

Tuesday, August 18, 2015 - Beware the false teacher...

There are days when my brain does not work very well.

I always try to be very careful about "groups" I join on Facebook especially when they "affiliate" themselves with Lord's church. We all have learned that just because a building has "church of Christ" on the marquee too many times it is the home of doctrines propagated by Satan's earthly servants. The same is true with man-made groups.

I quickly discovered the "administrator" is a false teacher that has been spewing his filth in groups on Facebook for years. Once I realized my mistake, I left the group but not before I posted my reason for leaving the group. I felt obligated because I had already engaged in several back and forth discussions on the site with his minions. It's a funny thing, when you call out false teachers; they get angry.

The same day I left the group and called him out, I received a Facebook message from him stating I had been "kicked out" of the group I already left. I assumed this was done to allow him the "bragging rights" of telling others he dealt with me. Of course he continued with his diatribe informing me that my accusations of him being a false teacher were without foundation. He used the same arguments he had used to try and convince me the last time our paths crossed 2 years ago that I was wrong. He had no luck changing my mind.

Christ, in John 4:23-24, states, "But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him...God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth."

Jesus is pointing out that a transition in worship was imminent. This verse emphasizes six characteristics of this transition. First, Jesus refers to "true worshippers" as distinct from those who worship on their own terms (Matt. 7:21-22). Second, Jesus says that true worshippers "shall" worship, denoting the imperativeness of worship. Third, Jesus emphasizes the word worship, which refers to the prescribed action that one is to take in the formal homage and recognition of God as Creator. One of the elemental truths of the Bible is that God desires to be worshipped in a prescribed manner (see the story of Nadab and Abihu). This manner also includes time. The time for such prescribed worship unto the true and living God today is upon the first day of the week, as He Himself has directed. Fourth, Jesus informs us as to the proper object of worship -- the Father, the Creator God, Who is worthy of praise and Who desires the praise of His children. Fifth, Jesus next instructs us as to the attitude that we are to have in worship in that we are to worship "in spirit." Sixth, Jesus places emphasis upon the importance of maintaining correct doctrine or teaching in our worship when He pronounces that we are to worship "in truth." Jesus then makes the Divine observation that His Father desires "true worshippers" who will conform to these six principles in their worship of Him.

Therefore, a "true worshipper," when praying and singing praises unto the Lord, will do so with understanding (1 Cor. 14:15). When a "true worshipper" gives to the Lord of his or her financial means, it will be done with the correct attitude, as well as in the prescribed manner (1 Cor. 16:2; 2 Cor. 9:7). Likewise, when a "true worshipper" partakers of the Lord's Supper, he or she will do so with the proper attitude and in the proper manner (1 Cor. 11:23-29). In fact, in order to be a true worshipper, one must always manifest the correct attitude or disposition, as well as perform the act of worship according to the directions and parameters as set out in the Word of God.

In verse 24, the Lord re-emphasized in this verse the principles concerning contained in John 4:23. Thus, we may not alter the prescribed form of worship (which must adhere to His truth,

His doctrine), nor may we worship God in any manner or attitude that we choose. Only by means of this worship behavior can we please God and be edified ourselves.

The false teacher, which my interaction was with, does not believe the New Testament prescribes actions which define what our worship to God should consist of. His OPINION is that all is acceptable in worship. Does anyone truly believe the nature of Jehovah God would dictate to us that we worship in truth and then not prescribe what that truth consists of?

Ignorance of or ignoring what the scriptures teach will not be an acceptable argument before God in the Day of Judgment. His truth can be known and it is our responsibility to find and submit to it.