



April 24, 2005

Why No Peace

Last week we dealt with the peace that Christ brought into the world. This is spiritual peace with God, obtained through obedience to Him through the sacrifice of Christ. How is it then that there is so much confusion in the religious world? A pseudopeace exists between various organizations that claim to represent God by simply agreeing to disagree. A conclusion is reached that everyone is trying to serve God in their own way and as long as one is sincere and upholds certain spiritual values this is acceptable. Acceptance of this type of thinking voids the will of God as stated in the scriptures.

Even during Christ's time on Earth there were those who sought to control or influence God's work. Christ summed up this attitude when he stated, "***And from the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force.***" (Matt 11.12). Evil was expressed in the killing of John, the crucifixion of Christ and the later persecution of the church. Some believed that they could stop or thwart the work that God had put into motion by killing those who taught the truth. As the centuries passed error grew until the church fell away and the doctrines of men became accepted as the way in which God should worshiped.

This was at work before the end of the first century. Paul warned of this when he stated, "***For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way.***" (2 Thess 2.7). Paul detailed the characteristics of this in these passages, warning Christians to beware of this influence. Christ also warned of false teachers who would try to deceive. "***For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.***" (Matt 24.24). This attitude and practice has not changed. Many have come in the name of God teaching and preaching things that cannot be found in God's word. The only way to substantiate these things has been to cast doubt on the validity of the scriptures and it's relevance to us today.

This mirrors the influence of Satan as he works in the world, seeking to devour those who will not hear the pure word that God has delivered to us. Paul states, "***For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.***" (2 Cor 11.13-15). Distorting and changing the doctrine, or replacing it with another, is the way of falsehood. As Paul states above the end of this will be eternal damnation to those who do not receive the love of the truth (2 Thess 2.10). The only way to counter this is by reading and studying the word of God. True faith, and obedience, is defined by God and is manifested in the life and heart of those who will accept only the truth as it has been given.

It is difficult to convince many to accept only God's word as the standard by which we should live and serve him. To this end we encourage all to read, study, pray and ultimately obey only that doctrine that we find in the pages of God's book.

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