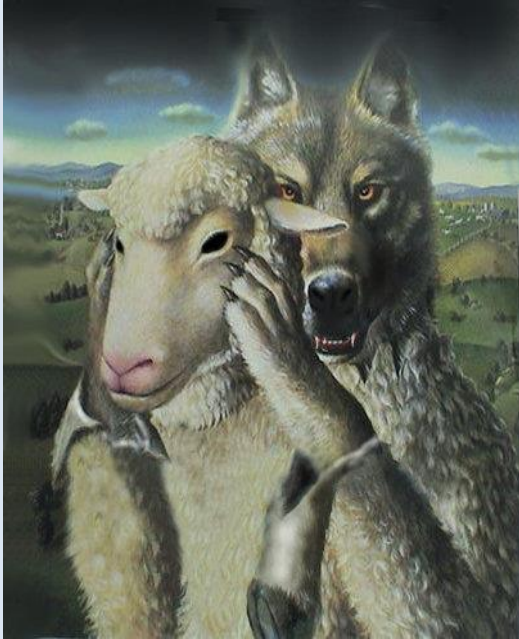


The Most Dangerous Religious Myths of Our Times



In this article, I would like to expose the *most dangerous religious myths of our times*. Reading in 2 Timothy 4:1-4...

2 Timothy 4:1-4 *I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.*

First, it is necessary that we define our terms.

- **Fable:** (Greek) *moo'-thos*, Literally, a *tale, or myth*; in other words, opinions derived from and based upon something other than God's truth.

Hence, '*religious myths*' are false concepts or notions that, though foreign to Scripture, have been accepted as orthodox: *Apostolic doctrine*. There are many such *religious yarns* in today's professing church. In fact, so ingrained are these errors into the psyche of the modern church, to challenge them is perceived as almost blasphemy. Thus, by '*most dangerous*', we mean, on one hand, those spiritual fallacies which do the most violence to the true gospel message and ultimately, *misrepresent God*, but on the other hand, are so entrenched in the opinion of the contemporary church they are considered sacred (*even define the modern gospel*). These are '*religious myths*' that undermine fundamental doctrines like *repentance, faith, and obedience*; falsehoods that, in effect, offer spiritual stumbling-blocks that essentially hinder men from knowing the true and *Living God*. Sadly, the enemy has used these lies to *cripple the church and damn the world*

with *dead, sin-excusing religious half-truths*. Oh, that the church would take heed to the warning of the *Holy Ghost*...

Titus 1:14 *Not giving heed to Jewish fables, and commandments of men, that turn from the truth.*

“All true preaching of the Gospel must consist largely in proclaiming the nature, purity, and character of God. It is impossible for men to form any estimation of righteousness or holiness, of experience or practice, except it is furnished by a revelation from the character and conduct of God. The revelation of God through Jesus Christ, is our only standard of inner life and outward behavior. It is lamentable to notice what an infinite amount of stuff is palmed off on the generations as Gospel, which has to it no glowing back-ground of the holiness of God.” -G.D. Watson

So, in no particular order, the ‘*most dangerous religious myths of our times*’; there are four, beginning with...

“NO ONE CAN JUDGE”

Matthew 7:1 *Judge not, that ye be not judged.*

There is perhaps no other verse of Scripture more misused, misinterpreted, and misunderstood than *Matthew 7:1*. Even a casual overview of *Matthew 7* reveals *Jesus* never intended this to be understood as a universal censor against *judgment*. Though hypocritical/unequal judgment is indeed condemned, nowhere in the Bible is *righteous/moral judgment* forbidden. In fact, the Scriptures teach in...

Psalms 37:28 *For the Lord loveth judgment...*

Likewise, throughout the Scriptures, God has revealed Himself grieved when there is a *lack of judgment*, for example...

Isaiah 59:15 *Yea, truth faileth; and he that departeth from evil maketh himself a prey: and the Lord saw it, and it displeased him that there was no judgment.*

In O.T. *Israel*, when God raised up *judges* there was deliverance, when there were no *judges*, only bondage. If this were not enough, consider that *Jesus* in the N.T. actually commanded *judgment*.

John 7:24 *Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment.*

And finally, the *Epistles* likewise confirm the fact that *judgment* is an essential exercise for true spirituality.

1 Thessalonians 5:21-22 *Prove all things; hold fast that which is good. 22 Abstain from all appearance of evil.*

All this and more, yet, the modern, professing church foolishly assumes that *to make moral judgments* is unchristlike. They fail to comprehend the utter absurdity of such a proposal; *it is both unscriptural and illogical*. First, it is impossible to accurately declare the *law of God* and *preach the gospel* apart from *moral judgment*. Think of it, *law* without repercussion is no *law* at all, but only *suggestion*. Secondly, to assume we can avoid *moral judgment* is a spiritual contradiction of the highest order, as all must and do *judge*. It is inescapable, for example, if we assume someone is a Christian, *this is a judgment*, albeit, a positive one. Nonetheless, it requires as much eternal wisdom to declare something/someone '*of God*' as it does to declare something/someone '*not of God*'. In fact, this precept, as they define it, is impossible to practice or promote without violating the very charge it theoretically establishes. When men recoil at correction or reproof via God's Word with, "*you are wrong/in sin because you are judging me*", they fail to see that they themselves, in a vain attempt to condemn moral judgment, have hypocritically made a moral judgment.

Unfortunately, the myth of "*no one can judge*" has been propagated by the professing church to the delight of *Satan*. He has used it to quench and thwart *true spiritual discernment* among believers: *people are afraid to apply the Bible*. Likewise, he has implemented it to deceive sinners into believing anyone who exercises judgment or warns them of the consequences of their sin, is a *hypocrite*. Thus, *sinners* and *hypocrites* alike use this perversion of Scripture in an attempt to extinguish the light and cover their *sin*.

Amos 5:10 *They hate him that rebuketh in the gate, and they abhor him that speaketh uprightly.*

“CHRISTIANS AREN'T PERFECT, JUST FORGIVEN”

Matthew 5:48 *Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.*

Though it may be true, no one is perfect in the sense that God is perfect, there is a *moral perfection attainable through grace*. This cannot be denied because it is commanded. Yet, the *bumper-stickers* appear to have more authority than *God's Word* as again and again we hear the declaration, "*no one is perfect*". Though this may have an appearance of humility, the hidden motive behind such statements are often a desire to justify sin and compromise.

"Humility before men may be unconscious blasphemy before God. Why are you not a saint? It is either that you do not want to be a saint, or, that you do not believe God can make you one." -Oswald Chambers

Men unconsciously, yet intuitively know, *if anyone can live free, then all can live free*. Ironically, this *myth* is so contrary to the testimony of Scripture that it's amazing it's viewed with such sacred zeal. Consider for a moment God Himself attributed "*moral perfection*" to several men in the Bible, including, *Noah, Job, David, and Asa*, though such men would certainly refrain from boasting...

Job 9:21 *Though I were perfect, yet would I not know my soul: I would despise my life.*

Also, the Bible speaks generically of the "*perfect man*" in several passages of Scripture, for example...

Psalms 37:37 *Mark the perfect man, and behold the upright: for the end of that man is peace.*

Moreover, as we've already mentioned, *Jesus* commanded *perfection*, hence, it must be possible through grace. And finally, '*moral perfection*' is cited many times throughout the Epistles.

Hebrews 6:1 *Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection...*

Thus, to declare that '*no one is perfect*' or '*perfection is impossible*', is in direct opposition to *God's Word*.

“Divine truth as revealed in Scripture seems often to lie between two extremes. If we regard the doctrine of *sinless perfection* as a heresy, we regard contentment with sinful imperfection as a greater heresy. And we gravely fear that many Christians make the Apostle's words, *'If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves,'* the unconscious justification for a low standard of Christian living. It were almost better for one to overstate the possibilities of sanctification in his eager grasp after holiness, than to understate them in his complacent satisfaction with a traditional unholiness. Certainly it is not an edifying spectacle to see a Christian worldling throwing stones at a Christian perfectionist.” -Dr. A.J. Gordon

It is obvious, *Satan* has promoted the *'no one is perfect myth'* as an affront to the delivering power of *Jesus Christ*. This leads us to our next *dangerous myth*, and it is closely related...

“ALL ARE SINNERS AND EVERYONE SINS”

Matthew 1:21 *And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name Jesus: for he shall save his people from their sins.*

Now, this *myth*, like the others, is a Scriptural perversion, rooted in half-truth. Indeed, the Bible teaches *sin*, in both *principle* and *behavior*, is a universal, human condition.

1 John 1:8-10 *If we say that we have no sin (essentially Greek noun), we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned (Greek verb), we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.*

However, the Bible never teaches *Christians* are sinners, on the contrary, the Bible says...

Galatians 2:17 *But if, while we seek to be justified by Christ, we ourselves also are found sinners, is therefore Christ the minister of sin? God forbid.*

Again, in...

Romans 6:1-2 *What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? 2God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?*

Furthermore, the Scriptures declare...

1 John 3:8 *He that committeth sin is of the devil...*

Everyone knows the ultimate aim of God, in regards to sin, is to rid His creation of all rebellion; *there will be no sin in heaven*. Make no mistake, the N.T. clearly, irrefutably, and without contradiction points us to *Jesus*, who can deliver us from all *sin*. Likewise, all true Christians must, by faith, stand on the ground of full deliverance if they are to realize victory over *sin*.

Romans 6:11 *Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Now, to suggest that *Christ* and His finished work at *Calvary* cannot deliver us from sin is an affront to the gospel and yet, this *Antinomian* concept is so pervasive it is rare to find a professing Christian anywhere who believes otherwise. Sadly, this unscriptural view has done great harm to the *cause of Christ*, both in discipleship and evangelism (if no one is free from sin, then no one has a right to condemn sin). Sadly, today, obedience to God's Word is seen as *legalism* and a zeal for Biblical accuracy equates to *Phariseeism*. This leads us to our last *myth*...

LAST, THE REDEFINING OF THE RELIGIOUS HYPOCRITE

Mark 7:6 *He answered and said unto them, Well hath Esaias prophesied of you hypocrites, as it is written, This people honoureth me with their lips, but their heart is far from me.*

However, the new view of *religious hypocrisy* is different from *Jesus'* view. Let us, for a moment, consider the deeper implications of the culmination and acceptance of these *religious myths*. It stands to reason that if *no one can judge, if none is perfect, and all sin*, those who *believe* and *declare* otherwise are the worst type of hypocrites. Hence, a new definition of *hypocrisy, rooted in the paralyzing unbelief of this generation, is born*. Today, few believe *holiness* possible, hence, those who truly believe the Bible claim the impossible, even the unthinkable. Because of the culmination of these religious lies genuine believers who are trusting the plain reading of God's Word with child-like faith are seen as insincere, dishonest, and misrepresenting their experience. Remember, *Jesus* claimed to be *holy, a son of God, sent from God* and religion vehemently opposed Him.

John 10:33 *The Jews answered him, saying, For a good work we stone thee not; but for blasphemy; and because that thou, being a man, makest thyself God.*

True Christians don't claim to be God, but today, if any man claims to be made holy and kept holy by God's grace, is accused of 'making himself God'.

What is the Bible definition of *hypocrisy*? The word *hypocrite* is used 30 times in the *KJV Bible*. There is not one occasion, either in the O.T. or N.T., where it is used to describe men who *claim, through Jesus, they are free from sin*. On the contrary, *in every case it addresses those who claim to be lovers and worshipers of God, and yet remain in sin*. Thus, the true Biblical position is: *if we're in Jesus, we must claim to be free from sin, however, if we're in sin we must never assume we're secure in Christ*. Unfortunately, today's popular position is exactly the opposite.

Moreover, in both the original languages, *Hebrew* and *Greek*, notice the emphasis...

- Hypocrite: (Hebrew) *khaw-nafe'*, Defiled, greatly polluted, profaned, corrupted, especially in a moral sense, in other words, to *soil* with sin, *impious*.
- Hypocrite: (Greek) *hoop-ok-ree-tace'*, An *actor under* an assumed character, a *dissembler*.

Amazingly, this is exactly opposite of today's view. Again, the enemy has cleverly promoted these spiritual fables to harden men's hearts against the true declaration of God's Word. Each of these lies offer a perceived justification or excuse for *sin* and a refuge from the demands of *repentance*.

1 John 4:5 *They are of the world: therefore speak they of the world, and the world heareth them.*

May we, with the *Apostle Peter* declare...

2 Peter 1:16 *For we have not followed cunningly devised fables...*

–B.W.

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