

The Bulletin

Meeks St. Church of Christ

1201 Meeks St. Corinth, Ms. 38834

Phone – (662) 287-2187

Churchatcorinth.com

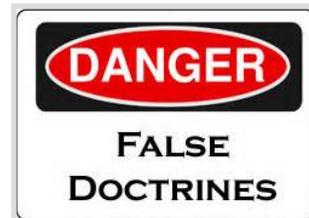
MeeksstreetchurchofChrist.com

May 6, 2018

“What’s So Wrong About False Teaching?” #2

By Brian Meade

Because we live in world where so many are accepting false ways as true and right, it can be tempting to think that it just doesn't matter anymore to God. After-all, there are so many areas of disagreement about doctrinal issues like: whether to worship God with an instrument or not? Whether to tithe or not to tithe? Whether to believe that we are saved by faith alone or not? And even whether Jesus was really born of a virgin or not? And the list goes on and on about doctrinal differences— so much so, that some people are tempted to say things like, “*What’s so wrong if we want to believe something different from other churches or the Bible?*” *We are not hurting anyone!*” But is that true? False doctrines are actually more harmful to people than firing a gun in their direction. It is because of the dangerous impact that it has on people’s lives, for now and eternity!



(2) False Teaching Leads People in the Wrong Direction- Way.

Paul charges Timothy in 2 Timothy 4:2 to “...*preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction.*” This would lead them in the right direction to God, but he also warns him in the next verses about those who would not be content with God’s word. He speaks of the future state of those who abandon truth when he says, “*For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths.*” (2 Timothy 4:3-4) One of the ways that once faithful brethren apostatize or leave the faith is to stop wanting to hear the truth anymore. They have shifted their thinking “to turn aside” from truth to what Paul calls “*myths.*” And consequently, they will naturally look for men to suit their new mold of preaching (their desires). Truth gets left behind when men take such attitudes and steps away from truth. This type of hiring of unprincipled men who would compromise truth still happens today! These catering preachers who get up into the pulpit and have no desire to do right— do the congregation they are preaching to a great disservice! And ultimately, they have not been leading people to Christ, but away from Him by teaching something other than the doctrine of Christ. They are essentially, going the wrong way!

John wrote in 2 John verse 9, “*Everyone who goes on ahead and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God. Whoever abides in the teaching has both the Father and the Son.*” (ESV) John is describing what takes place when leave the teaching of Christ to go “*on head*” or as the NASB has “*goes too far.*” The Greek word *proagon* is defined as, “*to overstep or go beyond boundaries, implying a failure to obey.*” The ultimate result is a change from where one used to be in the doctrine of Christ— to a state that has left that behind and is no longer in the realm of what constitutes the teachings of Christ. The language of this passage is very similar to what Joshua told Israel how they should keep God’s word in Joshua 23:6, “*Be very firm, then, to keep and do all that is written in the book of the law of Moses, so that you may not turn aside from it to the right hand or to the left.*” The only way we can truly keep God’s word today is to stay within the confines of scripture!

(3) False Teaching Gives A False Sense Of Security.

Notice Jeremiah's words concerning the false prophets who were giving the people a sense of security that was all a lie! *"Thus says the Lord of hosts, "Do not listen to the words of the prophets who are prophesying to you. They are leading you into futility; They speak a vision of their own imagination, Not from the mouth of the Lord. "They keep saying to those who despise Me, 'The Lord has said, "You will have peace" '; And as for everyone who walks in the stubbornness of his own heart, They say, 'Calamity will not come upon you.' (Jeremiah 23:16-17) All the talk of the false prophets would do is give those who listened to them a sense of comfort and peace that did not prepare them to make correction (repentance) for the day of calamity! That is the very nature of false religion—in that it is not based on the reality of God's word, but the very imaginations of men. The sad reality was then, God still punished Israel despite the claims of the false prophets who spoke "smooth things" (Isaiah 30:10 NKJB) to the people.*

In the religious world of our day, there are still a lot of false teachings that give false comfort to many people in error. To them, error is just as comforting as the false prophets' words back then. These comfort and build a false sense of hope in the area of salvation from sin. Notice the words of a very popular doctrine of "Faith-only" or "Faith-alone" in the Methodist Discipline, *"We are accounted righteous before God only for the merit of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, by faith, and not for our own works or deservings. Wherefore, that we are justified by faith only is a most wholesome doctrine, and very full of comfort."* (Methodist Discipline, "Articles of Religion," Article IX, pg. 73 of the 1944 edition)

While faith-only may be "very full of comfort" to many people in denominations, it is not in line with the reality of God's word. God's word teaches us to not only believe, but also to obey the gospel to be saved (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; I Peter 3:21; Acts 22:16). Faith-alone is also not consistent, as it leaves out repentance (Luke 24:47; Acts 17:30) as a condition of salvation for the sinner.

Another equally comforting, but yet false teaching is the "once in grace always in grace" doctrine. It is also called "the security of the believer" and is a major belief of Calvinism. What this doctrine teaches is that once we are saved from our sins by Christ's blood and are in a saved condition—we can never go back to an unsaved condition and be lost. Thus, salvation is irreversible and everlasting regardless of one's sins or backsliding ways. We are told, *"Nothing can separate us from the love of Christ."* Passages of scripture such as Romans 8:35 and John 10:27-29 are often used as proof texts for this belief. While this appeal is very comforting and gives those who believe it a sense of security in believing they can never fall from grace—yet, it ignores or dodges major warnings in the Bible concerning leaving the faith! Passages of scripture in the Bible—such as Acts 8:20-24, I Corinthians 10:12, Galatians 1:6, 5:4, and 2 Peter 2:18-22—do not teach such an irreversible security. The major theme of whole book of Hebrews concerning backsliding is completely missed by those who hold this erroneous view of salvation. Sadly, many who take comfort in these doctrines will be greatly surprised to find out how wrong they were to believe them! (Matthew 7:21-23)

(4) There Is No Real Growth In False Teaching.

The Bible teaches us very plainly that growth, as a Christian, is vital to spiritual well being in Christ (Ephesians 4:12-15; I Peter 2:2; 2 Peter 1:5-11; 2 Peter 3:18). The fact that we are to grow in knowledge and in the virtues of the faith is without question! But what if what we are growing in is not in the right ways of God? What if we are growing in the doctrines and commandments of men, and not God's word?

The apostle Paul spoke of his former Jewish brethren in Romans 10:2-3, as those who, *".....have a zeal for God, but not in accordance with knowledge. For not knowing about God's righteousness and seeking to establish their own, they did not subject themselves to the righteousness of God."* However great zeal these Jews had for God, it was not helping them to be saved in Christ (Romans 10:1). They could do many great zealous deeds, yet if they rejected Christ, they would still be lost!

Paul also spoke of those who were, *"always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth."* (2 Timothy 3:7) It matters greatly concerning what we are growing in! If what we are constantly reading and studying is the doctrines and commandments of men, that is no real growth in God's word. To always be studying the writings of John Calvin, Martin Luther, C.S. Lewis, R.C. Sproul, Billy Graham, Max Lucado, or Rick Warren—do not help us in growth as a Christian. We can know more about what men erroneously teach about Christ, than what is really said!

News and Notes: Sick and recovering: Tim Harris Sr, Tim Harris Jr, Chad Harris, Betty Hurst, Steve Switcher, Gail Armstrong, Nicky Curtis, Janis Johnson, Elmo Wilson, Martha Little, Martha Norvell (in Ripley Rehab), Charlene Newborn, Delain & Robbie Doles, Penny Carmichael, Greg Fields, June Lawson (Lisa Busby's Mom), Mike LaRue, and Eric Potts, the family of David Morgan (wife passed away), Clois Wright, Debbie Keplinger, and Kimberly McCullough is improving and should be released this Monday (May 7th).

Local Meetings:

A **Singing** will be held at the Middleton, Tn. Community Center on **May 12th at 2:00 PM.** Jim Deason will be leading the service. For additional info, please contact Dwain Barnes.

Those Who Serve:

Sunday Morning 9:00 A.M. Service:

Opening Prayer: Fred Johnson
Preaching: Brian Meade
Sermon: *"Why Young People Leave the Faith"*

Auditorium Bible Class: 9:35am

Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service: Paul Johnson
The Book of Luke (Mike Willis)
Page 84, Question #14

Sunday Morning 10:30 A.M. Service:

Announcements: Fred Johnson
Opening Prayer & Scripture Reading: Paul Johnson
1 Timothy 4:9-12
Song Leader: Jerry Kennemur
Lord's Table: Paul Busby
Assisting: Lee Busby & Adam Harris
Preaching: Brian Meade
Sermon: *"Young People Are Important to God"*
Closing Prayer: Daniel Holloway

Wednesday Evening: 7:00 P.M.

May 9th:

Auditorium Bible Class: Paul Johnson
1 & 2 Samuel (Mike Willis)
Page 57, Question #17
Invitation: Paul Busby
Song Leader: Dan Cottrell
Closing Prayer: Russell Briggs