

“Does God Care What You Believe?”

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"Now the Holy Spirit tells us clearly that in the last times some will turn away from the true faith; they will follow deceptive spirits and teachings that come from demons." (1 Timothy 4:1)

What is so amazing about the Bible is its ability to predict the future with uncanny precision. There is no doubt that there have been false teachings and ideologies that have made inroads into the church, but never as deep and wide as the present time. The key thing to understand in this verse is that it is not attacks from the outside that are sweeping people away from Biblical truth, but instead from inside “Christianity”. The basis for all forms of deception and demonic teaching is the departure from an accurate understanding and belief in the Bible. We are in the last times and Paul was accurate in describing many who have departed from the true Biblical faith.

There is a tidal wave of ecumenicalism in the church that is washing away the foundational teachings that undergird the stability of Biblical Christianity. What is ecumenicalism? There are various definitions, but the one I refer to is the obsession by many in the “church” to unite together for various “spiritual” or social causes at the expense of Truth. Jesus reminds us to ask ourselves, “For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul?” (Mark 8:36). Jesus is making a distinction between the physical and spiritual realm. In the same way many in the church seem bent on seeking unity on a variety of physical or social needs, but the cost is of a person losing their soul. There is no doubt that Jesus seeks for His church to have unity (John 17:11), but that unity is focused on the truth of His Word (John 17:17).

In the past couple decades we have seen a selling out of the Biblical gospel due to a fixation on unity. “The Evangelical and Catholics Together”, “Joint Declaration on the Doctrine of Justification”, and latest “Manhattan Declaration” are all efforts that blur the most important truths in our faith. The Biblical gospel is the truth that we are saved by Jesus alone, grace alone, faith alone, by God’s grace alone, for His glory alone. Anything less than this is a false gospel and is grounds for being anathema (cursed- Galatians 1:7-9). It is laudable to seek unity, as the Bible is replete with references to this cause, but at what cost? It is not surprising than many false religions affirm many ways to God, but now many evangelicals are espousing that it is possible to obtain eternal life without a specific faith and trust in Jesus Christ alone (John 14:6). God desires all people to come to a knowledge of the Truth (1 Timothy 2:4), be turned from darkness (error) to light (truth- Acts 26:18), but we must test the spirits because there are many demons being effective in their teaching (1 John 4:1).

If you find yourself being drawn to join a big crowd no matter what their mantra is, you might rethink this as Jesus said, *“You can enter God's Kingdom only through the narrow gate. The highway to hell is broad, and its gate is wide for the many who choose that way. ¹⁴ But the gateway to life is very narrow and the road is difficult, and only a few ever find it”* (Matthew 7:13-14). It is clear that most people will not enter heaven as Jesus said in Luke 13:23-34, *“Someone asked him, “Lord, are only a few people going to be saved?” He said to them, ²⁴ “Make every effort to enter through the narrow door, because many, I tell you, will try to enter and will not be able to.”* The reason they are not able is because they are deceived (Matt 7:21-23) by trusting in their own wisdom or works. God does care what you believe, as there is truth and error. We need to trust the Biblical gospel and Jesus alone. Have a blessed week!

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