

Believe Not Every Spirit

(nor receive those that knock at your hearts door)



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Preface

The intentions of God for the Church which includes every believer are to give them spiritual blessings (Ephesians 1:3). Just as He planned to give Israel physical blessings (Deuteronomy 28:1-15; Jeremiah 29:11). Because of Israel's rejection of His word, He sent many prophets to rebuke and redirect them back to Himself and His Word. These prophets prophesied God's mind to His people over and over saying the same thing repent, come to Me, hear My word, receive and obey it. Israel answered the word of the Lord according to their religion, as Jeremiah recorded, "Though they say, 'As the Lord lives,' surely they swear falsely" (Jeremiah 5:2).

Every Christian is told to prophesy, they are intended for edification and exhortation to the truth in Christ (1 Corinthians 14:1-3). However, when there is sin in the camp, meaning the church; prophecies must expose the deception and the pathway that leads away from His Word (Galatians 2:11-14). Scripture tells the Christian that, "Those who are sinning rebuke in the presence of all, that the rest may also fear" (1 Timothy 5:20).

Jesus in fulfilling a prophecy of Himself quoted this to the Jews, "Because zeal for Your house has eaten Me up..." (Psalms 69:9). This He quoted to them because they were corrupting the Father's house, the temple (John 2:16-17).

He overturned their tables, poured out the changers' money and chased them out of it with a whip of cords (John 2:15). A Christian has the Spirit of Jesus, and the mind of Christ in him (1 Corinthians 2:16). When the Father's house, the Church (Hebrews 3:6), is being corrupted, a normal Christian reaction and action should be righteous indignation. His course of action should not be a compromiser, observe, sit back and watch, consider human friendships or to fear the hierarchy, but to respond as Jesus did, in an action of faith to the Spirit of God.

This booklet reveals only some of the mainline corruption in the churches of this day. It centers on the path of faith for the believer in view of the leaven (evil) in churches. Faith in Christ and His word brings the believer into the practical experience of blessing and separation from evil and unto Christ. This blessing takes place when there is separation from Satan's deceptions and man's religion.

1. Of what spirit am I?

“...you know not what manner of spirit you are of”
(Luke 9:55).

The intentions of a professed Christian are seen by most people to be, good or honorable. What is not seen is that many of these good intentions are rooted in the person's Adamic nature. Many of their spiritual pursuits may have great zeal, while choosing and following a religious gate and road not appointed or directed by God (Matthew 7:13-14). Other people follow those who have great zeal or charisma. Christ alone gives life; the actions of church people say they believe spiritual life is found in following their leadership. This of course is what is taught or inferred in their church, that is, for them to follow the leader.

The word leader or leadership is not found but once in the New Testament (KJV), where it is used when Jesus rebuked the blind leaders (Matthew 15:14). Jeremiah prophesied, “Thus says the Lord: Cursed is the man who trusts in man and makes flesh his strength, whose heart departs from the Lord” (Jeremiah 17:5). The man who follows a leader or leaders rather than Christ and the word of God answers to Jeremiah's rebuke.

Church people, following their leaders are the normal practice of this day. However, Jesus said to those who would follow only Him, they have only One Teacher,

Himself, and all others who follow Him are His brethren (Matthew 23:8; Romans 8:29; Hebrews 2:11-13).

Scripture teaches that the Holy Spirit has placed them as an equal brotherhood of priests (1 Peter 2:5, 9; Revelation 1:5-6). This divine place a Christian has been given is a gift of God. Keeping in mind, even with this gift, we are still in the body. This means the natural side of our Adamic nature is not to be trusted, as all men are unrighteous (Romans 3:9), and are false (Romans 4:4), only God's word is truth (John 17:17).

All professed believers are told to, "Examine themselves as to whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves" (2 Corinthians 13:5). This examining and testing is done by two witnesses (2 Corinthians 13:1). The first witness is whether a person completely receives and attempts to follow every word of God (Matthew 4:4). If he does the Holy Spirit will have freedom to do His work in that believer. The Holy Spirit will then recreate the believer into the image of Christ, by conforming him to God's word (Romans 8:29).

The second witness will be seen in the believer's faith, spirit, works, fruit, and discernment of spiritual (religious) evil, and his departure from evil. To the degree that he yields to the Holy Spirit to lead and to work in his heart, by believing and following every word of God, will be what determines what spirit he is following and reflecting. The

Spirit of Christ in the believer will only reflect Christ. His positive response to the leading of the Holy Spirit will make him an “epistle read of all men” (2 Corinthians 3:2-3). In this place the Holy Spirit gives power to the believer to follow every word of God.

If the person is following Christ, plus, his church, erroneous doctrines, hierarchical religious leaders, wife or self, another spirit will have access into his heart because he has not believed and followed every word of God (Luke 14:26).

The believer has within him a new nature of God and his own Adamic nature. The Adamic nature within man willingly follows erroneous teachings, sectarianism, denominationalism, clergy, and religious figures. This not only gives access, but power as well to other spirits to direct that person’s life (1 Timothy 4:1). Those in this place are unaware they are attempting to follow two masters (1 Corinthians 1:10-14; 3:1-4).

For example, where there is a charismatic clergyman leading in a church, it is not uncommon for people to put their faith and devotion in him. His place of centeredness and elevation makes him the undisputed authority over the laity. This devotion to what appears to be spiritual, has led women to transfer the headship of their husband over them, to the clergyman, as the primary person to follow, a subtle

but deadly path. His charisma, and he not teaching the God given headship of man, and God's instructions of submission for woman (1 Corinthians 11:3, 9; Ephesians 5:22, 24; Hebrews 13:17; 1 Timothy 2:11-12), has deceived her into a false spiritual freedom.

This false freedom is deception, leading away from the truth in Christ and leads her into a pursuit of religious flesh (she usurping God's authority over herself), but her actions are accepted as spiritual in her church (2 Peter 2:19). The clergyman, by not teaching the whole counsel of God (Acts 20:27) has brought himself into a place of authority and popularity. This has been done by him, through usurping the authority of Scripture and making himself the Sultan, of spiritual polygamy, sometimes developing into physical polygamy (2 Timothy 3:6-7). This church structure is fully accepted by church people, where people pursue spiritual pride it becomes a tool of Satan. This snare destroys God's order for the marriage, family and the believer's priesthood in the assembly.

The husband for his part goes along with this, because he is told to submit to leaders or be hieratical. If he insists on Scripture as the ground of truth, he is looked at as not being under authority, a hieratic, or a legalist. Most men do not want trouble in their home or church, so they just go along peacefully and give up their God given headship (birthright) over their home, wife and family. Esau was such

a man who did not value his birthright and sold it for a bowl of lentils, “Thus Esau despised the birthright” (Genesis 25:29-34), he took the convenient and easy path. Esau was noted as a profane or evil man (Hebrews 12:16).

Women following this false freedom, given by their clergyman or denominational doctrines are released from the word of God, and submission to their husbands and godly motherhood. They then turn to fables (fantasies) and their own desires and seek to be spiritual leaders and *teachers, finding encouragement from their leader (s) or the spirit in their church. Other women caught in this religious snare simply resist the man’s headship and their God given place in marriage bringing confusion to their home. This leaves place for the devil to work and destroy. The children raised in this type of home may accept no authority at all or be troubled with any authority.

**(Women are to be teachers, what they are to teach is found in Titus chapter 2. They are to do this by example first, then by instructing younger women).*

Some time ago, a leading international weekly news magazine printed an article on a number of clergymen in main line churches in the United States who were having sexual relations with women members of **their church**. Eli’s two sons did the same at the tabernacle of meeting. Eli told them, they made the Lord’s people transgress, “...for they lay with the women who assembled at the door of the

tabernacle of meeting” (1 Samuel 2:22-24). These two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, God desired to kill, and did (1 Samuel 2:25, 34; 4:11).

Spiritual fornication and physical fornication are one and the same to God (Matthew 5:28; 2 Corinthians 7:1). Those who use the things of God to enhance a religious position or build their religious sect while ignoring the truth (s) taught by God in the Apostles’ Doctrine are in danger of promoting this evil.

“For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables” (2 Timothy 4:3-4).

The spirit leading church people in this erroneous pathway has full freedom in many churches today. The result of church people following this spirit of deception is that young women, wives, mothers, and children are confused and deceived into thinking that the word of God is not truth or of primary importance. Church people following this spirit of deception produce the fruit of young women not being taught to be godly, modest young women, wives and mothers. Young men are taught to be effeminate and give way to the headship of women, while being ignorant of God’s order of headship for the man. All of this is done in the name of God and being spiritual people.

This has resulted in the divorce rate which is said to be about 50% or more. This rate is stated to be higher than 50% by some in church marriage counseling and greater in the church than outside the church. The children have no protection against the spirit their parents and the church are following. It is a form of spiritual infanticide, on those who should have an inheritance, “in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth” (1 Timothy 3:15). Because of the lack of the knowledge of God, families are broken and the children are in darkness and set for more brokenness, and a life without faith to the truth in Christ.

Marriage is the primary government of God in the world (Genesis 2:23-25; Ephesians 5:21-25; Colossians 3:18-19), and the foundation of all government in any social order. When marriages of professed believers fail, or fail to follow God’s word and order, every kind of evil comes in as in the world and church today.

The Spirit of God and the Word of God make no peace treaties with the enemy. It is the devil who seeks to get a believer to compromise the truth in Christ and to accept and stay in a compromised church. Church people and churches accommodating the enemy, by compromising God’s word will suffer judgment through God’s chastisement (lack of the truth in Christ, but much religious activity). In the big picture, the end result is that the

professing church, those who do not submit to Him or His word, He said, will, be vomited out of His mouth (Revelation 3:16).

2. The spirit of the world

Jesus said, “The world cannot hate you but it hates Me because I testify of it that its works are evil” (John 7:7). “... whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God” (James 4:4).

The spirit of the world (1 Corinthians 2:12) supplies a need for man’s Adamic nature as he lives in the world. The desire in man’s nature is self love, and is pursued in numerous ways. It is seen in him seeking the wisdom of the world (1 Corinthians 3:19); the fashion of the world (1 Corinthians 7:31); the lust of the flesh (1 John 2:16); worldly lusts (Titus 2:12); the world’s goods (1 John 3:17); the pride of life (1 John 2:16); and religion, the spirit of error in relating to God (1 John 4:6).

In the creation, the planet was called the earth (Genesis 1:1). After the fall of Adam and his wife, the planet was called, the world (Greek = *kosmos*). Adam’s fall took man and his dominion over the planet out of the natural and under the world’s new authority, which is Satan and his demonic powers (1 John 5:19). In the creation, God gave Adam everything he needed to live on the earth, including

full fellowship with Himself. After Adam's fall, he was driven out of the garden, into a cursed world. Adam and the future sons of Adam would live in this cursed world where Satan would reign in authority (Luke 4:6).

Politics, education, literature, science, art, law, commerce, music, religion – these things constitute the *kosmos*, the world. The world in which the sons of Adam would pursue and live; take them away and the world ceases to be. For example, commerce: Satan, the sales merchant – Eve the first consumer. Education: finds its roots in the tree of knowledge of good and evil. Science, as understood and taught by the Adamic man leads away from the true knowledge of the Creator. Religion: is the natural man's attempt to relate to God on Satan's terms. Cain was the first religionist (Genesis 4:1-7).

In heaven

“For there are three that bear witness in heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Spirit; these Three are One” (1 John 5:7).

On the earth

In Satan's spiritual ruler-ship over the world, there are three in unity. These three are the world, the flesh, and the devil. These three are at work in the sons of disobedience (Ephesians 2:2). Satan is the ruler and unifying spirit of the

three in opposing the light of Christ and His kingdom (2 Corinthians 4:3-4).

Man

Scripture shows us that man as well has been made three in one, spirit, soul and body (1 Thessalonians 5:23).

Mother Eve's downfall came from desiring three forbidden things, "And the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasure for the eyes, and the tree was to be desired to give intelligence; she took of its fruit and ate ..." (Genesis 3:6 JND). These same three things are with us today and are readily pursued by the Adamic nature in man. "... If anyone love the world, the love of the Father is not in him; because all that (is) in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world" (1 John 2:15-16 JND).

God's power at work in the world

The kingdom of Christ working in the world is seen and entered into only by receiving it in the heart, God's revelation of truth, Christ. It is made known in the "Doctrine of Christ" (2 John 9) as taught by the Holy Spirit through the apostles (Galatians 1:6-9; Ephesians 2:19-22; 1 Thessalonians 2:13).

God has three witnesses on the earth, “And there are three that bear witness on earth: the Spirit, the water, and the blood; and these three agree as one” (1 John 5:8). The water, the beginning of Christ’s redemptive ministry (Matthew 3:13-17); His blood shed, a finished redemption at Calvary (John 19:30); the Holy Spirit given at Pentecost to reveal God’s revelation of truth (Christ) on the earth (John 16:13: Acts 2:4).

These three witnesses are God’s power to bring light, knowledge of truth, and life to this graveyard, the world. The world cannot receive these witness, because, “... men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil” (John 3:19). Therefore, blindness is the natural state of man in the world, “because it neither sees Him nor knows Him” (John 14:17).

The mind (intelligence) behind the world’s system is shown to us in these Scriptures, “The prince of this world” (John 12:31; 14:30: 16:11); “He that is in the world” (John 4:4); “The whole world lies in the wicked one” (1 John 5:19). Satan is a rebellious ruler along with his minions, world rulers of darkness (Ephesians 6:12). He has title to the kingdom of the world at this time (Matthew 4:8-9). The kingdom of Christ, the Light of God, has invaded his kingdom (John 8:12; 12:46). In a future day, Christ, the Lamb of God will open the scroll which is the title to the world, and take full possession of this planet (Revelation chapter 5).

As the world views religion, the fruit of Christianity, the world will applaud. The Christian, who lives in honest virtues, the world will agree with his life. But the Christian who walks after Christ in separation from the world and apart from the worldly church will be hated by the world and resisted by the worldly church (John 17:14).

3. The spirit of man

“Now when He was in Jerusalem at the Passover during the feast, many believed in His name when they saw the signs which He did. But Jesus did not commit Himself to them, because He knew all men. ——— For He knew what was in man” (John 2:23-25).

Because man’s nature is of this world, he is attracted to the material earth, the people of the earth, and the things of the earth. The natural man sees everything around him and the heavens above from man’s viewpoint (Isaiah 55:8-9). This sets his whole view and direction of life for his philosophy, relationships, religion, family and his desire for humanistic leaders. The spirit in him is earth bound, he is an earth dweller (Revelation 3:10).

The spirit of the world and its power on the natural man

Religion is Satan’s main tool for the deception of men. The world is full of religion and the effects of its deception.

Much of this religion is not called religion by the natural man (unbelievers). However, Scripture tells us man is made a spirit, soul and body (1 Thessalonians 5:23; Hebrews 4:12). His pursuits in life are first spiritually directed, then soulishly pursued, and bodily acted out. What man believes, he follows, “For as he thinks in his heart, so is he” (Proverbs 23:7).

A man may say he is not religious, but an agnostic or an atheist. His life may be entirely naturalistic; however, he is spiritually pursuing a natural life. His life is a religious life of the soul (mind, emotions will). He denies his Creator and the creation, and sets himself up as the god-man. He sees himself as the, ‘captain of his own ship, the master of his own soul.’

The spirit in man does not receive the truths of God’s revelation in Christ (1 Corinthians 2:14). The natural man who is religious, replaces God’s revelation with culture (of the world), traditions (of man), the spirit of the age (the religious doctrines of the day), the Law of Moses; religious philosophy and enticing words of man (religious teachers) (Colossians 2:4-23). He looks to and follows his church, clergyman or religious organization for truth, rather than the Spirit of God and His Word (Jeremiah 7:1-4). He accepts the testimony of religious leaders in place of God’s revealed truth (Revelation 3:17-18). His faith and comfort is in religious leaders and the religion that pleases the spirit in man (Jeremiah 5:30-31; 2 Timothy 4:4).

The spirit in the natural man, accepts man's religion as from God (2 Corinthians 11:4). He sees nothing wrong with carnal religion (which is the Law of Moses, denominationalism, sectarianism, clergy/laity system, worldly teachings and practices (1 Corinthians 3:1-4; Colossians 2:8), nor will he leave it to follow divine revelation (1 Corinthians 2:14-15).

Judas and later Demas were two examples, who seemed to be following the truth in Christ for some time. However, when they were faced with the cross and the crucified life (Romans 6:6), they stayed with the carnal. Judas back to his convenient religion, Demas back to the world (Luke 22:1-6; Colossians 4:14; 2 Timothy 4:10). The Demas's of this day no doubt continue to say they follow Jesus, but have differences of doctrine with His apostles. Distorting what they taught or calling it culture. Furthermore, they do not even need to leave their church, because it holds the doctrine of Demas. Today, there are legion of people who are Demas clergymen.

The Galatians had given up the truth in Christ for shotgun theology. They incorporated the carnal with divine revelation and made both powerless (Luke 5:36-39; Galatians 5:1-4). This is a clear picture of the church today in western countries. The natural man is not upset with the Father's house being desecrated (John 2:13-17). He thinks that the religion he is following has brought him to a safe

place, but he is robbed of spiritual discernment and power to follow the truths taught by the Holy Spirit through the apostles (Revelation 3:15-18). Christ is confessed with the mind and lips, but the heart is looking for a safe place, a religious place, God is not there (Isaiah 29:13), but their teachers are.

The religious spirit in the natural man can accept carnal religion or even the demonic as long as it seems to be of good intent. This includes those people in cults without the Holy Spirit (Romans 8:9), homosexual clergy (1 Corinthians 6:9-10), women clergy (1 Timothy 2:12), and Nicolaitanism (clergy/laity system Revelation 2:6, 15). Also is seen, the clergy calling the Holy Spirit's revelation to the church, culture, when Scripture calls it the commandments of the Lord (1 Corinthians 11:1-16; 14:34-37).

The natural man follows the Law of Moses and tries to make it, the gospel of Christ. He thinks that to please God he must keep at least part of the law (10 commandments, clergy as a special priesthood, keep the church's by laws, food laws, not drinking alcohol, give a tithe, keep the Sabbath, follow the hierarchy Galatians 3:10). He believes that if he follows these legalities he will be in the middle some place and please God. Many hold this lukewarm deception today, and are under judgment of Christ instead (Revelation 3:15-16).

The religious spirit in man tells him that to follow and depend on every word of God is not for today or necessary. He believes he can be spiritual by hanging around God's water trough without drinking the water, the Water of Life (John 7:37-39). Scripture tells us, the Holy Spirit only gives life to faith in what God has said (John 3:36; 11:25-26).

Some examples are shown to us in Scripture of those who found all Scripture unnecessary and followed the world's philosophy. Miriam, as recorded in Numbers 12:1-15; Achan as written in Joshua 7:11, 21-26; and Saul in 1 Samuel 15:8-9, 18-26. Ananias and Sapphires also went in this path, (Acts 5:1-11); believers in Corinth ignoring spiritual truth fell into judgment (1 Corinthians 11:27-30), and Diotrephes, who aspired to be a leader and seized preeminence over the Lord's brethren (3 John 9-10). In these deceptions the spirit in man follows, there is a voice behind it, "Has God indeed said?" (Genesis 3:1); and again the serpent speaks, "You will not surely die" (Genesis 3:4).

The religious spirit in man tells him that Christian liberty means he is free to follow a spirit (s), and call it the Holy Spirit. He then becomes at license to spiritualize religious flesh, follow the world's philosophy, call Scripture culture and do what the apostles commanded not to do, "go beyond what is written" (1 Corinthians 4:6).

The result of man's spirit not receiving God's revelation of truth

The religious spirit in man thinks the truths God has written through the prophets and apostles are strange and not to be believed, or followed, in fact, he casts them down. "...he cast truth down to the ground. He did all this and prospered" (Daniel 8:12).

In this day, at the end of the Church Age, Jesus rebukes the spirit that is being followed, "I know your works, that thou are neither cold nor hot; I could wish you were cold or hot. So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth. Because you say, *'I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing' – and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked— I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that your may see. As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent" (Revelation 3:15-18).

**(These church people supposed spiritual wealth upon themselves, while rejecting the words of Jesus and His apostles).*

4. Demonic spirits

“For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but principalities, against powers, against the rulers of darkness of the age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places” (Ephesians 6:12).

Satan’s most powerful weapons against God’s creation, man, are deception, promoting unlawful desire, and lies. This is seen from the beginning with Eve. He put the deceptive thought before her that she should partake from the forbidden tree. He said, “Has God indeed said, you shall not eat every tree of the garden” (Genesis 3:1). He deceived her into questioning God’s word, and then stirred up wrong desire in Eve. He then told her by eating of the forbidden tree, “you will not die” (Genesis 3:4), “you will be like God” (Genesis 3:5) a religious quest. Adam with Eve ate the fruit, in so doing; Adam gave his authority of dominion over the planet to Satan (Genesis 3:5-6). Adam and his wife were then driven out of the garden; they and their offspring lived in a cursed world under Satan’s power (Genesis 3:17, 22-24).

The devil has power in the world, to give authority over the world (Luke 4:5-6), and uses his authority and power to resist the angels of God (Daniel 10:13). He uses deception and lies in religion, and in twisting Scripture as a means to

thwart the power and light of Christ (Matthew 4:5-7; 2 Corinthians 11:13-15).

An example of this is found with those Jews who said they believed on Jesus (they gave mental assent, John 8:31). But Jesus seeing their hearts said, they sought to kill Him (verse 37) and that their Father was the devil (verse 44). These Jews were religious leaders, the devil's power worked through the religion these men were following.

Science, the arts, education, sports, religion are of the world, and are the instruments to mislead man away from God's revelation of Himself (John 5:19-20). Many of these things may not be wrong in themselves. But they are used by Satan to deceive man into following his kingdom of darkness and lies. For example, in Satan's deception, children in school are taught to believe the universe created itself, pornography (sex education stirs up desires in some children that never get over it) is not harmful but opposing it is, evolution is true, sports, becomes a spiritual pursuit. A church following sectarianism or independence is not wrong, and many believing the cults are saved. These pursuits of man, Satan uses to distract and deceive man from the eternal purposes of God.

Satan hates distinctive truths of God (John 8:44). Truths of God bring forth light and the knowledge of His kingdom. These truths received and acted on in the Christian's pilgrim

path of faith, direct the person away from the darkness and the power of Satan to deceive (Colossians 1:13). Satan's ways are always to confuse and make the light not understandable (he snatches away the seed of God's word, Matthew 13:4, 19), to stop church people from following the light of Christ.

An assembly of believers that follow Christ alone and Scripture alone will reflect the light of Christ. This does not mean that man's humanity, sin and failing will not be seen or in evidence. But it means the truths in Christ and the love of God will show forth, in the true Church. Every genuine truth in Christ, Satan and his minions will oppose in the Church of God, (the pillar and ground of truth, 1 Timothy 3:15); and bring forth diluting errors and falsities to resist the truth (2 Corinthians 11:13-15; 1 Thessalonians 2:18).

Satan masquerading as an angel of light brings forth signs and wonders to deceive those who do not receive the knowledge or love of the truth (2 Corinthians 11:14; 2 Thessalonians 2:9) but seek signs and wonders instead (Matthew 16:4). Satan uses signs and wonders and false prophets who are under the power of darkness, to teach the spirit of error (1 John 4:6). Those who receive his deceptions, teach and practice doctrines that are in opposition to the Apostles Doctrine, the Doctrine of Christ (2 John 9). In churches where there are many activities, people are very busy (something for everybody, nothing for

those who follow Christ alone); Satan diverts the people away from the distinct truth (s) found in Christ. The people in this group follow their church, trusting the leaders and their leadership.

The devil, deceiving and lying, leads men into deception and unbelief to the truth. Some men may know the truth in Christ but are held in bondage to a religious system that hardens their conscience and keeps them from following the truth in Christ. Sin, resulting in unrighteousness, (“for whatever is not from faith is sin,” Romans 14:23) is the result of those caught in the devil’s snare (2 Timothy 2:25-26; 1 John 3:7-8). Through this some become seared or hardened in their conscience or stubborn, then come a point of, “...Holding the truth in unrighteousness” (Romans 1:18 JND).

Satan uses all craftiness to deceive, his tools appeal to the desires of men, such as desires of the flesh fulfilled (3 John 9-10), pride (man thinking he is, I AM, Exodus 3:14), love (perverted), a religious position given by hierarchy in a sect (instead of the Holy Spirit’s gift), and the world’s philosophy or its culture passed off as the truth in Christ. These deceptions are used to bring religious people to follow the world, “...where Satan’s seat is” (Revelation 2:13). These perversions of the light of Christ are Satan’s work to undermine the work of the Holy Spirit, by diluting and compromising the pathway of the true follower of Jesus (Acts 8:19-24; Galatians 1:6-9).

The Holy Spirit has planted the garden of God in the Christian's heart (Christ, the Tree of Life). This separates him from the world and brings him entirely unto Christ (1 Corinthians 6:9). As the believer follows Christ alone, he develops in Christ and sees with the vision of God, by exercising the mind of Christ that is in him (1 Corinthians 2:16). The mirages and delusions of Satan are to confuse the Christian away from his position of being **"in Christ"** and **"separated unto Christ"** (2 Corinethian 11:2-3; Ephesians 3:6, 11).

Satan has brought to man darkness, a curse upon the earth and a position of enmity with God. His kingdoms' work is to promote this enmity in the hearts of all men, thereby making this world a battle zone. The Christian following only the truth in Christ will be and is the recipient of Satan's attacks (2 Timothy 3:12). However, God has provided the Christian with full armor and weapons to fight these powers of darkness; they are listed in Ephesians 6:10-17.

Satan through deception builds strongholds in the hearts and minds of men. These take hold in men as principalities and powers; these are rulers of darkness in this world and spiritual wickedness in high places (Ephesians 6:12). These entities work freely in the world and in the church as well. They oppose the truth and light of Christ, through sowing the seeds of spiritual confusion. They use various means,

such as calling Scripture culture, antiquated, or the personal ideas of the apostles. These entities bring the world's philosophy into the professing church to make the darkness acceptable, and a part of church doctrine. Satan uses religious leaders, and some churches to confuse the light of Christ and replace it with doctrines of darkness (2 Corinthians 11:13-15; 1 Timothy 4:1). Ananias, his wife, and Simon were those who fell under Satan's power to mix darkness with the light (Acts 5:3; 8:18-19).

Nicolaitanism, (clergy/laity system) can be seen in the church today as a work of the enemy (Matthew 23:8-11; 3 John 9-10; Revelation 2:6, 15). Nicolaitanism goes hand in hand with the spirit of pride (spiritual pride, the opposite of the humility of Christ) which exists today, and is Satan's workshop, giving him much material and people to confuse and mold into his image (1 Corinthians 4:8; Revelation 3:15-17; 18:7). This allows Satan to use men to preach his own Jesus, not the Spirit of truth found in the Lord Jesus Christ (2 Corinthians 11:4; Galatians 1:7-9).

“The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever (Revelation 20:10).

5. The spirit (s) in religion

The spirit of all religion is ignorance or rejection of the truth. The spirit of religion then uses man to build a spiritual kingdom, through the world's philosophy, and the flesh which responds to the devils deceptions. He builds kingdoms, religious organizations, and churches, and cults which are not built on the authority of the Doctrine of Christ (Apostles Doctrine, 1 Thessalonians 2:13; 2 John 9). The Holy Spirit is the power of God to build a unity in those who follow the Lord Jesus alone; this is shown to us in this Scripture.

“There is one body and one Spirit, even as you are called in hope of your calling, one Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, and through all, and in you all” (Ephesians 4:4-6).

The Christian is told to keep the unity of the Spirit, this simply means the truth of this oneness in Christ is to be fully bowed to and followed (Ephesians 4:3). However, today “many false prophets have gone out into the world” (1 John 4:1). They may confess that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh (verse 2), but teach and lead people to follow a different spirit other than the Holy Spirit. This is seen in the foundational sectarian spirit found in all denominations and independent churches. Scripture tells us sectarianism is built on a spirit of carnality, not of God (1 Corinthians 3:1-4).

Church people, by following along in these sects, promote the disunity of the one body in Christ. It is true that the majority in Christendom follow these carnal spirits that are at work to deny the practical unity of the one body in Christ. If a church member in this system is pointed to Scripture and the Holy Spirit's work of building the unity of the one Spirit in one body, it is not uncommon to get this answer; "I believe in Jesus Christ and so does my church that is all that is important." This may sound like a reasonable answer, to follow a different spirit other than the Holy Spirit and call it Jesus Christ, (2 Corinthians 11:4). However, the word of God is able to cut through the deceptions of religious spirits, "For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart" (Hebrews 4:12).

It is acknowledged that most church people following these spirits are ignorant of the Holy Spirit's work to build one body in Christ. However, when Jesus Christ alone is followed He will lead a person into all truth (John 16:13). Church people in general confess Jesus Christ in mind and words, but follow a different spirit (s) which are religious spirits and are after the "spirit of the world" (1 Corinthians 2:12). If this were not true, as the church was in the beginning, so it would be now, as the Holy Spirit

commanded that there be; no sectarian divisions among the Lord's people (1 Corinthians 1:10).

The Spirit of the world is the basis of the religion of man. It is founded on the denial of God's revelation to man through Jesus Christ and His apostles. It thrives in churches and is seen in carnality, legal religious church structure, soulful music, worldly philosophy, un-teachable minds, demonic doctrines and practices and a refusal to separate from evil by responding to Christ (Colossians 2:8, 19; Revelation 3:20).

Church people commonly follow the spirit of the world in conforming to culture (instead of conforming to Scripture), in unisex dress codes; turning their children over to the educational system to teach them sex education, evolution, resistance to parental authority, acceptance of homosexuality as natural and diversity between sexes (no God given order). The spirit that controls the world, has freedom to function in the churches as diversity in headship (women teaching and given authority over men, 1 Timothy 2:12), and women uncovered (1 Corinthians 11:1-16). The practice of Nicolaitanism, clergy/laity system (accept your position as laity, and our clergyman as your clergyman, Revelation 2:6, 15), and liberty in the exercise of the believer's priesthood in the church is unknown (Romans 8:21; 2 Corinthians 3:17; 1 Peter 2:5, 9).

Church people are taught to look at Scripture in Bible studies or teaching through sectarianism and what is acceptable to the world. When one of the laity reads Scripture, his learning or doctrine will almost always see it through the eyes of his church or sect, not necessarily what the apostles taught or intended.

The spirit of the world is brought into the churches through soulful music and is passed off as Christian when the name Jesus is used. Then the words 'Christian music' is used and accepted as **from God**, even though it may entirely be from the world and have demonic unction. It is led and given power by the same spirits functioning in 'rock concerts.' Some of this music when played backward on a tape or CD gives a clear Satanic voice speaking evil.

Other music in churches today may be led by worship leaders. The doctrine of worship leaders leading a church in worship comes out of the Law of Moses (as does the clergy/laity system). For Jews in Israel, who were not indwelt by the Holy Spirit (as is every Christian), who worshipped under the Law of Moses, worshipped outwardly not after the Spirit, and it was not wrong for them. For a Christian to go back to the Law to worship is wrong and after the flesh. The Father above is not seeking worshippers to worship as under the law (then calling it spiritual worship), but is seeking only worshippers who worship in spirit and truth (John 4:24).

For the new man in Christ (a Christian), following only Christ, the music of the world or even right music practiced as under the Law of Moses gnaws on his spirit. His desire for Christ will only be satisfied in spiritual songs, hymns, and making melody in his heart to the Lord, and enjoy fellowship with the Lord Jesus and not the flesh (1 Corinthians 1:9; Ephesians 5:19). The Spirit of grace and life cannot exist with the Law or unspiritual music, called spiritual.

“Always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth” (2 Timothy 3:7).

We are told in this Scripture that this is the character of the last days (2 Timothy 3:1). Today, in this country (USA) Bibles, Bible studies, and Bible teachers are in abundance, we can be thankful for this liberty. Yet the spirit that controls the world is also a controlling spirit in the churches (some more than others), weakening the knowledge of God. People may go to Bible studies, or lead them for many years, receive and follow much or what they hear, with little or no change in their life. The Holy Spirit’s teaching through the Apostles’ Doctrine is interpreted according to the world’s culture and what the natural religious man can accept (Matthew 13:28). Jesus said to the Pharisees, that they laid aside the commandments of God for their own traditions, traditions of men (Mark 7:8-

9). Their foundation was not according to truth revealed in Scripture; their doctrines came from interrupting Scripture according to the world which is Satan's place of ruler-ship, and man's thoughts and doctrines. What they were believing, and doing is the key for talking away the knowledge of God, in that day and in the present day as well (Luke 11:52).

In Revelation chapters 1-3, the glorified Christ addresses the 7 churches. He does this through an angel in each church (Revelation 2:1, 8, 12, etc). These angels (Greek: angelos, messengers, spirits, Hebrews 1:7, 14) are messengers to the 7 seven churches. Each of the 7 churches is of a different spirit, which is reflected in its character. Jesus spoke to some for rebuke (5), some for encouragement as in Smyrna and Philadelphia who hung on to Christ alone, as it was then, so it is now. The spirit and character of the church leads that church, it is seen in their outward doctrines and practices such as, the Lutheran spirit, the Roman Catholic spirit, the Seventh Day spirit, the Pentecostal spirit, the Episcopal spirit, the Greek orthodox spirit, etc. These spirits that lead these churches into carnality and are not of Christ (1 Corinthians 3:1-4), but are after the spirit of the world.

The divisions in the body of Christ create confusion and false doctrine, the enemy's work, where many church people are, "...tossed to and fro and carried about by

every wind of doctrine...” Ephesians 4:14), and settle for less than following Christ. One is not saved by following the professing church, nor does their spiritual life come from it, but only from the word of Christ.

This world is a spiritual battle ground (Ephesians 6:12). For the Christian, this battle is an offensive war; he has been given a weapon to put the enemy to flight. It is, “The sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God” (Ephesians 6:17). For the believer, the offensive life is spiritual life, given power by receiving and following every word of God in faith, the Doctrine of Christ (2 John 9). Following only the Apostles’ Doctrine, the Doctrine of Christ produces a life of sound doctrine and power to fight the fight of faith. It is the Christian’s sharp sword to cut apart the deceptions of the enemy, which waters down and weakens the word of God (Mark 7:13).

The sword of the Spirit is able to cut through every heresy, false doctrine, philosophy of men, worldly culture passed on as spiritual, and teachers diluting and undermining the Word of God.

6. Jesus lover of my soul

“And walk in love as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet – smelling aroma” (Ephesians 5:2).

God's riches in Jesus are expressly acted out in His mercy, "But God who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus" (Ephesians 2:4-6). He brought mercy to us when we were children of wrath (Ephesians 2:2), making us children of His mercy.

It is evident in the purposes of man and history that when there is total war between two kingdoms, each one will try to kill and destroy as many of the enemy as possible, to win. Believers once lived in the kingdom of darkness and were enemies and combatants against the kingdom of light (Romans 5:10; Ephesians 2:2-3). God instead of destroying us, acted according to His nature, by sending His Son into the enemy camp (this world) to take the place of judgment and death that was due His enemies. "...while we were still enemies Christ died for us" (Romans 5:8).

Instead of destroying His enemies, He predetermined to make them His friends and heirs of His riches (John 3:16-17; 15:14; Ephesians 2:7; James 2:5). It was at heavens great cost and the world's great gain that Jesus came into the world to give those riches to those who would follow Him.

“For you know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich, yet for your sakes He became poor, that you through His poverty might become rich” (2 Corinthians 8:9).

These riches are a very practical thing to those who receive them. God’s riches are found in the ‘love of God,’ who through His grace, freely gives them to all who will receive the amnesty which He has granted in His Son. This amnesty has made all who receive it entirely free from the judgment and condemnation of God (Romans 8:1). In place of enmity, He has made His former enemies His friends, and endowed them with the riches of His kingdom (Ephesians 3:8, 16-17).

The riches of God are not like the riches of this world which decrease as they are spent. The riches of God increase in the believer as he spends them, the more he spends, the more his wealth increases. These riches are found only in His Son, they are spiritual and eternal, and increase in the believer with personal knowledge of God (Colossians 1:9-10).

God’s Son is His only remedy for this world (Matthew 17:5; John 3:16-17; 1 John 2:2). He is the very image of God (John 14:9; Colossians 1:15); all fullness of God dwelt in Him (Colossians 1:19); He revealed the very nature of God (John 1:14); He was God (John 1:1); in human form (John 1:14).

The follower of Jesus is a recipient of His love (1 John 4:10), "...made members of His body, of His flesh and of His bones" (Ephesians 5:30). Believers are His bride in waiting (Matthew 25:1-10; Titus 2:13; Revelation 19:7-9); they have been predestined and elected by God to be His for eternity (John 6:37; 10:27-30; 13:18; Romans 8:28-30; Ephesians 1:5; Colossians 3:12; 1 Peter 1:1-3).

Nothing can separate the believer from the love of God (Romans 8:35-39). The believer has been made clean (before God) through receiving the words of Jesus (John 15:3; 1 Thessalonians 1:6). The believer receiving and abiding in the word of God is cleansed from every sin (1 John 1:7). Furthermore this work of God seals the believer unto the day of his redemption when he is taken to be with Christ in the heavens (Ephesians 1:3; 4:30).

These works of God have been freely given to the believer through the love of God. The believer is included in this promise of God, "But it is written: Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man the things which God has prepared for those who love Him: (1 Corinthians 2:9).

7. The kingdom of God, true liberty

"It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life" (John 6:63).

In this world, every living thing is tied together by one common denominator, **death**. This makes this world nothing more than a large graveyard. Paradise (this planet) became a graveyard the day Eve and Adam ate from ‘the tree of the knowledge of good and evil’ (Genesis 2:17; 3:6). This act brought forth death on all men (Romans 5:12). Henceforth all men born into this world are existing in a world of decay and death. Because all men in their natural state are the living dead (separated from God). Death is a place of bondage (slavery) and separation from man’s original created place, for he was made in the image and likeness of God. God did not create man to occupy this place of death, nor can man free himself from this place.

“...I am come that they might have life, and might have it abundantly” (John 10:10 JND). Jesus came into this world to free man from the curse and bring life to him, resurrection life from his state as the living dead. Jesus said, “And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die” (John 11:26). Water is life giving to man in the body (he will die without it). Jesus said, “If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink” (John 7:37). For whoever comes to Him and drinks (believes in Him, Who is the Water of Life) will receive the eternal life giving Water of God. Whoever believes in Him (follows him), out of his heart shall come rivers of life giving, Living Water; the Holy Spirit (John 7:38-39).

This Water is not Protestantism, Catholicism, Evangelicalism, Independantism, or any other ism, it is God's Spirit given to anyone who will follow the Son of God according to His Word.

This life, lived in the Spirit of Life, is the only place of true liberty, a life free from death forever (separation from God). This gift of life, is a life of freedom and is what a Christian has been called to occupy (2 Thessalonians 2:13-14). A kingdom life based on light and truth, the Lord Jesus Christ. This is the place of receiving, a kingdom that cannot be shaken, from the God of all gods, Who is a consuming fire (Hebrews 12:28-29).

This life of freedom in the kingdom of Christ is not subject to the world, the flesh or the devil, or man's religion which are the adversaries of God. They are the place of death and produce only (spiritual) death. However, this does not mean for the believer to withdraw from the world, but be the salt of God and reflect the light of Christ in the world (Matthew 5:13-16). For the believer, his Adamic nature was crucified with Christ 2000 years ago (Romans 6:6), so he is now able to walk only in the Spirit where the sons of God walk (Romans 8:14). He is to resist the devil, forgive what God forgives, so the devil will find no weak place in the believer's life (2 Corinthians 2:10-11; 1 Peter 5:8-9). Submit to authorities, "for there is no authority except from God; and those that exist are set up by God"

(Romans 13:1 JND). Resistance to authority is where Satan finds fertile ground to bring death, most effectively done in the family and the assembly (through God given headship of man resisted).

In the Church of God, the word of God, and the Spirit of God are the authority, men teaching or shepherding the truths of Christ are a reflection of God's authority (Acts 4:18-20; Galatians 1:6-9; 2 Thessalonians 2:13). Religious authorities, who do not teach the counsels of God, but their own sectarian doctrines, worldly culture, and resistance to Scripture, undermine the authority of God.

Church people, who knowingly or unknowingly follow these sectarian appointed authorities, will have their freedom in Christ limited and spiritual growth stopped. Jesus made that clear when He rebuked the religious authorities (Mark 7:1-13). Jeremiah, spoke to this practice in his day (Jeremiah 5:30-31). The Christian cannot compromise the truth in Scripture and get or stay free (Galatians 3:1-5; 5:1, 13). For a Christian to live and abide in freedom he must follow Him who alone is truth and life. Freedom and truth are one and the same (John 8:31-32).

The life giving Spirit possessed by every Christian brings him directly into fellowship with the Lord Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 1:9). This life has given him all things (Romans 8:32), and freed him from all things (John 8:36). It has

brought him to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem (Hebrews 12:22).

This new life of freedom he has been given brings desire and power to see, the eternal Son of God sitting at the right hand of God (Colossians 3:1; Hebrews 8:1). The believer has been given the mind of Christ (1 Corinthians 2:16), a mind that is free of the spirit of religion and the world. The spirit of man, and the spirit of the age is controlled by the devil, and man's religion. The person who in mind and practice is following these deceptive entities is not free, "but the Jerusalem above is free..." (Galatians 4:26). This is the true freedom of God; it is where response with faith in Christ alone will lead every believer.

8. What spirit do you follow

Jesus said to the young man, "...Come follow Me. But when the young man heard that saying he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions" (Matthew 19:21-22).

Many who read this booklet may never have considered the Scriptural and spiritual truth presented in the previous chapters. However, every person is a spiritual being and is subject to being deceived, following or being directed by, "spiritual hosts of wickedness in heavenly places" (Ephesians 6:12). If this were not true all the numerous

warnings in the New Testament addressed to believers and assemblies (churches) would not have been written.

For example, some time ago a local newspaper reported on a story of a woman who had been involved in the occult. She is now attending a local Pentecostal Church. She said, she followed 'Jungian psychology,' Tibetan Buddhism,' 'new age Shamanism' and 'Tarot,' she also followed feminism, and taught it to others.

She said, she had been seeking a church where they practiced **mysticism**. Finding that this Pentecostal denomination was started by a woman faith healer and that this church still follows her, made her more at ease being there. She feels in this church, her feminism has been given a green light. The Jesus in this church is why she is in this particular church. She said she has some concern about the male language used in the liturgies, but Pastor Steve has eased her concerns. She predicts the church will move to more gender inclusive liturgies.

Another example of spiritual deception is found with a man who had been for many years practicing spiritualism. He is Jewish, and was raised in Judaism. He said he left that for spiritualism because he wanted to help people. He practiced séances, with many manifestations including materialization of ectoplasm spirits. He stated that he followed these spirits for many years. One day, some Christians spoke the gospel to him and he believed. After

he believed in the Jesus in the Bible (spiritualists also believe in a Jesus of their own creation, 2 Corinthians 11:4), the spirits began to harass him. He resisted the devil, his leading and teachings, after a battle he overcame what he had followed for many years. Realizing he had been in spiritual deception, he started lecturing in schools, churches, on radio and other places. He made people aware of the deception of demonic spirits, and their power to deceive.

One day while speaking and presenting pictures of ectoplasm spirits (taken in a séance), at a Charismatic Church, they asked him to join them. He said, "He would not do that, because he recognized the spirit (in this movement) as the same spirit that was in Spiritualism."

Satan appeals to man's soul (wherein is found mind, emotions and will) to deceive him (Genesis 3:6; 1 John 2:15-16). In churches and religious groups where emotions are mixed with mysticism, supernaturalism, charismatic leaders, and religion, the devil has an open entry to deceive.

Islam is an example, Mohammad went into trances, spoke revelations; it is said over one billion people follow him today. The Mormons are another cult that has been deceived by manifestations of spirits (the burning bosom).

Azusa Street, Los Angeles, in 1906 became a spiritual event that has brought in deception to Christendom. William Seymour, known as the 'Apostle of Azusa Street,' led this movement; it was a place where the spirit

manifestation of tongues took place. Calling it the ‘baptism of the Holy Spirit,’ the people began a revival that has affected millions of people. It has become known as Pentecostalism. The actions of those people putting their faith in the leaders and the manifestations in the revival resulted in; “Together they engaged in the jerks and in treeing the devil. It wasn’t long before spiritualists and mediums from numerous occult societies of Los Angeles began to attend and contribute their séances and trances to the services” (Counterfeit Revival, page 125, by Hank Hannegraff).

In time things got out of hand, Seymour wrote to Charles Parham (his superior) for advice on how to handle ‘the spirits.’ Parham came to Los Angeles, saw what was happening and denounced the occult practices, Seymour refused the correction.

However, even in disagreement these two became the pillars of Pentecostalism. Of the doctrines that came out of this movement was, ‘unless a person spoke in tongues he was not a Christian.’ Later, Parham joined or supported the KKK; Seymour, a Negro, left the movement and renounced the tongues doctrine as the evidence of receiving the Baptism of the Holy Spirit.

In the 1960s, a spiritual movement started called the new wave or Charismatic Movement. Spiritual phenomena also accompanied this faction. The power and thrust of this

movement was built on spiritual and supernatural experiences. They were convinced that the churches were 'not spirit filled' and 'out of touch with God.' Many condemned the churches and left to be in this 'new wave of God.' What the Holy Spirit taught through the apostles was thought to be unspiritual, cultural or legalism, if their teaching did not reinforced this new wave.

The central doctrine of this new wave was the same as the Azusa Street Revival. It was to receive the baptism of the Holy Spirit and speak in tongues. Like Azusa Street, they taught to speak in tongues was the sign or evidence a person had the Holy Spirit (Azusa Street pastor, William Seymour, later rejected this doctrine). Their doctrine taught that there were two levels of being a Christian, a Christian without the Holy Spirit and a Christian who had the Holy Spirit with the evidence of speaking in tongues.

This movement was built on spiritual phenomena and works of man, rather than God's word. It led most followers into spiritual deception, rejection of Scripture as God's only revelation (Galatians 1:6-9), and into a state of being dull of hearing or asleep to God's word (Ephesians 5:14; Hebrews 5:11-12). Today, because this new wave has become non-existent most of the followers have drifted back to the churches they once condemned and rejected.

The Toronto Airport Charismatic Church, the Father Divine movement, the Pensacola Church, Jim Jones, David

Koresh, the Philippine healers, the Pentecostal snake handlers, the supernatural manifestations of Mary (Mariology) seen around the world, and numerous more are examples in the day in which we live. In proceeding days, before us, other examples abounded of spiritual deception, supernatural manifestations happening in all or many of them. All claim the same testimony, that it is God bringing forth the phenomenon.

Some later repent, saying they were carried away by the deception of the devil. The latest to repent is Paul Gowdy a pastor for many years at the Toronto Airport Church. This church has had people coming from all over the world to partake in the charismatic manifestations happening there.

Paul wrote a lengthy repentance for the many years of his own involvement in this sect where the devil's deception had such a strong hand and open place to work.

All of these movements have one thing in common, that is they take different parts of the Bible to prove what they are following is of God. The devil did the same with Jesus in Matthew 4:5-6, he quoted prophesy of the Messiah written in Psalms 91:11-12. All of these groups reject the whole counsel of God for His Church (Acts 20:27). Their doctrines are skewed with demonic and human twisted devises. The result for church people is the 'Doctrine of Christ,' which is the Apostles' Doctrine, becomes confused

and is rejected, and the whole counsel of God totally unknown.

Those following these movements have this in common; they all try to fit the Scripture into what they believe and are practicing, rather than fitting themselves into what God has revealed in His Son through the Holy Spirit and Scripture.

Jesus said, “I Am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness but have the light of life” (John 8:12).

This is the choice for a religious person or church attendee, the manifestation of spirit (s) or Jesus Christ, the Word of God. The person who sets his heart to trust and follow the Jesus in Scripture will not be deceived or disappointed.

“For they will not be ashamed who wait for Me” (Isaiah 49:23).

“Therefore thus says the Lord God: Behold, I lay in Zion a stone for a foundation, a tried stone, a precious cornerstone, a sure foundation; whoever believes will not act hastily” (Isaiah 28:16).

“For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 3:11).

Finale'

The Apostle John, while on the isle of Patmos received revelation of future events in the world and he saw the future of the Church. In chapter 17 of Revelation he was carried away in the Spirit and he saw a great Harlot and what she had done over the centuries to God's people. She was drunk with the blood of the saints and of the martyrs (verse 6). Most who study Scripture readily accept this Harlot as Roman Catholicism seen in the multitude of Christians they martyred. As the history of the church bears out what she has done to the people of God over the many centuries. However, she is called the 'Mother of Harlots.' A mother has children, the only ones coming out of her are the Protestants, and she now calls them '**separated brethren,**' she formerly called them heretics (a license to burn them at the stake).

The very excesses and doctrines that Rome practices are evil, and are many of the same doctrines evangelicals are readily accepting and practicing to today. The end result for evangelicals is the same as Roman Catholicism, the supremacy of the clergy and the dumbing down of the laity. Where the truth of Christ is thought to be way out there some place, and what our church is doing is the right religion.

The Apostle John was amazed at what he saw in the future of the Church of God (Revelations 17:6). The

Church of God whose true calling is to meet around the Lord Jesus as two or three or more gathered only unto him (Matthew 18:20). Was the amazement only Roman Catholicism? Do Evangelicals or others who profess Christ and resist the word of God not come under the same amazement? Do we justify ourselves and condemn others when we do not believe or follow what God's word tells us? Or do we justify them and ourselves? Separation unto Christ alone is God's answer.

In this day, the admonition of the Lord is, "Come out from among them and be separate, says the Lord. Do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you" (2 Corinthians 6:17). Some may say that admonition is to believers not to be unequally yoked with unbelievers, and of course it is true. However, when the church refuses the Word of the Lord, we would ask what category should church people be put in? Are they those who heeded the call of God's to go outside the camp unto Jesus (Hebrews 13:12-13) as all Israel was call to do (Exodus 33:7). Or are they those who refused to go, but stood in their own doorway (or church) observed and worshiped (Exodus 33:8-10; John 6:66). Are they as Peter, who said, "...see, we have left all and followed You" (Mark 10:28), and are walking in faith to the truth (Christ) or are they "following the course of this world" (Ephesians 2:2), as Israel did.

In Joshua 5:2, God told Joshua to, “circumcise the sons of Israel again the second time.” The spiritual application belongs to anyone who claims to follow Jesus, yet has followed a sect or church to tag along with the fleshly and demonic works shown in this booklet. The believer’s circumcision is made without hands and is to cut off the things that hinder a clear path after the truth in Christ and the leading of the Holy Spirit (Colossians 2:11)..

Jesus speaks to the Church of God in these last days and the spirit of this age and invites those of this age to hear His voice. He knocks at the Church door, and if anyone will answer He will come in. But, if there is no answer He bids those who have an ear to hear His voice and to let Him come in and lead that person to follow only Himself.

“He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches” (Revelation 3:22).

D. Neely

11-13-08

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