

Believing Error Condemns the Soul

How many professed Christians really know what is being taught in their denomination? Does it matter what a man believes as long as he “believes in God”? Why even ask about what one believes? The proposition of this article is that the Bible teaches that to hold error and to transgress doctrine condemns the soul to eternal damnation. Note the following texts from Holy Writ.

A Timeless Warning !

“Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves” (Mat. 7:15). Why did Christ warn His disciples about false prophets? Does this verse imply that some professed prophets do not teach the truth and are to be avoided? Compare Romans 16:17-18: “Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them. For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple.” This text explicitly implies several things. First, there are those who do not teach the truth. Second, sound doctrine can be learned as to avoid error. And third, those who listen to error are deceived, therefore lost.

Practice Must Follow Profession !

“Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven: but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven” (Mat. 7:21). Does this verse teach that just because one calls Jesus “Lord” does not guarantee entrance to heaven? It does. This, then, implies that one must do His will, and must therefore know it. Many false prophets talk about finding God’s “will for one’s life.” The will to be found is the one left by revelations (Heb. 9:15-17; 2 Pet. 3:9). God has already revealed His will for man. Those who do not do it are lost.

The One Gospel Must Be Obeyed !

“And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned” (Mark 16:15-16). [The necessary implications of this text are that something called the “gospel” is to be preached, and only those who believe it and are baptized shall be saved. The phrase, “the gospel” means there is only one. People who believe anything else are lost.

Man Can Know and Must Do God’s Will !

“And he said also to the people, When ye see a cloud rise out of the west, straightway ye say, There cometh a shower; and so it is. And when ye see the south wind blow, ye say, There will be heat; and it cometh to pass. Ye hypocrites, ye can discern the face of the sky and of the earth; but how is it that ye do not discern this time? Yea, and why even of yourselves judge ye not what is

right?” (Luke 12:54-57). Jesus condemned those of His day who did not understand Old Testament prophecy and His teaching. It is necessarily implied here that man can and is required to know that which is right.

“He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day” (John 12:48). The only record of Jesus’ teaching is in the New Testament. Those who do not receive those words, that is, those same words, will be judged by His Word anyway. One, therefore, must know what lie taught and obey it. No other teaching will suffice.

“Who shall tell thee words, whereby thou and all thy house shall be saved” (Acts 11:14). Peter’s sermon to Cornelius was in words, whereby a salvation could be achieved. Suppose Peter spoke the wrong words, what would have been the result?

A Perverted Message Denies Bible Authority !

“But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed” (Gal. 1:8). The apostle Paul, who under inspiration penned the Galatian epistle, only knew one message. His direst command was not to depart from it. Why?

Abiding In Truth Blesses the Soul !

“Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into *your* house, neither bid him God speed” (2 John 9-10).

One can go beyond the doctrine, and those who do are not to be invited into one’s house. Why? Is unsound doctrine destructive to the soul? The only answer must be in the affirmative. Honest seekers of truth who believe in biblical authority will recognize that what is believed is eternally important to the soul.

“Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, *then* are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free” (John 8:31-32).

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