

The Danger to Christianity

Scripture quotations are from the New King James Version.

Galatians 1:6-7 I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel, which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ.

In this passage from a letter sent to the churches in Galatia, Paul states his amazement that those who were converted by the pure gospel as taught to them by Paul had been changed and perverted into a pseudo gospel which, although presented as the Gospel, it was not. However, they succumbed to this false teaching and adopted it as their own.

What had happened? Why had these people so soon been lured away from pure truth to a false belief? They are new churches in their infancy in belief and for the most part composed of Gentiles converted out of the world of idol worship and paganism. They were approached by others belonging to the Jewish faith and told what they had been taught was not complete and that they needed to do more to obtain salvation.

Paul gives a reason when he writes to the church in Corinth, and again in his letter to Colossae:

1 Corinthians 2:4 And my speech and my preaching were not with persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power...

Colossians 2:4 Now this I say lest anyone should deceive you with persuasive words.

Note what Paul says in these two passages; “not with persuasive words of human wisdom...”; “...deceive you with persuasive words...”

The use of *persuasive words of human wisdom* is one of the key dangers to Christianity. These Judaizing teachers were using persuasive words to pervert the pure truth of the gospel to their *brand* of Christianity and were spreading it among the new converts.

Nothing has changed over the past two thousand years. Men are still trying to convert good and honest hearts to their brand of supposed Christian beliefs.

In another article titled “Which church?” I stated that men throughout history such as John Calvin and Martin Luther and many others of their type have promoted another *gospel*.

Kings and rulers such as Constantine and Henry the Eighth as well as rulers in the so-called churches of Rome and Byzantium known as Popes and Patriarchs have added their endorsement to these perverse teachings.

This would in fact include any man who would lend his own interpretation of the pure Word of God and teach it as truth.

Acts 15:1-2 And certain men came down from Judea and taught the brethren, “Unless you are circumcised according to the custom of Moses, you cannot be saved.” Therefore, when Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and dispute with them, they determined that Paul and

Barnabas and certain others of them should go up to Jerusalem, to the apostles and elders, about this question.

Acts 15:28-29 For it seemed good to the Holy Spirit, and to us, to lay upon you no greater burden than these necessary things: that you abstain from things offered to idols, from blood, from things strangled, and from sexual immorality. If you keep yourselves from these, you will do well. Farewell.

The Lord Himself said in an answer to the Scribes and Pharisees and quoting the prophet Isaiah;

Matthew 15:9 And in vain they worship Me, teaching as doctrines the commandments of men. **(Mark 7:7; Isaiah 29:13)**

Many beliefs today have formed *churches* around these teachings of men and call themselves Christian. They adopt the name “Christian” fraudulently because the description of Christians in the New Testament is not what is portrayed in these false belief systems.

Acts 11:26 And when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. So it was that for a whole year they assembled with the church and taught a great many people. And the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.

Note: We might ask ourselves at this point what exactly defines a disciple?

The Greek word for disciple, *mathetes*, means “a learner, i.e., pupil.” Another definition is “a convinced adherent of a school or individual.”

These definitions describe individuals who not only followed Jesus but followed exactly what Jesus taught them, Jesus even posed this question to those who were not following His teachings:

Luke 6:46 “But why do you call Me ‘Lord, Lord,’ and do not do the things which I say?”

And so, the very name “Christian” has become a danger to Christianity when misused. It has allowed a great number of people today to believe that being called Christian makes one so.

The truth is that obedience to the gospel of Jesus Christ and His doctrine and commandments (**2 John 9-11**) makes one a Christian, and that is only the beginning, as the Apostle Paul writes in a letter to the church in Ephesus:

Ephesians 2:8-10 For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

Continuing to walk in good works until the end of our walk on this earth is our charge through revelation of the Holy Spirit in God’s Word.

Matthew 28:19-20 “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” Amen.

Colossians 1:21-23 And you, who once were alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now He has reconciled in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy, and blameless, and above reproach in His sight—if indeed you continue in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel which you heard, which was preached to every creature under heaven, of which I, Paul, became a minister.

2 Thessalonians 2:15 Therefore, brethren, stand fast and hold the traditions which you were taught, whether by word or our epistle.

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