

The secular and the religious

Remember when musicians attended universities, and had degrees in music?

I believe the Holy Spirit moved these people, every now and again, to place lyrics in their songs, which point the listener to the truth; that their lives are ruled by sin and death. Groups like Genesis, Pink Floyd, Jethro Tull, Monty Python and many others, brought messages from the stage, which were worthy of any pulpit, God reaching out to the lost!

Jethro Tull produced a song called 'Locomotive breath'.

In the shuffling madness, of the locomotive breath,
Watch the all time loser, headlong to his death,
Well he feels the pistons scraping, steam breaking on his brow,
Oh, Charlie stole the handle, and the train it won't stop going, nor going to slow down.
(Jethro Tull - Locomotive breath)

That pretty well sums up life's goal-chasing hectic pace, don't you think?

What is the truth?

Pilate said to Him, "What is truth?" And when he had said this, he went out again to the Jews, and said to them, "I find no fault in Him at all." (Joh 18:38)

"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. He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God." (Joh 3:16-21)

What is God's will?

Then Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, Moses did not give you the bread from heaven, but My Father gives you the true bread from heaven. For the bread of God is He who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world." Then they said to Him, "Lord, give us this bread always." And Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst. But I said to you that you have seen Me and yet do not believe. All that the Father gives Me will come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out. For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me. This is the will of the Father who sent Me, that of all He has given Me I should lose nothing, but should raise it up at the last day. And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day." (Joh 6:32-40)

How can I recognise the spirit of the Antichrist?

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. (1Jo 4:1-6)

A man sees something in God's Word, picks out what he likes and ignores what he dislikes. He treats the Word of God like a spiritual buffet. He lays down his iron tracks of doctrine, leading out into the wilderness. Assembling others of like mind; they board their train, blow the whistle, shout 'All aboard', and depart from the Truth; leaving bystanders choking in a cloud of steam, sulphur and ash!

This week I watched two programs on satellite TV. I saw one ministry claiming to be preaching the truth, performing miracles, healing the sick, but denying God's Law! The second ministry also claimed to be preaching the truth, keeping the Sabbath and exalting the fruits of the Spirit; but then they attacked the first ministry by name! They claimed, that the working of miracles and speaking in tongues, was the work of satan? Which ministry is correct, and which is incorrect? They are both partially correct; but when they attack each another, they are definitely working for satan. Followers of both ministries will become offended by what is said, and their faith will be broken down. So where is the love? In the Book of Romans, Paul said the following:

"Who are you to judge another's servant? To his own master he stands or falls. Indeed, he will be made to stand, for God is able to make him stand." (Rom 14:4)

"So then each of us shall give account of himself to God. Therefore let us not judge one another anymore, but rather resolve this, not to put a stumbling block or a cause to fall in our brother's way." (Rom 14:13)

"But showing mercy to thousands, to those who love Me and keep My commandments." (Exo 20:6 and Deu 5:10)

"Therefore you shall keep My commandments, and perform them: I am the Lord. You shall not profane My holy name, but I will be hallowed among the children of Israel. I am the Lord who sanctifies you, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, to be your God: I am the Lord." (Lev 22:31-33)

"Therefore know that the Lord your God, He is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and mercy for a thousand generations with those who love Him and keep His commandments; and He repays those who hate Him to their face, to destroy them. He will not be slack with him who hates Him; He will repay him to his face. Therefore you shall keep the commandments, the statutes, and the judgments which I command you today, to observe them." (Deu 7:9-11)

Jesus said:

"Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled. Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men to do so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven." (Mat 5:17-20)

And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. And these signs will follow those who believe: In My name they will cast out demons; they will speak with new tongues; they will take up serpents; and if they drink anything deadly, it will by no means hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover." (Mar 16:15-18)

John said:

Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness. And you know that He was manifested to take away our sins, and in Him there is no sin. Whoever abides in Him does not sin. Whoever sins has neither seen Him nor known Him. Little children, let no one deceive you. He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous. He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purposes the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil. Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God. In this the children of God and the children of the devil are manifest: Whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is he who does not love his brother. (1Jo 3:4-10)

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. He who does not love does not know God, for God is love. In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation (*! payment*) for our sins. Beloved, if God so loved us, we also ought to love one another. (1Jo 4:7-11)

Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God, and everyone who loves Him who begot also loves him who is begotten of Him. By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God and keep His commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments. And His commandments are not burdensome. (1Jo 5:1-3)

"And the Lord your God will circumcise your heart and the heart of your descendants, to love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, that you may live." (Deu 30:6)

It is God's Word, that works in our hearts, so read your Bibles for the healing truth.

-oOo-