

Howards Corner

Knowing the Scriptures

Chapter 3

I ended the last chapter with thoughts about denominations having strayed from the bible and removing whole books out of their teachings. Although these denominations do not even tell you that is their belief but what they teach or not teach creates a lot of biblical ignorance and therefore many have fallen into religious ceremonies and ritualistic worship and the congregations begins to trust in the church organization for their salvation and not in the shed blood of Jesus alone for their salvation. So, you have a church with a form of godliness but with no power and no Holy Spirit but with rituals and traditions and ceremonies. They have become a dead church in spirit. They will put in enough bible reading to look real but do not explain what they mean. This is what Paul's writing tell us about the apostate church of the last days.

So once Satan's deception takes hold it spreads, and it is Satan's plan to ease his way into the church by deception. Once he takes hold it slowly rots away the truth in such subtle ways that the congregations do not even realize it and find themselves way down the wrong road and into "churchism". I think Satan loves churchism because it looks so religious, and religion looks so Godly. But God is not looking for religious people but for the hearts of people that are seeking him and willing to walk in His ways and seek righteousness. As generations pass, they do not know the true meaning of the bible, and many of the congregation do not even read the bible at all and place their trust in seminary graduates that themselves have been taught the wrong theology and so deception begets deceptions.

That is Satan's plan to destroy the church by deception and not by direct attack. If you are not bearing fruit, he probably will not bother you but start to do the work of the kingdom and you may have the enemy show up. Beware of the parable of the wheat and the tares. Many will look just like Christians from the outside but will produce no fruit. I have a new label for these tares that I noticed in the recent pandemic. I now call them "cardboard cut outs" for they look kind of real on the

outside but when you get close enough to see better, you find there is nothing inside. It is counterfeit. This applies to churches and denominations and to individuals. Do not let the counterfeits rob you of a true relationship with our heavenly Father and with Jesus and the Holy Spirit. If you are called by God to His Kingdom, you must personally answer the call. The churches and denominations cannot answer the call for you. Therefore, it is up to you to know the word and study to show yourself approved. There are bibles on every corner and many available online and I have embedded a teaching site on my website. Click on bible studies verse by verse on Howardscorner.org. It is free study all you want. There are resources everywhere. It is just waiting for you to want to. My people are dying for the lack of knowledge.

This is the reason I am writing these Howards Corner publication. I see all around me false teaching and a lack of biblical knowledge. The knowledge that is received is often just a part of the truth and does not cover the whole word. So, people in the congregations receive partial truth. Sometimes a little truth is worse than no truth because you think you have it right but have stopped short of the victory you need. They are being deceived by just enough truth to look real but not enough to operate in the Holy Spirit. You must be born again to receive the Holy Spirit (that is being born again) and receive assurance of your salvation.

I have written somewhere in my writings about “why you need to receive the Holy Spirit” I do not remember in what publication I wrote it, but it is there somewhere. I kind of feel like the Lord now. I have hidden that explanation “of why” in my words and I do not know if you will dig deep enough to find it. I suppose the Lord is saying the same thing. I put it in my word, but they do not care enough to diligently seek and find. So, I care for you and want you to understand the whole word. I will sometimes over the next few weeks write a complete explanation of why you must receive the Holy Spirit.

One example of partial truth that troubles me is that of salvation by grace through faith, which is then watered down by adding in, keeping the law. It is widespread in the church to see people with one foot in grace and one foot is law. That robs you of the peace of **rest** in Christ alone for your salvation. If you live by Jesus’ teachings and his ways and operate in the Holy Spirit you will be more righteous than the Pharisees and they kept the letter of the law fanatically but did not

understand the spirit of the law and were condemned by Jesus. He said plainly you must be more righteous than the Pharisees to enter the kingdom of God.

It is time to decide. Are you in grace or in law? You cannot do both. Choose grace and the work of Jesus on the cross and believe it with all your heart and you will be saved. If you choose law, you will be judged by the law even though you were never under the law, but all mankind is already under judgement and has been given a way out, but it cannot be by our works but only by the work of Jesus on the cross. You cannot believe both because it waters down your faith, so you have an unstable heart and mind and when testing times come you will not have the strength of faith to overcome. I have written several articles on law and grace on the Howards Corner website and invite you to read and understand.

More to come in future writings

Howard