

THE GOSPEL DIVIDES

Jesus tells us in the Bible:

“THE MESSAGE THAT HE BROUGHT TO THE EARTH WOULD CAUSE DIVISIONS”

“Suppose ye that I am come to give peace on earth? I tell you, Nay; but rather division:”
Luke 12:51

"And I will put a division between my people and thy people" Exodus 8:23

“...I came not to send peace, but a sword.” Matt. 10:34

By Pastor Del Wray

"And I will put a division between my people and thy people" Exodus 8:23.

Even from the very early pages of the Bible we find that there is a division between the people of God and the unsaved. The Bible is no ordinary book, it is God's Book! God sovereignly chose to speak to man through His WORD, through His SON by His WRITTEN Word in this the last days. His chosen way to communicate with man has in itself been controversial. God will not speak to man any other way! While every false sect will try to convince you that He speaks to man in many ways such as music, visions, dreams, feelings, emotions, and the all so used phrase "a still quiet voice." No! Never! Not unless it lines up with the Holy Scriptures, not in this age, not the Church Period. Those who tell you differently are liars and unlearned in what the Holy Bible teaches. This truth goes to the core of Scripture, God's program and plan for the redemption of His fallen race, His creation. Let me ask you, is it too hard to understand that salvation comes by faith, and faith comes by believing God's Word? Rom. 10:17; 1Peter 1:23, to advance His talking to man any other way is to profess a false gospel mixed with poisonous, venomous "leaven." The gospel being preached from many of our church pulpits today reaps with an unnerving sound and smells of nauseas leaven "a little leaven, leaveneth the whole lump" Gal. 5:9 and it is soul damning murder. God only uses His "WORD" and anything else destroys the gospel of saving faith. Can't you get that? The Bible is dangerous; the Author of that Bible wrote it in such a way that it will blind a man spiritually that tampers with its pages, its words. Curses are placed upon men who wrongly use that Book. That Book is "alive" and it has been laid-out in such a way as to cause a man to be damned who mistreats its infinite Words. God even sends strong delusions on men so that they believe a lie because they will not believe the Truth, 2 Thess. 2:11-12. The Bible is deadly, it is controversial, it was written to be just so. Jesus knew it would divide humankind for it is God's Word to fallen men. Listen to Jesus' own words!

“I am come to send fire on the earth...” Luke 12:49

Here is one of His "tough statements." It must have stunned some of his hearers, and it is shocking to us when we discover it in Scripture. But it is in the Bible and we have to deal with it.

Indeed, I think it states a profound and necessary truth. Jesus never sought to be "politically correct." **He did not adapt to people; he expected people to adapt to God's truth as he spoke it!** He did not say what people wanted to hear, but what was true. He said that his Words, which were given to him by his Father John 12:49 spoke an eternal truth that would outlast the physical unending universe. "Heaven and earth will pass away, but my Words will never pass away" Matthew 24:35. He said that his Words would be the test by which men would ultimately be judged John 12:48. I think we need to take all of his Words very seriously. We ought to take every Word of God, solemnly! I just can't stop here because it is right here where pastors refuse to preach and accept the entirety of God's unchanging Word. And in doing so has left the gospel of salvation powerless and meaningless in the majority of our churches today.

"I am come to send fire on the earth; and what will I, if it be already kindled? But I have a baptism to be baptized with; and how am I straitened till it be accomplished! Suppose ye that I am come to give peace on earth? I tell you, Nay; but rather division: For from henceforth there shall be five in one house divided, three against two, and two against three. The father shall be divided against the son, and the son against the father; the mother against the daughter, and the daughter against the mother; the mother in law against her daughter in law, and the daughter in law against her mother in law." Luke 12:49-53

Jesus spoke of a "two-edged sword" that would cause division, look at Genesis the first book in the Bible; Abraham, who trusted in the Lord as his Saviour, was asked to separate himself from his family and nation Genesis 12:1-3. Believers, by virtue of the fact that they are saved and are going to heaven, are separated from those unbelievers who are lost and going to hell. Also, believers, in their Christian walk and life style, are to separate themselves from the unsaved. II Corinthians 6:17 says, "Wherefore come out from among them and be ye separate."

Amazing as it may sound, Jesus tells us in the Bible that the message that He brought to the earth would cause division. We should not be surprised, therefore, because the Lord Jesus Christ has told us so. Let us look at what Jesus said in Luke 12:51-52, "Suppose you that I am come to give peace on earth? I tell you, nay; but rather division: For from henceforth there shall be five in one house divided, three against two, and two against three. The father shall be divided against the son, and the son against the father; the mother against the daughter, and the daughter against the mother; the mother-in-law against the daughter-in-law, and the daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law" Luke 12:51-53.

Wherever Jesus went, his message caused division and persecution. In John 7:40-43 we read, "Many of the people therefore, when they heard this saying, said, of a truth this is the Prophet. Others said, this is the Christ, but some said, shall Christ come out of Galilee? Hath not the Scripture said that Christ cometh of the seed of David, and out of the town of Bethlehem, where David was? So there was a division among the people because of him." Also we read in John 9:16, "And there was a division among them." And again in John 10:19 we read, "There was a division therefore again among the Jews for these sayings. And many of them said He hath a devil, and is mad; why hear ye him?"

Jesus Christ is the only way to heaven as He plainly stated in John 14:6, "I am the way, the truth, and the life; no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."

The message of the gospel is the power of God unto salvation. Paul tells us in Romans 1:16, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ; for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek." The gospel is like a two-edged sword. For those who believe the gospel, they will be saved. For those who reject the gospel, they will be lost. John 3:16 says, "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." For those who believe, they will have everlasting life. For those who reject Christ, they will perish. So as we have seen the message divides. It divides between the saved and the lost; those that are going to heaven, from those that are going to hell; those who have life, from those who do not have life.

I John 5:12 says, "He that hath the Son hath life, and He that hath not the Son of God hath not life."

Jesus told His disciples, "Woe unto you when all men shall speak well of you!" Luke 6:26. We should not be surprised at the mixed reactions to the message of life and death. The Apostle Paul says, "For we are unto God a sweet savour of Christ, in them that are saved, and in them that perish: To the one we are the savour of death unto death; and to the other the savour of life unto life. And who is sufficient for these things II Corinthians 2:15-16?"

The Gospel message not only separates the lost from the saved, but also, sometimes, the saved from the worldly Christian. Ironic as it might sound the saved from the saved:

- The gospel divides the world into two groups: the saved and the lost.
- The gospel also divides the Christians into two groups: those who will be faithful in the command to evangelize and those who oppose evangelization.

As believers, we are told that we "shine as lights in the world; Holding forth the Word of Life" Philippians 2:15-16.

After Moses led the children of Israel out of Egypt, a picture of the redemption or salvation of the nation, Moses had to ask this redeemed nation, "Who is on the LORD'S side? Let him come unto me" Exodus 32:36. I believe the question still must be asked today of those who know the Lord as their Saviour. Jesus Christ has commanded us to carry His message to a lost and dying world. The Great Commission is "Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature" Mark 16:15. Many believers want the benefits of the cross, but not the offence of the cross. Let me say that again, many believers want the benefits of the cross, but not the offence of the cross.

"Only let your conversation be as it becometh the gospel of Christ: that whether I come and see you, or else be absent, I may hear of your affairs, that ye stand fast in one spirit, with one mind striving together for the faith of the gospel; And in nothing terrified by your adversaries: which is to them an evident token of perdition, but to you of salvation, and that of God" Philippians 1:27-28.

There is a division between those that preach the true gospel and those that preach a perverted, distorted and a gospel that has been laced with arsenic. The subtlety in this is that it often times sounds like the true gospel but is not. The test of the true gospel is grace. If the message excludes grace or mingles works with grace as the means either of justification or sanctification, it is "another" gospel, and the preacher of it is under the anathema, curse of God. The Scriptures clearly say in Galatians 1:8-9, "But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that, which we have preached unto you, let him be **accursed**. As we said before, so say I again. If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be **accursed**." Therefore, the message that is perverted or distorted is **accursed** of God, and the one preaching that message is **accursed** of God. Usually, those who have been taught a false gospel will persecute those that teach the pure gospel. The Apostle Paul explained this in Galatians 5:11, "And I, brethren, if I yet preach circumcision, why do I yet suffer persecution? Then is the offence of the cross ceased." Paul says that the true message of the gospel of salvation apart from human works will bring about persecution, but to mingle works with the true gospel **takes away the offense of the cross**. Therefore, we are urged in Scripture to stand on the Lord's side and separate ourselves from those that distort His word and change His message.

"For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart." Heb. 4:12

Are you a believer? If not, then trust Christ as your Saviour now, and He will give you eternal life. As a believer, are you on the Lord's side? If not, then align yourself with the precious message of the Lord Jesus Christ. God will bless you for it. Its God's way or no way at all!

In today's world many of our school children and college students have been taught that all truth is relative, that there are no enduring moral standards, that there is no such thing as good and evil, and that it is wrong to make any judgment that something is good or evil. In our criminal system, inability to tell good from evil is considered a sign of criminal insanity. Aren't we deliberately training our young people to be unable to tell good from evil, and thus to be criminally insane? A "relative" gospel!

Scripture rejects all this relativism. It says that there is absolute truth. God's word is truth John 17:17. He is the God of truth Isaiah 65:16. "All of God's Words are true" Psalm 119:160. "God does not lie" Titus 1:2; Hebrews 6:18. Jesus Christ is "the truth" John 14:6. The Holy Spirit is "the Spirit of truth" John 14:17, 15:26. The devil is "a liar and the father of lies", "there is no truth in him" John 8:44. To deny that there is absolute truth is to reject Scripture and to reject God.

The modern "gospel of relativism" is totally false. It is evil, and it leads people to tolerate evil and to do evil. It is another one of those gospels laced with poison. "A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump" Gal. 5:9. It is the kind of thing that Paul was speaking of when he wrote, "Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ." Colossians 2:8. Again, Paul warns us that we need to become mature in our faith so that "That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro,

and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:" Ephesians 4:14-15.

Another one of the many false gospels being preached today is this gospel that bears no offense, it's the gospel of "inclusionism" never preach offending messages always temper your message with love. It's wrong to offend they insist. Red and yellow black and white they are all included. No they're not! God clearly make it plain in the Bible that there are two groups of people; those that are spiritually dead and those that are spiritually alive, the saved and the lost. They are the sinners and those who have their sin covered by the blood. In the church today it's almost impossible to tell the difference. The message "drunk on love" has poisoned the pure truth of God's Word and made it in many cases ineffective and worthless. When the gospel of the saving grace of God is tampered with in the least bit it is rendered of none affect. And many independent, fundamental Baptist Churches are guilty of just that crime. We want to salve over our conscience to feel better but are not willing to take up our cross and suffer for Him.

Many believers want the benefits of the cross, but not the offence of the cross. They want the pardon that has been provided at Calvary but not the shame and offence that the cross bears. They're on the right side of Calvary and the wrong side of Pentecost, the right side of His birth and the wrong side of His resurrection. The right side of salvation and the wrong side of sanctification, the right side of His death and the wrong side of His life. They want the freedom the Cross brings but are not willing to walk in His steps of suffering. The True Gospel does alienate and the gospel that does not is false.

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