

The Fatal Results of Carnal Christianity

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“Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away. For of this sort are they that creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, lead away with divers lusts, ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith. But they shall proceed no further: for their folly shall be manifest unto all men, as theirs also was.”—2 Timothy 3:5-9

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THE HOLY SPIRIT by the apostle Paul tells us in v.5 that these have a “*form of godliness*,” so they are not the rank and file of the world who would care less about the things of God. Neither are they the true children of God, but those who are hiding beneath the cloak of a mere profession of faith in Christ. They try to pass as Christians, but their life and speech betray them; for they deny the *power* of the true Gospel of Christ that breaks the power of sin in them and that transforms every soul whom God saves into a life of godliness and a walk of holiness.

Let’s consider the expression in v.6: “FOR OF THIS SORT ARE THEY.” Who are the “they” referred to here? Dear friend, the text in II Tim. 3:1-5 gives us the answer. You see, out from among the vast majority of professed Christians comes the preachers, teachers, evangelists, personal soul winners, and counselors who have heard and lived under the power of this false gospel of carnal Christianity, and who have a form of godliness, but deny the power of God in salvation to break sin’s captive hold upon them. They are “blind leaders of the blind,” who preach and teach error and false doctrine, bringing in damnable heresies, thereby leading captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts. You see, having embraced this false gospel themselves, they now proceed to *teach, preach and feed it to others*, making them twofold more the child of hell than themselves (Matt. 23:15). They not only proclaim this false doctrine and error from the pulpit, but they have great success getting into the homes, worming their way in, to lead away after them the women, called here “*silly women*” —spiritually-dwarfed women, who are ever willing to learn but never able to come to the knowledge of the truth about themselves, or the holy and sin-hating God.

These men are further described in II Pet. 2:1-3, 14-15 & 19: “...There shall be *false teachers* among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. And many shall follow their pernicious ways; [their immoral ways and lascivious doings] by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of [and God’s name brought in disrepute, maligned and defamed]. And through covetousness shall they with feigned words [cunning false arguments] make merchandise of you [that is, they will exploit you for their lustful use]...having eyes full of adultery, and that cannot cease from sin;

beguiling unstable souls: an heart they have exercised with covetous practices; cursed children; which have forsaken the right way, and are gone astray... *while they promise you liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption*: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage.”

From these verses, again we see that these men who have embraced this false gospel of easy believism and carnal Christianity are now the *proclaimers* of it; and my friend, they have set themselves against the grace of God, the love of God and the holiness of God, by leading captive silly women laden with sins. They lead them astray with their many lusts, their immoral practices, into a way of life that leads to destruction! They teach them a way that makes no demands upon their sins, but leads them *into sin* by saying “once saved, always saved. The blood covers it all, so it makes no difference how you live.”

Let us make this warning personal, my friend! They promise you liberty, while yet you have not renounced sin, “brought forth fruit for repentance,” or desired a life of holiness; neither have you seen the death grip that sin has upon you. They desire to bring you under their control, that as II Pet. 2:2 tells us, you will follow their pernicious ways, their immoral ways of unbridled lust. And as Satan seduced the woman Eve and then her husband, Adam, so Satan—through these false preachers and teachers—seduces the women of our day, and not only the women, but *all* who follow the pernicious ways of his ministers (II Cor. 11:3,13-15). My friend, I am 69 years of age and have been in the ministry for a long time, and as I have observed and counseled men and women, and watched the lives of some missionaries, preachers, teachers and church members, more than anything else, I have been grieved to see that the prevalent sin among them is this sin of unbridled lust—adultery and fornication, free “love” and petting, all done under the guise of “*liberty*” in Christ! They excuse themselves by saying: “We are under grace and not under law, you know. Now I don’t have to be concerned about sin, for my sins are all put to the account of Christ; this was all taken care of when I [supposedly] got saved. I don’t have to confess sin any more, for don’t you know that I John 1:9 is not for the believer, but for sinners? So sin doesn’t bother me!” Yes, while they promise *you* liberty, they themselves are the *servants* of corruption.

You see, more and more as the world has come into the church, and as men and women, young people, boys and girls, are brought into the church on mere lip profession with no vital knowledge of sin or repentance and a holy God in Christ, or of their helplessness and hopelessness before God as sinners, then this sin of lust will run rampant, and these false prophets and teachers will resist the truth and hold the truth in unrighteousness and ungodliness. No wonder Paul says they are men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith! To put it another way, these men are hostile to the truth, utterly corrupted in their mind, and are counterfeits so far as faith is concerned. Or as Titus 1:15-16 tells us: “Unto the pure all things are pure: but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving is nothing pure; but even their own mind and conscience is defiled. They profess that they know God; but in works they deny him, being abominable, and disobedient, and unto every good work reprobate.”

My friend, this is a sad, sad picture painted upon the pages of Holy Writ concerning men and women who hold the truth in unrighteousness, palming themselves off as Christians, while they live in the secret or even open sins of *adultery*, *fornication* and *uncleanness*. And the fatal part about all of this is that men *twist the Scriptures* to suit their own sinful ways and their corrupt minds, so they can go on sinning while yet they think they are safe for heaven! Let me illustrate this: I heard of a man who pastored a church where soon it became known that he was a practicing homosexual. His elders had him admit this, and then asked for his resignation. Then he asked them a few questions:

“Gentlemen, don’t we believe that if one has the experience of the baptism of the Holy Spirit and speaks in tongues, then he is a saved man?” They said, “Yes.” “All right, did you see me get the baptism and speak in tongues?” They again answered, “Yes.” “All right,” he said, “if I have spoken in tongues and have the baptism of the Holy Spirit, then I am saved; so if God accepts me in my lifestyle, why can’t you?” They all looked down; and he stayed on as pastor! These men and this pastor went directly against the Holy Scriptures, for Deut. 23:17,18 says that a sodomite, a homosexual, is an *abomination* unto the Lord! My friend, God does not save a man in his sins, but *from* his sins, giving him a hatred for them. For if he yet loves them and stays in them, rest assured that he is deceived!

Again, I knew of a pastor who said God told him to leave his wife and children and take up with another woman in his congregation, so he would have more time to preach and wouldn’t be cumbered with a large family. But this is blasphemy! God told him nothing of the kind! He just twisted the Scriptures for his own use. I tell you what God’s Word does say: “Marriage is honourable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers *God will judge*” (Heb. 13:4). And in I Cor. 6:18 God says: “Flee fornication.” He gives no man the license to take advantage of a woman who is laden with the guilt of sin and led away with divers lusts, saying to her, “God doesn’t mind for us to give over to our natural feelings for each other, for surely it would not be lust, but *love*. Are we not one in the family of God? Why then can’t we be one in our natural feelings for each other?” My friend, God will bring into judgment those who take advantage of the sacred office of the ministry, to use it as a cloak under which to give in to their lusts!

Again I say, we must beware of this religion that puts the emphasis on *emotions*, for if emotions are not directed to God and His glory, they will always lead to the satisfaction of the fleshly nature. My friend, we are aroused in our emotions when we start hugging and kissing, passing it off that ‘we are members of one family, the family of God, so it is surely all right for us to do this.’ You’d better watch out, for this leads to nothing but sensuality—the indulging in sensual pleasure and lust! I have seen the results of this with mine own eyes, and it is not a pretty sight! And how much more does God hate it! If I had the time, I could give you many more illustrations from my own observation, for I have come in contact with many; but this will suffice.

The only reason I am bringing this message today, is because God laid it so heavily upon my heart as I studied these verses (II Tim. 3:5-9) that I could not get away from it; and I will tell you that daily I cry unto my living God in Christ, to hold me and keep me by His Holy Spirit, and not let me fall into this same pit; for I am a man subject to like passions as any man. But daily I hear the words, “Flee also youthful lusts: but follow after righteousness” (II Tim. 2:22); “...be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation [or behaviour], in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity” (I Tim. 4:12); “Whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things” (Phil. 4:8). So dear friend, this message was not only meant for every man who claims to be an ambassador for Christ, that he would give heed to how he conducts himself in that sacred office, but it was also meant for my own heart, that I would keep myself unspotted from the world (James 1:27) and do all things for the glory of God; and it was meant for every woman under the sound of my voice who is seeking the knowledge of the truth of God and of yourself, that you would be careful to *try the spirits*, so you will not be carried away with every wind of doctrine. Then this whole series of messages was meant to try all our hearts, to see if we be in Christ and have embraced His Gospel, or if we have been deceived by this false gospel, which is another gospel and leads to hell.