

## A Test of Works

Only one life, 'twill soon be past,  
Only what's done for Christ will last!

So states the Christian song, or saying. While fulfillment of that objective, or duty will be difficult to adequately perform in quantity alone, what about the quality of what we do for Christ? Is there no serious question about what we do for him?

Well, if those works are not spiritually sound or legitimate, they will not last. They will be burned up as "wood, hay, and stubble." Could that even include some forms of, or the doctrine involved, in evangelistic ministries?

What if some gospel tracts distributed are doctrinally incorrect? That is, based on the concept of human free will, and universal atonement and salvation opportunity (which are unscriptural suppositions)? Versus the literal doctrinal interpretation that salvation is by divine decree for an exclusive number of chosen people, only. Their salvation being accomplished by God's independent, sovereign act of grace, unaffected by any human cooperation, or related action! The principle is monergy (God only) vs. synergy (God and man).

Surely, praying must count as acceptable service for the Lord; right? Do you think there is not prayer by Christians that is based on misinterpreted principles, or human philosophy vs. true theology? If so, then, that cannot be classified as "what's done for Christ", because we cannot do a wrong thing in his name. Neither he, nor God, will accept it!

And what about hindrances to prayer? "If I regard iniquity in my heart, God will not hear me." Adding, or affixing Jesus' name to the end of a prayer is not automatically allowable, or effective. If the prayer content is wrong, to any serious degree, adding Jesus's name would then be an affront, and unfaithful act toward him. How mechanically, even carelessly, we can misuse the Lord's name, by which he delegates responsibility and authority to us!

Serving the Lord in other ways: worship, bible study, working in various involvements of the church, etc., may or may not be things rightly done for Christ. And they, of course, must be scripturally (doctrinally) correct, or they are not creditable!

Is it possible that a predominant part of a Christian's life service is unacceptable works, which are done in response to human ideas of "what is done for Christ", and not true spiritual service to him! What a staggering thought, this should be! It's not my opinion, but what church prophecy (Rev. 2 & 3) bears out in graphic description. Yet little heed, or attention is paid to this "church history written beforehand"—hence no significant repentance and reformation has developed, or is predicted to happen. What a woeful commentary on the state of the modern, degenerated church! And it doesn't even know its pitiful, inexcusable condition, because most Christians are not students of literal scriptural interpretation. The depth of deception is almost unbelievable. Most churches undoubtedly think they are faithfully serving the Lord, and that nothing is seriously

wrong with their ministry. And for me to make the following comment (even though clearly provable by scripture—rightly interpreted), is at once offensive, and given no heed, or serious attention. The true analysis of the status of Christianity today, is that the church is in shambles—no matter how it looks superficially. Shambles, per Webster New World Dictionary: “a ...condition of great destruction, and disorder (i.e., corrupt gospel theology).” Having bought the lies of man, and the devil, and daring to call it the truth.

What is the essential difference when a Christian will not learn the literal truth of God’s revelations, and follow him faithfully, instead of listening to the deviant teachings of man, who went down the same garden path of betrayal before him? Do you think that this cannot be your situation? I challenge you to prove yourself right, by attempting to prove me wrong. Which is exactly what I tried to do about the subject, when I believed what you do today. And now nothing can ever move me from the sure knowledge of the literal gospel doctrine that I learned the truth of, and of which I am now solidly, and unalterably convinced!

What, then, is actually done for Christ today? Comparatively little, despite the prodigious “evangelistic” ministries that are going on throughout the church world. Which, today, is an empire built on the philosophical concepts of man, not the literal gospel of God, as he instituted it, and commanded Christian honor and obedience to it!

All arguments and excuses for the latter situation are futile. Our beliefs must be scripturally proven. There is no doctrinal liberty—not in fundamental, essential principles. Do you think that God did not make his word clear enough, for there to be total unity today, as existed in the original, and early churches? Instead, today, there is consensus, or practically universal church agreement on a false interpretation of the true gospel.

“Study to show thyself approved”, is the only way to learn the truth, which--once fundamentally established--will never leave us, nor will we leave it! This may sound oversimplified and obvious, but most contemporary Christians have never been in that blessed position. And each one must bear his own burden for such unfaithful failure to follow the Lord (that is, his way only, not by our misguided ideas and methods)!

A sobering thought to consider: if we wrongly interpret God’s word; for example, literal gospel doctrine, we cannot rightly worship him, have fellowship with him, pray to him, or serve him! Imagine this scenario: Adam walking with God in the garden, and telling him, Father I love you, and endeavor to faithfully serve you, but I don’t literally believe everything you say in the strictest sense. Do you not think that is effectively what you say to God—whether you verbalize it or not—when you misinterpret his word in any serious way, and therefore, misrepresent him? But you say you don’t misinterpret his word. And yet you have not proven what you believe, but dare to assume that you’re right because that is what most of the church believes! But truth stands on its own merits, and is not subject to majority consensus. Though, that is also what the truth would produce, when doctrine is faithfully studied. In other words, ideally, unanimous agreement!

I feel compelled to add an emphatic, but terse description of most of today's churches—surprising, or shocking as it may sound—they are “make believe” churches! They make believe that they are ministering the true gospel, and very few Christians today know that they are not—but, of course, God knows and will have no part in it, but to judge it as betrayal of the responsibility to maintain the truth of his word, with which they were entrusted!

I am apprehensive and uneasy about saying this, but I wonder if the Spirit of God is in churches that do not hold the literal gospel truth—being Arminian, free will, universal atonement and salvation provision proponents. That is, those who espouse and promulgate a radical, liberalized misinterpretation of key doctrinal elements of the gospel—thus “leavening the whole lump”, as the scripture warns against.

A few partial scriptural excerpts about false doctrine:

Isa. 58:13-14, .....”If thou honor Him, and turn away from speaking thine own words.”

Paraphrased.

“ 59:3, .....”your lips have spoken lies.....”

“ 59:8, .....”they have made them crooked paths.....”

“ 59:13, .....”conceiving and uttering from the heart words of falsehood.....”

And, then, the sad commentary on the church's reaction to such a serious indictment, is that they really don't care to even look into the issue—falsely assured by their mistaken consensus that they are right in their deceived thinking! And this apathetic mindset is even prophesied in Rev. 2, and 3. But, there is hope for anyone who will listen, and heed the warnings, therein. May you be one of them, while there is yet time to repent from such unconscionable disobedience to God!

Who, or what do you trust? The word of God directly, or an intermediary (pastor, tradition, etc.), for which there is no guaranteed reliability? Church history is full of bad theology, false teaching, heresy, and other corruptions of true doctrine. And today's misrepresentation of the gospel is the quintessential example of it!

Though it all seems so futile to continually try to (1) show the church how important sound doctrine is to a faithful relationship with God, and (2) expose the corrupted form of the gospel with which most of you are indoctrinated, may I make one more appeal to your sense of reason, logic, and judgment?

I said a few paragraphs earlier that I don't see how we can think that we can properly worship, pray, or otherwise serve God, if we are wrong in interpreting any major doctrine that he has established for us to learn, and faithfully maintain.

Christians will typically use words and scriptural quotes, and their own expressions to praise God, that appear to be genuine and sincere. For example, I saw a lighted church message board today, that quoted Ps. 69:30. Which says “I will praise the name of God with a song, and magnify

him with thanksgiving.” And yet, most believers do not honor God by representing the literal

truth of some of his word (to wit: the gospel), which is surely contradictory to the testimony of praising God with song and thanksgiving for other things—however sincere they may be.

If we are not true in specific doctrine, how can we be sure that we are true in other parts of our responsibility to God? Off on the wrong foot in something as important as major doctrine, puts one on the wrong path, unless and until he sees the error of his ways, and turns back to where he went astray, and gets straightened out, so he can go on in the right direction. Is it not as simple, yet profoundly imperative, as that?