

The Wednesday Word, May 3, 2017: Fake News!

I recently spoke to a gentleman who told me he didn't know which news reports to believe because there is so much Fake News being put out there. Yes indeed, it seems that we are inundated with the stuff. But even in Christian circles, we are being attacked by Fake News. Here are some items for your consideration.

Fake News 1: We can be good enough to earn Eternal Life.

This piece of Fake News was dealt the death blow when the disciples asked, "Who then can be saved?" (Matthew 19:26) Jesus responded, "With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible."

How then can any of us be good enough to save ourselves? We can't! It's fake news. God does not accept us because we are good. Our salvation was settled by the blood of the Lord Jesus at Calvary. Although we are helplessly sinful, God in grace has forgiven His children completely. He bought us and paid for us. It's by His infinite grace that we are saved, not by our moral character. Salvation is not accomplished by our works of righteousness, commandment-keeping, or churchgoing. It is because of the doing dying and rising again of the Lord Jesus Christ that we receive the guarantee of eternal life (Titus 3:7).

Fake News 2: Asking Jesus into our heart saves us.

The expression, "Ask Jesus into your heart," is not found in the Bible. It is Fake News! No apostle ever preached it. No one in the Bible is recorded as ever using the phrase. The New Testament preachers would find it a foreign slogan if they were here today.

We are not saved by Jesus coming into our hearts, but rather we are saved by the coming of Christ into the world in His once-for-all doing, dying and rising again.

Here's a much better sinner's prayer than that of asking Jesus into the heart,

"God of my salvation, hear, and help me to believe:
Simply would I now draw near, thy blessings to receive.
Full of guilt, alas I am, but to thy wounds for refuge flee;
Friend of sinners, spotless Lamb, thy blood was shed for me."
George Whitefield

Fake News 3: We Are Saved by the New Birth!

Although the New Birth is scriptural and vital, it is not the Gospel. The New Birth does not save us. It does not give us right standing before God.

Although the new birth is a necessity and a reality, the new birth justifies no one. In spite of what we so commonly hear, a person is not saved by being born again! That's Fake News! The New Birth was not the Gospel proclamation of the New Testament.

To teach that we are saved by the New Birth is to hold to the Roman Catholic notion that regeneration justifies us. To teach such is to confound the work of the Son for us with the work of the Spirit in us.

Fake News 4: Once we have eternal life, we can lose it!

To believe a man can lose salvation is to launch a bitter attack on the saving abilities of the Lord Jesus. If you think Jesus might lose you, please don't refer to Him as the Good Shepherd...a good shepherd doesn't lose sheep. Instead, call Him the Lousy Shepherd. He's not to be trusted.

Think of this!

How can He possibly lose you since:

He chose you unto salvation from the beginning ... Did he make the wrong choice?

He purchased you with His saving blood. Was the purchase invalid?

If He can lose you, then you are saying He is just not powerful enough to protect and keep you.

He gave Himself as our ransom. Was the payment insufficient?

By Himself, He purged our sins. Was the purging of our sins not thorough enough?

Shun Fake News!

The believer's standing with God can never be improved upon. This is because of the unique, holy history of Jesus of Nazareth in His doing, dying and rising again. His life and death are accepted by the Father as ours. When He was punished, we were punished. When He died, we died, When He arose, we arose. Now, because of the never to be repeated Christ event, our sins no longer come between God and us (Hebrews 10:14).

We should always shun Fake News.

And that's the Gospel Truth!