

Demonism (part 20)

(Continuation of the study of the ten ways Satan is effectively paving the way for the Antichrist)

#1, Globalism, One-World Order.

#2, Occultism.

#3, Apostasy.

#4, Worldwide Web.

#5, Animosity towards Israel.

#6, Buildup of the kings of the east, Asian power.

#7, Buildup of the king of the north, Russian power.

#8, Buildup of Europe (the European Common Market), the Revived Roman Empire.

#9, Preparation of the Jews to accept the False Prophet.

#10, Destruction of the United States.

(continuation of **#3 Apostasy [in Protestantism]**)

1. Apostasy in Protestantism is always marked by rejection of objective truth. In apostasy the *emphasis* is often on personal experience with God rather than objective orthodox truth of the Word of God. People in apostasy often speak of their relationship with God, but that relationship is based on their subjective experiences. Consider the Israelites who really believed they knew God as they sung His praises as they passed through the Red Sea:

Exodus 15:2 "The LORD is my strength and song, And He has become my salvation; This is my God, and I will praise Him; My father's God, and I will extol Him.

- m. However, the fact that the Lord said “they made for themselves a molten calf, and worshipped it, and sacrificed to it, and said ‘This is your god, O Israel who brought you up from the land of Egypt’ ” (Exod. 32:8) illustrates that they never knew God. For sure, they knew their emotions about God, and it was that “knowledge” that formed the basis of their reality. The truth, however, was that they never knew objective truth about God.

Hebrews 3:8 Do not harden your hearts as when they provoked Me, As in the day of trial in the wilderness, 9 Where your fathers tried Me by testing Me, And saw My works for forty years. **10 "Therefore I was angry with this generation, And said, 'They always go astray in their heart; And they did not know My ways';** 11 As I swore in My wrath, 'They shall not enter My rest.'"

- n. The most prevalent source of heresies in liberal and conservative protestant Christianity is idea that a personal *experience* about God means that the person is right with God. In apostasy, Christians are always connecting to feelings rather than objective orthodox Bible doctrine. We can see the results of this in that nearly every Christian church is filled with believers who do not understand or really believe in the orthodox doctrines of Christianity. Most have false views of the Trinity, the incarnation, and God’s sustaining activity in all of creation. Most Christians have heretical views about the nature of God. But this does not matter to them as long as “they live in His love and grace.” People love to come to church to hear about how God can help them psychologically and emotionally; they do not like or feel the need to learn orthodox doctrines on such things as the attributes of God. Most Christians are pagan with respect to their view of God. Most Christians do not want to think hard and accurately about the nature of God, and so we end up with anti-intellectual Christianity (which is an oxymoron). Is it no wonder that the modern world looks at Christians as a much of ninnies? God help us!
- o. Overview of heresies in liberal Protestantism:
- 1) Bibliology: The Bible is not inspired by God but rather the product of man’s insights into the spiritual realm.
 - 2) Hamartiology (Sin): There is no original sin. Man is not totally depraved. Man will evolve into perfection. Sin is relative, therefore we have to consider Joseph Fletcher’s “situation ethics.” The focus is on human “dignity” wrapped in Christian terminology. There is no need to confess personal sins before God.
 - 3) Christology (Christ): He was not divine. His death was an example of love, not an atonement. He is a big hero of sorts. He is my Buddy!

- 4) Soteriology (Salvation): Christians should follow Christ's example of good works and strive for social reform through the Social Gospel. The idea behind this is that if we can just fix the environment, then man will become a good person and productive member of society.
 - 5) Eschatology (future things): Liberal theologians are agnostic about the future. They postulate that somehow "good" will banish "evil" through human religious activity. They are often universalists who even hold out hope for Judas Iscariot. Apostate Christians are agnostic about the future.
 - 6) Evangelism. Missionaries should try to educate, not convert. People need to know that they are loved and accepted by God because of value in them. Ecumenical harmony should be sought among all persons of faith.
 - 7) Hodology (Christian life): We do not need Bible doctrine, for doctrine only divides. We need to just love God and have fellowship with Him. Orthodox doctrine is not important. Church is important to me *mainly* because it is a gathering of God's people celebrating Her love. The Christian life is all about accepting everyone and everything in love and just living for God. Doctrine is cold and hard and not that important.
- p. When antichrist comes, there will be massive apostasy throughout Christianity. God has seen fit to write down this warning for every believer.
- 2 Thessalonians 2:3 Let no one in any way deceive you, for it will not come unless the apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction,
- q. God always provides Truth for faithful believers. God always reserves a faithful remnant within Christianity. We have such believers at Faith Bible Church. As far as Faith Bible Church's commitment to the orthodox doctrines of Christianity, all one has to do is take a look at all the doctrines that we will be going through for several years on the left column on the second slide of every Bible class. All of this information may not make one feel warm and fuzzy, but it makes clear that we are on a trajectory of accurately understanding Bible doctrine.

Safe and Sound in Him,

Pastor Don