace" is intrinsically linked to obedience, i.e. DOING what God demands of us! Walking the way and not just glibly talking the way!

Let's guard against a New Age impact that has hit the Body of Jesus full force. Let's also rather opt for teachers who are eager to please God, not man! And lastly, let's unite in the love of Christ and for the sake of Jesus and

His Gospel Truth and so that there will be a wonderful harvest of souls won for Christ and also brought in through our own individual "late harvest" ministries!

Remembering Jesus' and His apostles' message: The tree shall be known by its fruit! (Jesus, Jn 15). Also remind yourself always that those who claim to be "Christians" yet hating their brothers (and sisters) in Christ, do not belong to Christ (1 Jn 2.10-11). Stop hating especially those Christians who are now returning to the first-century Church, baptizing in the Name of Jesus as Peter rightly gave the command on Pentecost Day! (Acts 2.38). Let's begin to LOVE Jesus in Spirit and in Truth! (Jn 4). Then false spirits shall vanish from our Christian gatherings (1 Jn 4). Jesus is for sure coming for a cleansed Bride! (Rev. 22.12; Rev. 14) Don't rob yourself of this glorious blessing by lowering your Christian standards, for being part of the Bride is what the Christian message hinges on.

The Lord recently gave me a revelation that the time for reading the Book of Revelations is NOW (= more than ever before!). So read this precious book prayerfully, asking God to reveal its enigmatic message to you more and more. Now is the time to prepare your bridal garment and so that you will be found sharp and ready to hear the trumpet call!

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