

Faith and Works XL

The Contemporary and Biblical Contexts

Col. 2:8

Darkness

The liberalism in Christian mainline denominations in the past century resulted in once traditional theological terms and concepts being given a new and different definition according to the reality defined by materialistic atheism due to the dominance of philosophies such as logical positivism which rejected metaphysics not as wrong, but as having no meaning in an empirical sense.

And so there arose a generation that was taught that God, or the concept of the God of the Bible, was dead and that rather than theology or revelation in scripture, one needed to have a mystical or religious experience that would give meaning only in the context of the individual.

The failure of that quest led to the search for merely a comfortable existence through peace and affluence, which was for all practical purposes simply hedonism.

Failure to validate or give meaning to mans existence led to apathy and despair, which in turn required even more involvement in a hedonistic life style to dull the pain of the void of a relationship with the Creator and our inability to move from fallen mortality to the immortality.

But soon advances in scientific knowledge and technique became focused enough to discover things in nature such as irreducible complexity, and theories of alternate realities could be sustained by new discoveries in the field of quantum physics. Science seemed to no longer support an exclusive definition of existence based Newtonian physics in which the universe was considered strictly deterministic and causal in nature.

Those Christian denominations that had retained a Biblical faith in Jesus Christ as incarnate deity restoring the relationship between a fallen creation with its creator now face a second wave of liberalism in which Christian terminology and Biblical concepts are turned against each other in polemics seeking to invalidate literal

Biblical interpretation based on its inconsistency with contemporary notions of God, creation, and spirituality.

But unlike the secular philosophical materialism of the past century, which led liberal religion to redefine itself through philosophies such as existentialism, there now is a tremendous pull back to the occultism that in the 1800s and early 1900s that had dominated sometimes directly, sometimes indirectly, the philosophies and spiritual speculations of that time.

That movements such as Nazism were birthed out of that underlying acceptance of occult philosophy by underlying social environment, and the direct link from movements such as Theosophy and occultism to the present New Age movement, now called the New Spirituality, indicate that today's shift toward liberalism in the contemporary church will have far different consequences.

And so we find that in the past century God was declared dead on the bases of the materialistic science and philosophies of that age, and spiritual experience was secularized and redefined in philosophies of personal experience in a natural closed system. But in this century God is very much alive, but it is not the God of the Judeo Christian tradition revealed and testified to in the Bible, rather it is a new God of forces that arises from the combination of science and metaphysics that seem to support each others claim to a rational discovery of the true nature of a supernatural existence.

And so, as in the past, yet with far more force, there is a coming together of all those religious and philosophical belief systems that were not securely moored to the revelation of the Bible. The pull is inexorable, and those not hungering and thirsting for God's righteousness, who are seeking their own way to God on their own terms, or to become as God so as to be in need of nothing beyond themselves, are being drawn into a global consensus and religious conviction that will place them firmly against the revelation of Jesus Christ and His exclusive claim to be the only way, truth and life, the only mediator between God and man.

The undermining of the Gospel can come as a subtle deception, not always obvious rejection of Christ, but rather a redefinition of who Christ is, and how He is involved in our relationship with God, and how we are involved with Him.

Many in Christian circles have a relationship to a concept of God where He is viewed as a source of power to enable man to improve and redeem himself. That grace is what we use to enable us to become as God, rather than an opportunity to replace the sand of our fallen nature with the rock of Christ as our foundation.

One can only build tall buildings on a strong secure foundation, rock, not sand. Those on sand will be carried away by the gale force winds of false non Biblical doctrine that now blows even through the doors of once solid fundamental denominations and seminaries.

1 Corinthians 3:11 For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

Many today are thus being illuminated by a light that is darkness, that seeks to turn men away from the true light, which is Christ.

2 Corinthians 11:13-14 For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into apostles of Christ. And no wonder! For Satan himself transforms himself into an angel of light.

The devil can come as an angel of light, but it is not the light of the truth of the Gospel, which is the testimony and revelation of the Glory of God in the face of Christ, rather, the lie is simply to suppose that man is not fallen, but only lacking the knowledge to become as God. When theology is taught in which Jesus is not the foundation, head and body of those abiding in Him and coming together in His name, though a Jesus may be mentioned or included in the teachings, yet it is another Jesus, they come in His name, or using His name, but they do not know Him as Lord and savior.

2 Corinthians 11:1-4 Oh, that you would bear with me in a little folly — and indeed you do bear with me. For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ. But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. For if he who comes preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or if you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted — you may well put up with it!

Galatians 1:8 But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed.

The devil is trying to keep everybody locked up in Hades as hostages to ward off God's final judgment of creation. And he is doing everything that he can to create opportunities and excuses to launch persecution against those who are true witnesses of the light that God is offering in Christ, against which the gates of Hades cannot prevail.

The devil seeks to keep the doors of Hades shut on his hostages trying to forestall God's final judgment on his creation.

As long as people are centered in themselves, he can do this. When Christ becomes their center, they leave his darkness for light.

When we stay centered in our selves, on the foundation of our old nature, we are still on the wrong side of the gates of Hades. When we by faith leave our old nature on the cross of Christ, crucified with Him, and seek our new life in Him, we find ourselves outside the gates of Hades, seated in Christ at the right hand of the Father.

Jesus told all who would follow Him to pick up their cross, that he who seeks his higher life in Him will find it, but he who seeks his lower life will lose it.

Jesus says, pick up your cross, follow me, eat of my flesh, drink of my blood, he who seeks his higher will find it, he who seeks his lower will lose it. The Devil says, you shall not surely die, but you shall yourself be as God when you know as God himself knows for them you shall be able to operate on your own behalf as God.

At the end of the book of Revelations we see Satan thrown into the lake of fire with those who followed him. He never thought God would ever throw him into the lake of fire because before Christ, before God's grace was extended God would have to had thrown all of mankind, even those who had left their bodies and kept waiting for the day of judgment in what was called Abrahams bosom, in with him. Now Jesus is the door, and the gates of Hades can no longer keep the Devil's hostages locked in a state destined for destruction.

The devil seeks worship by sacrifices based upon his own idols of pride and ego. All destruction of man who bears God's image in the name of pride and ego satisfy his desire for worship and dominance over the throne of heaven.

The devil's rebellion against God was based upon his own pride and ego, whereas man, due to the devils trickery, did so out of fear and distrust of God.

We have all since birth and becoming aware of our nakedness worn fig, and it is our choice whether we want to keep hanging on to them, or if we want to step out and be clothed in Christ.

It is not so much a matter of a complete single conspiracy, rather it seems to be more about the momentum. In all areas not surrendered to the Gospel in society the enemy is able direct the momentum against the true kingdom of God, and those walls that still remain that at least still partially prevent the enemies flood from completely overwhelming society. It does not matter which of the enemies streams

finally breaches the walls, for they are all of the same nature, and in the end will equally fulfill his final purpose to lead the world in a final last rebellion against the true King of Kings.

It is the treasure in the earthen vessel we should be celebrating, not the earthen vessel that holds the treasure.

The idea of contact with the dead is forbidden because there is no state after true death without Christ that is a continuance of our ability to change or influence our spiritual condition. It is appointed unto man to die once, and then comes judgment. While the dead await the final judgment, they do not do so with the ability to change their state, their relationship to God, apart from what has already been determined by their faith and actions during their existence inhabiting a physical body during the present fallen age.

We seem to have come to the time that C.S. Lewis wrote of when he described the coming time of the materialistic magicians, and era in which devils could once again reveal themselves openly to man without fear that confirmation of the supernatural would only validate the claims of the Gospel.

Today one can be a practicing Wiccan, believe in the supernatural, yet never entertain the concept of a literal devil. One can consult mediums and those who profess to channel deities from beyond our spiritual plane of existence, without ever questioning the source of that communication and the truth of its claims. And one can even claim to be a follower of Jesus, and yet not know Him as Lord and savior, the one mediator between man and God.

And one can now be called hateful who would proclaim the Gospel to a fallen world:

John 3:16-17 For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

The Bible spoke of the signs believers in Christ were to watch for to know the time of His soon return. We are told that in the last days many will come in the name of Christ, but that they would be false apostles. We were told that before Christ's return, that there would be a great falling away of those who once professed faith in Christ.

In this hour when we now witness signs that Jesus and the prophets of the Bible told us we should look for, signs in the nations and in the earth, sea and heavens, surely not the least prominent of these signs is within the church itself, as there is a form of Godliness that denies the power of the Gospel and instead preaches another Gospel which is not a Gospel, but rather places man alongside the rest of the non Christian world as it follows the last days deception toward the devils attempt to use fallen man kind to resist the final rule of the true kingdom of God on earth as it is in heaven, when all shall bow and confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.

1 John 4:1-6

Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world.

You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. They are of the world. Therefore they speak as of the world, and the world hears them. We are of God. He who knows God hears us; he who is not of God does not hear us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.