

OPPOSING SOMETHING? Continued from page 1

God, through Paul, says you cannot be for Christ without opposing Belial. You cannot be for righteousness without opposing darkness, etc.

He mentions some examples of what he is talking about. He condemns those who would “oppose modern translations of the Bible and use only those authorized by God: The King James and the American Standard.” He has begged the question. The real question, or problem, is can we be for God’s Word without opposing the perversion of that Word? Those who “oppose modern translations of the Bible” do so because modern translations pervert God’s Word. Under the guise of a Bible, they write creed books. The NIV teaches salvation by faith only (Rom. 1:16), premillennialism (Acts 3:21), and total depravity (Psa. 51:5; Rom. 7). Anyone who loves the truth must hate the perversion of that truth and oppose that perversion.

He mentions that to “be regarded as spiritual” he must be against Crossroadism and the Boston church philosophy. Again we should see the real question. Can we be for the church without being against those who would destroy the church? The Boston/Crossroads movement has destroyed, divided, and damaged the Lord’s beautiful bride for years. If a person wants to be for the church, he must be against this insidious movement, as he would oppose anything that would destroy the church.

He then adds some things that the “anti” brethren oppose. On the other hand we must oppose those who would add laws to the laws God has given. This is the trouble with the “anti” movement. Study Acts 15 to see Paul and Barnabas’ reaction to those who tried to bind something that God had not bound. We must do the same (1 Cor. 11:1).

I will mention one other example. He states, “Some think it’s a lack of spirituality to believe the universe could be more than six to ten thousand years old.” Again the writer has avoided the true question. The real question is, do we respect what the Bible says or compromise with those who would destroy God’s Word? Read the Bible, and one can readily see that six to ten thousand years is the approximate age of the world. If we are for the Bible, we will be against all attempts to pervert it.

I believe one last point needs to be made. We have before stated that by this writer’s own standard he is not very spiritual. Also note that according to this writer’s standard Jesus Christ Himself is not very spiritual. Jesus opposed many things. He opposed the moneychangers (John 2; Mat. 21). He opposed the scribes and Pharisees (Mat. 15). He opposed the Sadducees and Herodians (Mat. 22). Jesus opposed sin and error at every turn. That is one of the reasons that the world hated Him so much.

The truth of the matter is that spirituality is based upon what a man is for and against. “Hate the evil, and love the good, and establish judgment in the gate: it may be that the Lord God of hosts will be gracious unto the remnant of Joseph” (Amos 5:15). The Psalmist says, “Ye that love the Lord, hate evil: he preserveth the souls of his saints; he delivereth them out of the hand of the wicked” (Psa. 97:10). You cannot love God without hating evil according to God. While man writes, “The truth is that spirituality doesn’t come from opposing something,” God says we must both love and hate. It is a two-sided coin. Be both for God and opposed to evil.

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Opposing Something?

Several years ago I came across an article entitled “Spirituality Is Not Opposing Something.” The gist of this article is that opposition to things does not determine spirituality. Spirituality is based upon the positive, not negative.

Spirituality comes from positive things. I can be against all the bad things in the brotherhood, but unless I’m for the Lord and demonstrate it with my faithfulness, I’m no more spiritual than those I oppose.

We all should recognize that we must be for the Lord and exhibit a life of faithfulness to God’s Word. We also must recognize that we cannot be spiritual without opposing things.

The author of this article says: “None of our better known ‘opposers’ in the brotherhood would rate very high on a spirituality scale.” Since the author is opposing those who oppose things, by his own scale of justice he does not “rate very high on a spirituality scale.” I realize that he is not the standard. The standard does say: “Judge not, that ye be not judged. For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again” (Mat. 7:1-2). This man has unjustly judged all those who stand against anything as being not very spiritual. He should repent for such a statement.

The real question is can we be spiritual without opposing things? The answer to this is a definite no! How can a person be for the Lord without being against Satan? How can one be for the right without being against the wrong? This is what Paul speaks of in 2 Corinthians 6:14-17.

Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? And what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you.

A LIVING DOCUMENT

We are often told by some political pundits that the United States constitution is a “living document” and, as a result, is ever changing and developing. Others, in response would say that it is not an ever changing and evolving document. The truth is that the constitution is a living document but it is not ever changing and evolving. It is a living document because it is alive and effective today, unlike Hammurabi’s Code or any other code or constitution that is not in use today. However, just because the United States document is a living document does not mean it can be changed on a whim by the President, the Supreme Court, the political party in power, or any others who want to see something different in the constitution. There is a mechanism for changing the constitution and that is set forth in the document itself. That mechanism is that any changes or amendments must be approved through the ballot box and it must be approved by two thirds of the states before it can become part of the constitution. Sometimes amendments are offered and are approved. On other occasions it does not get sufficient votes and does not become part of the constitution.

The Bible is also a “living document.” Note what the Hebrew writer states: *“For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart”* (Hebrews 4:12). The word “quick” we are told, from the dictionary, means in Old English, “alive, animated, alert.” The American Standard Version translates the passage: *“For the word of God is **living, and active**, and sharper than any two-edged sword, and piercing even to the dividing of soul and spirit, of both joints and marrow, and quick to discern the thoughts and intents of the heart.”* Thayer’s gives us the prime definition of the Greek word translated “quick” as being “to live, breathe, be among the living (not lifeless, not dead).” We still occasionally use the word “quick” in this way as in “the quick and the dead.”

Since the Bible is a “living document,” does that mean that it can be changed? It would, if it contained a mechanism for bringing about change, as does the United States constitution. However, the Bible contains no such mechanism but rather teaches that it is not changeable and gives dire warning to those who would seek to change God’s Word. “The children of Israel were warning concerning the Old Testament law: *“For ask now of the days that are past, which were before thee, since the day that God created man upon the earth, and ask from the one side of heaven unto the other, whether there hath been any such thing as this great thing is, or hath been heard like it?”* (Deut. 4:32). The Proverb writer tells us: *“Every word of God is pure: he is a shield unto them that put their trust in him. Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar”* (Proverbs 30:5-6). In the last book of the Bible close to the end of the last chapter, John writes: *“For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book”* (Revelation 22:18-19).

Yes, the Bible, God’s Word is a living document. It is still binding today and no man, group of men, denomination has the God-given right to change by adding to or taking away from that which God has, by inspiration given to us. Let us never be guilty of seeking to change God’s word to suit our desires and thereby bring on us the wrath of God.

Ken Chumbley

NEWS AND NOTES

Keep in your prayers the following: Helen Culpepper, Pam Gossett, Lavonne McClish, Linda Chumbley, Maomi Aaron’s sister, Leann Rogers, who is having health problems, Myrtle Grimsley, Lanny Niver together with his daughter and son, and Tim Smith.

Jean Peebles was sick and unable to be out last Sunday but has been doing much better this past week.

Lanny Niver’s back was giving him problems and he was not able to be out Sunday.

Dawn Mason was in Denver, Colorado last weekend.

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destroy a few sheep before we say, “enough”? Regarding these issues, we see what the apostle

Paul did: “To whom we gave place by subjection, no, not for an hour; that the truth of the gospel might continue with you” (Gal. 2:5). False teachers who came in privily were not excused even for one hour, that the Truth would not be contaminated with their false doctrines.

It must have been very important to Paul that pure doctrine which he had delivered was not to be contaminated- with error.- That same doctrine he taught in all the (Acts 20:31). Paul pleads with us to have the same mind that Christ had (Phi. 2:5). How tolerant was our Savior when he encountered false teachers? They were dealt with immediately to maintain the purity of the gospel of Christ, which was once for all time delivered to us. When we allow even a small amount of the “leaven” of error to remain mixed with the Gospel, it no longer is the power of God to save mankind.

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