

## Fearful Deceptions That Are Entering The Church

'Our exhortation is not of error, nor of uncleanness, nor in deception, but as we have been approved by God to be entrusted with the Gospel so we speak; not to please men, but to please God, Who tests our hearts. Neither will we use words of flattery ... nor seek glory from men' (1 Thessalonians 2:3 to 6).

'As Jesus sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately saying, "Tell us, when will these things be? What is the sign of your coming, and of the end of the age?" Jesus answered, "Be careful no one deceives you, for many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Messiah,' and will lead many astray ... Many false prophets will arise, and will lead many astray ... If any man tells you, 'Behold, here is the Messiah,' or, 'He is there,' do not believe it. There will arise false Messiahs and false prophets and they will show great signs and wonders so as to lead astray, if possible, even the elect. Behold, I have told you beforehand'" (Matthew 24:3 to 5, 11, 23 to 25). We notice here, the very first thing Jesus warned His disciples about was deception and being led astray – and Jesus was warning the elect, not non-believers.

Jesus said, "Enter in (to heaven) by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction (eternal damnation) and many are those who enter in by it. How narrow is the gate and straitened is the way that leads to eternal life! Few are those who find it. Beware of false prophets who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are ravaging wolves. By their fruits you will know them ... Every tree that does not grow good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Therefore, by their fruits you will know them. Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter into the Kingdom of Heaven, but they who do the will of My Father Who is in heaven. Many will tell Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, in Your name cast out demons and in Your name do many mighty works?' Then I will tell them, 'I never knew you. Depart from Me, you who work iniquity'" (Matthew 7:13 to 23). "Many are called but few are chosen" (Matthew 22:14).

This study is distasteful but very necessary for this spiritually wobbly generation. Too many people are being led away from God and are in danger of losing their salvation, and too many church leaders are leading unsuspecting and trusting Christians into terrible deceptions. All over the world today, there is a wicked spirit of deception creeping into the churches as the leadership in some churches are giving in to lying and seducing spirits and being led astray – and leading thousands astray with them. It seems many people are not heeding the warnings Jesus gave us regarding deception. We want to reach into the hearts of our brothers and sisters in the faith and tear out the spirit of deception that is blinding them to the truth of what they are doing, the way they are behaving and the foolish things they believe. We desire to bring them back to the cross of Jesus. In this study we will look at some of those evil deceptions that are leading Christians away from the Word of God, which will in turn, lead them away from Jesus. Some Christian church leaders are denying Jesus is the Messiah. The evil spirit of antichrist is at work all over the world to lead as many away from Jesus as it can. We were warned about this but many people do not read the Bible enough to strengthen their faith and knowledge of what God expects of His people. We cannot have the opinion 'once saved, always saved'. The scriptures tell us two very important things. (1) We can lose our salvation if we turn away from the true Gospel (Colossians 1:22 & 23) and (2) we can preach the Gospel yet still be found unworthy of the Kingdom of God and be rejected (1 Corinthians 9:27).

We know we are living in the last days. Read the warnings of what would happen in the end times, and indeed is happening in the churches today. 'These are the end times, and as you heard that the antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have arisen. By this we know that it is the final hour. They went out from us, but they did not belong to us; for if they had belonged to us, they would have continued with us. But they left, that they might be revealed that none of them truly belonged to us' (1 John 2:18 & 19). Here we have a direct warning that the people who are leading Christians astray are revealed as being false Christians. They were never genuine.

We will read later in this study about church leaders who are denying that Jesus is the one and only Messiah. We were warned about that too. 'Who is the liar but he who denies that Jesus is the Messiah? This is the antichrist, he who denies the Father and the Son' (1 John 2:22). 'Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God or not, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit who confesses that Jesus the Messiah has come in the flesh is of God. Every spirit who does not confess that Messiah Jesus has come in the flesh is not of God, and this is the spirit of the antichrist, of whom you have heard that it will come. Now it is in the world already' (1 John 4:1 to 3). It is these false Christians who are leading masses of people into deception. If we change the word 'antichrist' to anti-Messiah, it will help us understand the hidden agenda behind the deceptions.

The standards of this world are lower than they have been since the days before Noah's flood. There is crime and rampant sexual sin everywhere, false Messiah's rise and fall, false prophets come and go but Jesus never changes nor does He compromise righteousness. Pastors and church leaders should be preaching about the high standards of God, but instead, many are compromising and accept the lower standards of the world and are sadly embracing them. They are preaching a 'watered down' version of salvation to keep people warm and cosy, and easily deceived. The lake of fire is not cosy; it is hot and dreadful beyond human comprehension and sadly, many deceived people will end up there. God has a very high standard for His sheep and we must raise our standard and live holy lives, not accept a lower worldly standard and expect God to bless us.

There are steps of choice we have to take towards heaven and those steps are laid down in the scriptures. To reach God's high standards, we must willingly turn to God and repent, then we are to show fruit worthy of a repentant person (Matthew 3:8). We must believe in salvation by faith by accepting the truth of the sacrifice Jesus made for us, then we must continue to live by faith (Hebrews 10:38). We must willingly be baptised in water by full immersion like Jesus was (Matthew 3:16). We must be filled with the Holy Spirit so He can guide us into all truth (John 16:13). We must consciously live and conduct ourselves in a holy manner, guided by the Word of God (1 Peter 1:15 & 16; Luke 4:4). We must become more like Jesus (1 John 3:2). We must have a humble heart and walk in the grace of God (James 4:6). We must believe Jesus is the one and only way to salvation (John 14:6). We must love and serve Him with all our hearts (Mark 12:30) and live a lifetime of serving and obeying God with our eyes on the ultimate 'prize' of living forever in the holy Kingdom of God after the First Resurrection (Revelation 20:6). We must not compromise our faith by being spiritually lukewarm; not walking with one foot in the Kingdom of Light and one foot in the kingdom of darkness because if we do, God will spit us out (Revelation 3:16). Those are God's steps to our salvation. Once we have met God's conditions, our names are written and recorded in God's Book of Life (Revelation 21:27). All people who do not follow the precise rules of salvation laid down in the scriptures and try to get into heaven by any other means, will have their names blotted out of the Book of Life (Psalm 69:28) and will be thrown into the lake of fire with the devil. Jesus said, "If anyone's name was not found written in the Book of Life, he was cast into the lake of fire" (Revelation 20:10 & 15). Jesus also said, "The cowardly, unbelieving, sinners, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters and all liars, their part is in the lake that burns with fire and sulphur, which is the second death" (Revelation 21:8). Jesus is the only way of salvation and He said, whosoever will, let him come, or whoever wants to, let him come (Revelation 22:17).

There are several strange things we need to be mindful of, that are happening in Christian churches around the world. One of the fastest growing religions in the world today is pseudo 'Christianity'. It is fake; it is false; a counterfeit. People involved in these deceptions claim to be Christians but they do not have a close and intimate relationship with God the Father by accepting the work of the cross of Jesus solely by faith. The pseudo Christians often dress, talk and behave like Christians but they are not true Christians. How can we distinguish between the fake and the genuine? Jesus said we would be able to distinguish them by their behaviour and spiritual fruit (Matthew 7:20). He will separate the wheat from the tares; the sheep from the goats. Jesus said, "The Kingdom of Heaven is like a farmer who sowed good seed in his field, but while His people slept (were complacent) his enemy came and sowed darnel or tares among the wheat and went away. When the plants sprouted and formed grain, the darnel also grew. The servants of the farmer came and asked him, 'Sir, did you not sow good seed in your field? Where did this darnel come from?' He answered, 'The enemy has done this.' The servants asked him, 'Do you want us to go and pull them up?' The farmer said, 'No, lest perhaps while you pull up the darnel, you root up the wheat with them. Let both grow together until the harvest, then I will tell the reapers, 'First, gather up the darnel and bind them in bundles to burn them; but gather the wheat into my barn'" (Matthew 13:24 to 30).

The Lord is allowing the false 'Darnel Christians' to grow with the 'Wheat Christians' right up until the darnel is taken away and burned in the eternal lake of fire. The significant thing about darnel is it resembles wheat in every way except when the ear of wheat is full of seed; the darnel is empty and can be crushed with the fingers. True Christians are full of spiritual seed that grows, while darnel Christians are void of spiritual growth and maturity. The enemy is putting the darnel Christians into the churches while the true Christians are 'sleeping' or being complacent, but in reality the darnel Christians are 'wolves' dressed in sheep's clothing (Matthew 7:15). They are planted there for one purpose: to devour and scatter the genuine sheep. 'The wolf snatches the sheep and scatters them' (John 10:12). However, Jesus knows who are His true sheep and as long as we keep our eyes on Him, He will remain our Shepherd and we will not be deceived by the 'wolves'. Jesus said, "I am the Good Shepherd. I know My sheep and I am known by My own sheep" (John 10:14).

Often 'Darnel Christianity' is associated with practices aligned with the Hindu religious offshoot of Kundalini. Rock music brings evil influences and deception, as do false doctrines, practices of false religions, cultish

behaviour, the adoration of celebrities, sexual sin, coercion, men who are controlling or forceful, 'Jezebel' domineering women who draw attention to themselves, usually with nastiness, a loud voice or both. We need to have the truth of the Bible imprinted in our minds every day to avoid being deceived. Anybody can be deceived, but if we focus on Jesus and the scriptures, then deception will be countered with the truth. We need to be so familiar with the Word of God, nothing will sway us. The Lord puts the responsibility of keeping our beliefs in line with the Gospel squarely on our shoulders. It is up to us to read the scriptures and seek the will and intentions of God, then He will keep us from falling (Jude 1:24).

A true follower of Jesus is a person who has repented of their sins, and keeps repenting of sin as the Lord reveals His divine nature more and more to that person through the Bible. A true Christian walks in complete submission to God and His will, following His ordinances written in the Word of God, and not in submission to any religion or wayward church. That definition alone will disqualify many who claim to be Christian. God's will for our lives is always written in the scriptures and we must never depart from that. We were warned; all those who genuinely want to follow Jesus will suffer persecution. Impostors (Darnel Christians) will become worse, deceiving and being deceived, but we must continue in the scriptures that are inspired by God so we can be complete and fully equipped for every good work God has for us to do (2 Timothy 3:12 to 17).

The adoration of celebrities causes people, especially young people, to look up to and admire famous people as idols instead of looking to Jesus as our one and only Godly human Role Model. We cannot love God to the degree He expects if our mind is on some famous person and most famous people, especially actors or those involved in the music industry, because many live wicked ungodly lives. They are not people to be admired. They are leading millions of young people astray. It is tragic to see millions of young girls around the world sobbing and screaming hysterically because a teenage boy band happens to be playing in a concert nearby. We need to realise most of those girls, unless they repent and walk with Jesus, will end up in the eternal lake of fire because they have made the celebrity their god. What is very sad, is the way evil, demonic music is accepted into churches as being normal. Rock music is not Godly – it is evil and encourages the influence of the enemy. There is no place in a genuine Christian church for any rock music. There can be no fellowship between God's sheep and the devil's music; between the Light of God and evil (2 Corinthians 6:14 to 18). One reason deception has crept into the church would be because of the influence of pagan and rock music in the church. Rock music brings an evil influence and those evil manifestations are a result of years of so called Christian rock music being played in the churches. Some churches have people playing bongo drums with a repetitive beat, and a song leader who makes repetitive weird noises or they sing one line over and over again creating a trance like state in the congregation. That is not worshipping God in the way He deserves our worship.

There is also no place in any church for sexual sin of any persuasion. It must be removed and the church cleansed. God's way is profound and His command is the final word; He created the sex act for married people – one man and one woman married to each other and nothing else is acceptable in the sight of God. Adultery and sin is sometimes manifest among the biggest leaders of this terrible New Age 'Darnel Christianity'. God said the marriage bed is to be kept holy and undefiled (Hebrews 13:4). Any person who accepts anything less than God's holy standard for mankind is considered wicked and depraved (Romans 1:26 to 32). Sexual sin is not love, it is lust. True love, the kind of love we have from God is pure, holy and merciful and must not be confused with sexual depravity. God's love brings us to repentance from sin, it does not justify sin. The Lord is adamant, only people who have repented and are living pure lives will get to heaven. 'Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit the Kingdom of God? Do not be deceived, the sexually immoral, idolaters, adulterers, prostitutes, homosexuals, thieves, the greedy and covetous, drunkards, slanderers and extortioners will never inherit the Kingdom of God' (1 Corinthians 6:9 & 10).

There are some high profile church ministers and television evangelists who are preaching the untrue line that every person will be going to heaven no matter what they have done or how evil their lives are. That is a false doctrine; it is deceptive and is opposite to what the scriptures say. Those same tele-evangelists are also saying, Jesus is not the only way to heaven. That is not the truth and is a false doctrine. The scriptures make it clear that in order for anyone to get into heaven we must take the way that God set down for us and there is no other way to heaven except through Jesus. Jesus said, "Do not let your hearts be troubled (by the truth of this statement). Believe in God. Believe also in Me ... I am going to prepare a place for you ... I am the Way, the Truth and the Life. No one comes to the Father except through Me" (John 14:1 to 6). 'There is salvation in no other, for neither is there any other Name under heaven that is given to man, by which we must be saved' (Acts 4:12). If people want to go to heaven, they have to go through Jesus. That is the way of salvation God chose for mankind and nobody should teach people otherwise. It does not matter where people are born or what religion they have been raised in, if they want to get into heaven, they need to accept Jesus is our One and only Saviour, our Messiah and our Lord, and they must do things God's way.

Another false doctrine we need to be aware of is ungodly people who are trying to merge genuine belief in Jesus to unbelieving false religions. They have the concept that Christianity is the same as all other religions. That is so wrong! Christianity, in essence, began when God chose an ancient Hebrew tribe to be His witnesses to the world and to show the world Who our Saviour is (Isaiah 43:10 to 12). He chose them because He loved them more than any other race of people (Deuteronomy 7:6 to 8). The Hebrew tribes became the Jews, called that after the tribe of Judah and God chose the Jews to bring salvation to the whole world (John 4:22). Judah's father Jacob was renamed Israel by God Himself (Genesis 35:10). Jesus was Jewish from the tribe of Judah (Hebrews 7:14). Jesus was chosen to be our Saviour from the foundation of the world (1 Peter 1:19 & 20). Jesus started the very first Christian church meeting and fellowship the day after the Sabbath when He rose from the dead and met with His disciples. He told them to baptise people and continue to teach what He had taught them, and to do the same miracles He did (Matthew 28:16 to 20; Mark 16:14 to 20; Luke 24:30 to 53; John chapters 20 & 21). Judaism did not cease when the early church began. The only major change was the animal sacrifices had to be stopped because Jesus was the ultimate Sacrificial Lamb. Initially, all the Jewish feasts were included in the early church until anti-Semitic people attempted to remove all trace of the Jews from Christianity. The facts written within the four Gospels set Christianity apart from any other religion. No other religion has a miracle-working Saviour. No other religion has a Son of God Who humbly died for our sins and rose from the dead to continue preaching. No other Godly religion began in antiquitous times although many pagan religions did. No other religion has hundreds of detailed prophecies about the coming of the Messiah, written and recorded a few thousand years before the Messiah arrived on earth, and He meets every criterion. No other religion has prophecies that have come true and are being fulfilled through to our present day. No other religion has a loving Holy Spirit who communicates with us on a personal level. No other religion has a miracle working God Who heals us, body, soul, mind, emotion and restores our lives, no matter how many stupid things we have done to mess it up. Christianity is set apart and cannot be compared to or merged with false religions. Christianity is not a religion – it is a way of life; it is living in harmony with our Creator Father and His Son Yeshua (Jesus) as we are guided by the Holy Spirit. Jesus' miracle birth, His life, ministry, crucifixion, resurrection and total supremacy are central to our faith. No false religion on earth has these things.

Another deception within some churches is claiming the Bible is not all true. The Bible is not a book of myths. Every word written in the scriptures is inspired by God (2 Timothy 3:16). Just like a typist types up what has been dictated to them by their employer, so the Prophets and the Apostles wrote what God told them to write and there are many verses throughout the Bible that say God told them to write, word for word what He was saying to them. If we refuse to believe what the Bible says, then we are in effect calling God a liar. He said every word was inspired by Him and because He said that, then for our own sake, we must believe it. We cannot afford to reject the Word of God. It is all true and has His stamp of approval and His authority. Jesus gave us authority over all that the devil had (Luke 9:1 & 10:19), and we have permission to take that authority and use it to further the Kingdom of God, and to protect ourselves and our families from spiritual attack. Jesus said, "Whoever listens to you listens to Me. Whoever rejects you rejects Me. Whoever rejects Me rejects He who sent me" (Luke 10:16). If people reject the Word then they are rejecting God. If they reject God then they are destined for the lake of fire unless they repent and turn away from sin. How can anyone claim to be a believer yet not believe every Word in the Bible? We must not be deceived. God has spoken to us by dictating His thoughts to the Old Testament prophets who wrote everything down as God told them to, so we have God's words, as He uses written words in the human Hebrew language – a pure language. What God says in His Word tells us about Him, His plans for heaven, earth and mankind. Jesus taught us with the spoken word in Hebrew, that was then written down for us to learn from and follow. God called out, "This is My beloved Son, listen to Him" (Luke 9:35), so why do Darnel Christians not listen to Jesus? Jesus Himself is the Word of God and so anyone who disbelieves one single Word in the Bible, is telling Jesus He is a liar. 'In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word is God' (John 1:1). Do people not realise His blood still stains His clothes? 'The testimony of Jesus is the Spirit of Prophecy ... His name is the Word of God and His garments are stained with His blood' (Revelation 19:10 & 13).

There are a few ministers of religion who are agnostic or atheist. God says people who do not believe He exists are fools and are wicked. 'The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt and have done abominable iniquity. There is no one (who has this attitude) who does good' (Psalm 14:1; 53:1). If people choose to be atheists, then on Judgement day they will certainly find out God is real and He is not pleased with their attitude towards Him. Some ministers do not believe there is life after death. It is amazing that these people can go through a theologian college and still have an unbelieving heart. What is the point of being a Christian church minister if they do not believe in Jesus Who was the founder of Christianity? The answer to that is this: the devil is a religious being and when he possesses the mind of an unsaved person, a religious evil spirit can overcome them. They can act, speak and behave like a Christian but never truly commit themselves to serving God, but rather they become spiritually empty religious people who lead others astray. When they preach the Gospel, it is a severely watered down and distorted version of the

Gospel and many of the flock of such ministers remain carnal and unsaved. Genuine Christians would not stay in a church led by such people.

Jesus had a lot to say to unbelieving 'shepherds', condemning them to a terrible eternity. Read all of Matthew chapter 23 to see what Jesus thinks of church leaders who refuse to believe in Him and obey the scriptures. Here are just a few verses: verse 3 to 6; Do whatever they tell you but do not do their works for they say but do not do. They bind heavy burdens that are grievous to be borne and lay them on men's shoulders, but they themselves will not lift a finger to help. All their works are done to be seen by men. They love the place of honour, the best seats, the salutations and to be called 'Rabbi' (Reverend or Father) by men ... Verse 9; Call no man on the earth Father (in the sense of a deity), for One is your Father, He Who is in heaven ... Verses 12 to 17; Whoever exalts himself will be humbled and whoever humbles himself will be exalted ... Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees (ministers of religion), hypocrites! For you devour widows' houses and as a pretence you make long prayers. Therefore you will receive greater condemnation. Woe to you hypocrites because you shut up the Kingdom of Heaven against men. You do not enter in yourselves, neither do you allow those who are entering in to enter. Woe to you hypocrites! For you travel around by sea and land to make one convert and when he becomes one, you make him twice as much of a son of Gehenna as yourselves. Woe to you, you blind guides. You blind fools! ... Verses 23 to 33; Woe to you hypocrites! For you tithe but have left undone the important matters: justice, mercy and faith. You ought to have done these but not to have left the others undone. You blind guides, who strain out an insect and swallow a camel (an unclean animal). Woe to you hypocrites! You are full of extortion and unrighteousness. Woe to you hypocrites! You are like white washed tombs, which outwardly appear beautiful, but inwardly are full of dead men's bones and of all uncleanness. You outwardly appear to be righteous men, but inwardly you are full of hypocrisy and iniquity. Woe to you hypocrites! You serpents, you offspring of vipers, how will you escape the judgment of Gehenna?'

Many religious ministers are seen by others as men of good character but God sees the thoughts and intentions of their heart (Hebrews 4:12) and they fall into the category of the scribes and Pharisees. 'For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers masquerading as Jesus' apostles. And no wonder, for even Satan masquerades as an angel of Light. It is no surprise therefore, if his servants also masquerade as servants of righteousness, whose end will be according to their works' (2 Corinthians 11:13 to 15). 'Because they know God and they did not glorify Him as God, nor gave Him thanks but became vain (stupid) in their reasoning, their senseless heart was darkened. They professed to be wise but they became fools' (Romans 1:21 & 22).

When we come into the Kingdom of God at the time we are born-again, we enter into a supernatural realm. Our human spirit is saved by supernatural means. God is Spirit and when we commit our lives to Him, we accept a spiritual transformation from the spiritual kingdom of darkness into the Spiritual Kingdom of Light, which is also called the Kingdom of God, the Kingdom of Heaven and the Kingdom of the Son (Colossians 1:13). From the time we enter into the spiritual realm, we have supernatural events that in time, become commonplace the closer we walk with God and the longer we walk with Him. There is however, a demonic counterfeit for everything God has. There are false religions, there can be false visions, false sightings, false tongues, false spiritual awareness and strange occurrences. We need to be very careful that what we are doing and seeing is from God. There are some criteria we need to look at. If the thing, sighting or occurrence is from God it will always result in several simultaneous things; it should glorify God (1 Peter 4:11), it should exalt Jesus (Philippians 2:9), it should bring peace and joy (Romans 14:19; Acts 13:52), it should be orderly and wise (1 Corinthians 14:40; Ephesians 5:15), it should bring unity and edify the body (Romans 14:19; 1 Corinthians 12:25) and it should come with gentleness and wisdom (James 3:13). If any of these criteria are lacking, then it is not from God. The Lord, Who is Wisdom (Isaiah 11:2), does not use gimmicks to entice people. Jesus is our example and we need to look to His ministry to see if what we are doing corresponds to what He did when He was on earth. God wants us to believe in Jesus as our only source of salvation for no other reason than that is the truth. We must love and adore Jesus because He is God and the Rock of our Salvation. God does not want us to follow Jesus to become wealthy or to have supernatural powers or any other reason (Acts 8:18 to 23). God is a true and utter Gentleman Who has created for Himself a body of believers, and He never does things that demean His body. We need to test every spirit to see if it comes from God or not and we need to exercise discernment in these last days (Hebrews 5:14). Here are some examples of unwise, foolish things that are happening in churches today that never happened when Jesus was on earth, so they must be rejected as being unscriptural.

One strange occurrence that happens is the so-called 'gold dust' that falls down into congregations. It is not real gold but can only be called 'fools' gold and is useless. Jesus never called down gold dust from heaven as a gimmick to entice people to believe in Him or to adore Him. Gold represents money and we are told, 'The love of money is the root of many evils and some have been led astray from the faith because of greed

... but you, man of God, flee these things and follow after righteousness' (1 Timothy 6:10 & 11). For that reason alone we need to reject this counterfeit phenomenon. It comes from the Hindu cult of Kundalini and is therefore caused by a false spirit. If your church is experiencing this strange thing, there is only one course of action the genuine Christian can take. First warn the pastor the church is sliding into paganism and if he refuses to listen then it would be wise to leave the church. It is the beginning of trouble for that church.

A terrible and dangerous false doctrine is the one called the 'Emerging Church' or the 'Emergent Church'. It is not one church fellowship but a group of churches under that banner. Emergent Church claims to be Christian but it is not. They actually reject Biblical Christianity. They do not believe the Bible is the authoritative Word of God and they do not believe in hell or the eternal lake of fire. They do not believe in the upcoming judgement of the whole earth. They believe the cross of Jesus is offensive. They discourage rational thinking and spiritual discernment. They believe in the spiritual experiences more than they believe in the scriptures, embracing eastern mystical practices that are not found in the Bible. They do not believe Jesus died on the cross to bring forgiveness of sin and healing to our whole being. They are preaching a different Gospel and woe to anyone who preaches a different Gospel and perverts the true Gospel for they bring a curse down upon themselves (Galatians 1:6 to 9). These false teachings are entering churches, Christian colleges and schools, defiling our Christian youth. It is called post-modern theology and will end up entering our mainstream churches, leading millions to hell. Post-modern theology teaches an imaginary theology – not a scriptural theology.

The Emergent Church does not believe we have the absolute truth of the Bible. They teach life is only about what we feel, experience and can relate to or what people can imagine. They teach they can have the God they imagine He is – not the God Who is both love and judgement as the Bible teaches. They believe the future of mankind is what people imagine, not the future as the Bible teaches where few will end up with God in the Kingdom and most will end up in the eternal lake of fire as the Bible clearly teaches. We are watching a whole generation of people being destroyed by this erroneous teaching. The people are experiencing spiritual manifestations they believe are from God, but are in reality from the devil. They have no defence against evil spirits because they live in their world of fantasy, prosperity and the belief in a 'rapture'. We must meet God on His terms, He does not have to meet us on our terms. We must live by faith as God graciously meets us and changes our lives and renews our minds. God gave us discernable boundaries for the Christian to walk within; boundaries that please God. The Emergent Church has removed those boundaries so those half-believing Christians can live their lives as they choose. That is rebellion and will bring judgement, not salvation and will not show the grace of God that saves souls. The early church was born by a mighty supernatural work of God through Jesus, Who then passed the mandate onto the apostles. We must live by the teachings of Jesus. People have to repent of believing vain (worthless) things. The authority of the Word of God is being undermined while imaginings and sensual experiences are being promoted as the way to experience God.

Many church leaders from the Emergent Church are saying we need to reinvent Christianity to reach the post-modern generation. They are creating alternatives to Biblical Christianity. They believe truth is subjective and therefore relative. They deny the absolute truth of the scriptures. They have exchanged a rational Christianity to an irrational Christianity that is subjective to their own experiences. The Emergent Church also calls itself the 'Ancient Future Faith' movement. The Emergent Church say all religions have truth and so the church is taking those eastern practices and embracing them. They have introduced rituals, techniques, litanies, spiritualities, prayer alters, candles, incense, little bells and other pagan items that are part of idol worship, and have introduced ancient philosophies like yoga and other third world pagan practices. Jesus never spoke about walking a prayer labyrinth, prayer wheels or prayer beads. In fact He strongly spoke against such things (Matthew 6:7 & 8). These things do not come from the Bible and are not New Testament church practices but are being embraced by the Emergent Church. If there is someone who is attending an Emergent Church, you will need to warn the pastor and if he refuses to listen, then it is better to leave the church for one that lives by the Word of God.

Many people who want a Christian experience are not interested in studying the Bible, but prefer to sensualise God by eastern and occultic practices. Their teaching, that all people are innately good is opposite to what the Bible says. God says the hearts of mankind is evil. They do not think of Jesus as a Person or Saviour, to them He is a 'spiritual' state of being. They think Jesus is the way to their 'awakened' self. They think Jesus came to show us our divinity, not to save us from our sinfulness. They think we can all aspire to become gods. That is the Hindu and Buddhist concepts of God – a God of mystical experiences and meditation. They believe we are all divine and have to 'experience' it. They also believe in reincarnation, which is opposite to what the scriptures say. These beliefs were once accepted as being blasphemous but are now accepted as the 'new' Christianity. They think contemplative prayer brings them to a deeper consciousness, denying good and evil as being genuine Kingdom entities. They believe the Kingdom of God

and the kingdom of darkness as being one. That belief goes back centuries in false religions. It dates back to the nomadic 'desert fathers', as a way to know God at a deeper level. They take a Christian word and repeat it over and over until they fall into a trance and they come out of the trance in the same mindset as people who do yoga or transcendental meditation. Those ideas and practices take people away from the truth of the Bible – the Word of God. Christians have to base their faith on what the Bible says, not on mystical experiences that will lead them into the realm of the kingdom of darkness. Christians have to have faith in the Bible and non-Christians have to hear the Word of God through genuine Christian teaching. Faith comes by hearing and by hearing the Word of God (Romans 10:17). Some pastors have a program of secular marketing practices to entice people to join their church, instead of teaching their congregations to be disciples, and for those disciples to then go out and bring in more disciples. The Emergent Church are doing things completely opposite to what the Bible teaches.

There are bizarre accounts of angels appearing to some church leaders, even though we know the devil can appear as an angel of Light. Some church leaders have what they believe to be an angel that is leading them, almost like a 'pet' angel or 'spirit guide' with non-scriptural names. There are people who claim to be able to see angels in the congregations but these so-called angels are silent and do nothing. Real angels bring with them a sense of awe and fear of the Lord and only come when the Lord asks them to. They do not appear to pastors who are walking in deception unless the angel has come to rebuke that pastor for spiritual foul play. Angels occasionally appear to genuine believers but it is for a specific purpose and they speak in our language, whatever language we speak, to relay a message from God. Sometimes angels can join in with praise and worship and they sing in the Holy Spirit. Angels are ministering spirits sent by God to minister to His people and that is their role in our world (Hebrews 1:14). When they are sent to us by God to bring a message, they are not silent. For people to 'see' angels who stand silently, then they are not seeing angels sent from God. Either they are seeing them through their own imaginations or the angels are evil. The devil was once a beautiful cherub and can appear as beautiful as an angel of Light. If he can do that, so can his spiritual cohorts. We must test every spirit to see if it is from God or not. If it is not from God we must rebuke it and send it away.

Well known tele-evangelists and pastors are holding huge meetings in the US; huge meetings influenced with appalling actions of drunkenness they say is being 'in the spirit'. The scriptures tell us not to act that way, but church leaders are to be holy, sober-minded, exercise self-control, remain faithful to the Word and set a good example of Christian life (Titus 1:8 & 9; 2:2 & 7). But instead, they are behaving like unruly men, full of verbal nonsense and deceivers (Titus 1:10). One foolish pastor said he was a Holy Ghost bartender, laying hands on people imparting to them this false anointing they call 'fire'. Preachers have been filmed acting drunk on stage, laying hands on, and imparting a spirit of drunkenness and uncontrolled laughter into unsuspecting parishioners. The alarming fact is, many young people who have not known God and therefore have not been able to learn discernment are being sucked into this terrible deception. They mimic the act of smoking hallucinogenic drugs and getting 'high'. They then call it 'the glory' or 'the vibrating'. That is utter blasphemy.

False spirits are invading the church. They are very similar to Hinduism, New Age and Eastern religions. For sixteen or seventeen years we have had the worst demonic invasion in church history. This is alarming and disturbing. The church leaders have a 'fire tunnel' where people have multiple hands laid on them as they walk through the 'tunnel' and have the false anointing imparted to them. They come out of the 'tunnel' and start falling down, acting drunk, laughing hysterically, shaking uncontrollably, jerking backwards and forwards, screaming, lying on the floor writhing like snakes, they run into walls, sob, roll around the floor, roar like lions, bark or howl like dogs, chirp like monkeys and make other animal noises. They mimic the actions of the animal like bouncing up and down like a monkey or walking on hands and knees like an animal walks on four legs, or making strange guttural noises and it is all uncontrollable. Some people fall into a sleepy, trance-like state. They are overtaken by the evil spirits that are imparted to them and the evil spirits manifest themselves by forcing the person to perform uncontrolled actions as listed above. That is the behaviour of a demonised person and Jesus never let that happen when he was on earth. That behaviour is not from God so we need to reject it because they are making a mockery of the pure salvation message and God will withdraw His blessing. One church that is beginning to accept this false anointing that starts with the so-called gold dust, allowed one woman to repeatedly shout out, "Coo-ee," pretending to be calling Christians to serve God. Her behaviour brought the presence of God and the worship in that service to a complete halt. After several minutes of the woman's calling out, people started to walk out of the church. She had destroyed the whole service. Clearly that behaviour is not of God. One such man in his twenties, formerly a committed Christian, came out of a church service like that so possessed by the devil, he tried to have his genuine Christian mother murdered twice and even went to the local police station to tell them of his intention. He said he wanted to slit his mother's throat and spray her blood all over their house. The mother had to flee for

her life and is still in hiding after over five years. That is what is happening to the minds of the people who take part in these 'Darnel Christian' deceptions.

All these manifestations are happening in churches around the world today. It has been a worldwide invasion of evil. Many churches in the charismatic movement are into this false anointing and it became a worldwide sensation in just a couple of years. These manifestations are exactly the same as what happens in Eastern religions and they are not found in the Bible anywhere. In the Kundalini cult, hands are laid on a person and they are infused with feelings of love, joy and peace mimicking the Holy Spirit. They call it a 'Kundalini Awakening' and is exactly the same as what is invading the churches and it is a false spirit. One of the ways to see if this is of God or not, is the way kriyas (pronounced creers) overtake a person. The person has no control over the constant involuntary jerking motions that overtakes them and the Lord God never does that. The kriyas exhibited by the Christians attending the churches with the false anointing, are exactly the same as kriyas exhibited by the people who are involved in Hinduism. The church leaders who are involved in this false anointing (and their wives – it is a spiritual thing) have strange 'visions' that they share with the deceived, often while shaking uncontrollably with the same spasmodic kriyas. This is one of the clearest signs of Kundalini. Kundalini is a false Holy Spirit producing miracles and healings, feelings of love, power, energy and warm emotions but it is in no way holy. These churches encourage people to writhe around the floor and screech in loud, strange laughter. The Lord never does anything we cannot control. When we joyfully laugh in the presence of God, we are in control of the laughing and can stop at any time.

There are ministers who kick or slap people as they go to the front of the church for prayer and there are ministers who forcibly shove people over backwards when they are standing there waiting for prayer for healing. Jesus never did that. He was always kind and loving towards people who needed healing. He showed them God's love, not a violent hand. We need to be the same as Jesus. When people come for healing, we need to be gentle and show them the love of God. There are occasions when the power of God overcomes us and we become weak at the knees, sometimes needing to lie on the floor for a short time, but when God chooses to do that, we do not need anybody to shove us over. The Holy Spirit does that without anyone being near us. Sometimes the slightest touch on the head of a genuine man of God is enough for the power of God to surge through our being and bring a supernatural weakness for a short time, but there should never be violence, shouting or a heavy hand.

In the church services the 'darnel pastors' keep calling out, 'we worship you' and 'fire' but whom are they worshipping and what fire are they calling for? They operate in trances, so called ecstatic prayers, levitations, out of body experiences, mysticism, astral travel, stigmata, gold dust falling from the ceiling, yoga and of course they call the manifestations different names to the New Age movement but the practices are exactly the same. Sometimes a church leader will repeatedly call out 'fire' while the people are writhing around and screaming, but all he is doing is calling down false fire from heaven (Numbers 26:61). We could not possibly take unsaved people or children to churches where people are rolling around screaming. God never tells us to do that. Does that behaviour glorify the Lord of glory, or edify the saints or build up the church, which is the body of Jesus? A true Godly ministry does not have people rolling around howling. To attribute these evil things to God is blasphemy and these people are mocking God. These manifestations destroy churches and delude people. Some emotional wounds inflicted on unsuspecting young people may never be healed. The Holy Spirit is a thorough Gentleman and never demeans the Lord's people by making them act in the manner described above. It is the devil who does that.

Why are the Christians giving themselves over to the opposite of scripture? All of the above deceptions are put there by the devil to lead people astray; away from the scriptural faith given to us by our Lord and Saviour Jesus. Many people who promote the above deceptions are well intentioned but are badly deceived. We must preach the whole Gospel including the truth about Judgement Day and God's discipline, but there is also the love, grace, mercy, comfort during difficult seasons and of course, the Kingdom of God. 'I command you before God and the Lord Jesus Who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His Kingdom: preach the Word with urgency; reprove, rebuke and exhort, with all patience and teaching, for the time will come when they will not listen to sound doctrine but having itchy ears, will heap up for themselves teachers after their own lusts and will turn away their ears from the Truth and turn aside to myths and fables (and we can include false doctrines and theories). Be sober in all things, suffer hardship, do the work of an evangelist and fulfil your ministry' (2 Timothy 4:1 to 5).

Why are we seeing the evil manifestations in the church? Why do these pastors not come against such evil things lurking around and devouring the unsuspecting? Clearly, some of the top leaders of the Pentecostal movement lack discernment. Hundreds of charismatic leaders all over the world are making the conscious decision to bring this rot into the church, and to endorse and transfer the rot into their own flock. This is one of the most disturbing movements the church has ever seen. These pastors deliberately brought it into the

church. We need more grounded leaders in the church who will take no part in such evil. We need to be filled with the love and the holiness of God. The charismatic and Pentecostal movement should have shut it out immediately, but sadly, people started coming from all over the world to receive the impartation of that false spirit. It is repeated in hundreds of churches around the world wherever that false anointing went. If anybody questions what they are doing, they are branded religious Pharisees, yet the Bible tells us to test every spirit to see if it from God and to use our discernment.

We must not go to the other extreme where we will not accept any prophecies, miracles, tongues or other aspects of God. We need to understand that God is a supernatural Spiritual being and to walk with Him we sometimes encounter the supernatural, but we must exercise wisdom and discernment to see if the supernatural thing is from God or not. God does do holy miracles and other supernatural things but they are always peaceful and holy. Healings and miracles are accompanied by our walk with God and we must walk in harmony and scriptural balance. We must learn to be New Testament people, sober and vigilant. The Bible warns against deception, false messiahs, seducing spirits, perilous times, lying signs and wonders. We need sobriety, being alert and watchful. The Bible says to be sober, vigilant and not to act drunk. The churches that are in error are promoting false signs and wonders, promoting actions of drunkenness when we are told to be sober. They are giving people false spiritual experiences. Jesus said to watch because if we are not careful, the very elect themselves will be deceived (Matthew 24:24). If the practices look like they are from an Eastern religion we must stay clear of it. When a secular television station asked for just three miracles that came out of a church in America that is heavily involved in this movement, they could not find one genuine miracle of healing, because it is all false. Normal common sense should tell us this is all wrong – spiritual discernment should confirm it.

Jesus warned us there would be confusion, catastrophic events, false messiahs and lies in the church, yet these pastors are openly promoting exactly what Jesus warned us about. Christians must keep the Gospel at the forefront of all our teaching. True genuine Christians believe in Jesus as the one and only Messiah and the only way to eternal life with God. We look forward to His return to earth and we must be ready. Other religions do not have that belief and are looking for false messiahs. The only one that will fit their criteria is the antichrist spirit. The Emergent Church believe we can eliminate all the poverty and hunger of the world. It is true that Christians should help the poor and the needy but it is not the Gospel of salvation, it is part of the Christian walk. The Gospel of salvation is what saves us forever. The false gospel of the Emergent Church teaches people they must save only the human life and not even try to save the soul for eternity. Our lives on this earth are short compared to eternity in the lake of fire.

We must make one thing very, very clear ... none of the above deceptions bring revival to the church. The opposite is happening. They are demeaning the pure salvation message, bringing scorn to the church and causing the unsaved to blaspheme and mock, turning hearts away from Jesus, causing irreversible damage to lives of people and will bring severe judgement on the church leaders who knowingly participate in this evil. Any pastor who believes these carnal things will ever bring revival is a fool. True revival brings people to repentance and they follow the salvation path as outlined above. They grow in grace and in the Lord; they spend a lot of time in prayer and in the scriptures, they are healed emotionally, spiritually and physically, they become disciples and use discernment and their stand in God is sure and immovable. They will not be moved or deceived because they adhere to the scriptures! That is revival and that is what the world needs.

There have been two strains of Christianity operating side by side for the last 2,000 years – the wheat Christians and the darnel Christians. There are the genuine believers who put God first in their lives and live within the boundaries of the whole Bible. Then there is the false apostate church following doctrines of demons with a false holy spirit and false teachings. It was not only Jesus Who warned us not to listen to such things, the Holy Spirit warned us too. “The Holy Spirit says expressly, that in latter times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to seducing spirits and doctrines of demons through the hypocrisy of men who speak lies, seared in their own conscience as with a hot iron” (1 Timothy 4:1 & 2). Jesus said to leave the two types of Christians to grow together and the false church will be pulled up and thrown into the fire. Anybody who participates in the above practices in the name of the Lord will be in danger of losing their salvation.

For a little while, imagine yourself standing at the cross of Jesus Who had been starved and tortured, Who was terribly dehydrated and suffering intense agony, Who had been mocked and ridiculed. Think about this with the image of Jesus in mind; would God allow Him to be mocked again by the carnal behaviour of people who claim to be His followers and not do something about it? We need to remember that God said, “Do not be deceived. God will not be mocked!” (Galatians 6:7). Does Jesus not deserve the deepest respect from people who claim to be His? Anyone who behaves in the sinful ways mentioned above could not, in all

reality, be genuine. People need to take a good look at what Jesus went through for us, and anyone who makes light of His suffering is not His true disciple.

If anyone has been behaving in any of the carnal ways mentioned in this Bible study, they need to seek God about their walk with Him and repent of such actions. Occasionally, when a demon is being cast out of a person they might behave like that, but nobody in their right mind should act that way in the House of God. A church should be a holy place of prayer and worship, and that wicked behaviour brings the holiness of the church down to a low level. It should never be allowed and the pastors should rebuke and muzzle the demons like Jesus did when they screamed out. If your pastor allows the abhorrent behaviour as described in this Bible study, you need to warn him, prayerfully and in love then give your pastor time to pray and repent, but if he will not listen to you, then it would be better to leave the church than to be dragged into hell with the rest of the congregation. Do not let your pastor intimidate you. The only One you need to be afraid of is God. 'Do not be afraid of those who kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul. Rather, fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in Gehenna (the eternal lake of fire)' (Matthew 10:28).

'Those who heed the Word of God find prosperity. Whoever trusts in the Lord is blessed' (Proverbs 16:20). "Behold, I (Jesus) come quickly. Blessed are those who keep the Words of the prophecy of this Book" (Revelation 22:7).

Amen and God bless you.

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