

“And Be Not Conformed to this World..”

“And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and: acceptable, and perfect, will of God” (Rom. 12:2).

Not being conformed to this world is a constant, on going struggle. Satan (the god of this world), on his quest to destroy lives has blinded the minds of many (2 Cor 4:4). On his journey to devour and deceive, he prevails against the intents of most bringing them into agreement with his. This “roaring lion” (1 Pet. 5:8), with an insatiable appetite for the souls of men, is subtle in his approach and is transparent with his methods. Even though countless thousands have unwittingly allowed Satan and this world unrestricted access in shaping their character and values, we are not ignorant of his devices (2 Cor. 2:11). It is God that warns, “Be not conformed to this world!”

Adults Do Not Be Conformed to this World! Many adults are on the road to ruin as the day starts. Instead of God first (Mat. 6:33; Col. 3:1), with prayer and Bible study, the morning starts out with affirmation of this world. “I gotta have of: my paper.” “I gotta have my coffee.” “I gotta do my exercise.” “I gotta see the news/weather.” “I gotta hurry and get the kids off to school.” In all the “gotta,” where is the gotta get started with God? All too often, the day starts and ends without any thought of God whatsoever. You can search your Bible for the rest of your life and never be able to prove that this is good and acceptable to Him. In the hustle and hurry of everyday life we must ever ask: “Where is God?” Not being conformed to this world is achieved by striving for that world. Commitment to glorify of God and to the life that it involves will ensure we are in the world but not of it, as we conform our minds to realms above!

Children Do Not Be Conformed to this ‘World! Precious children are becoming perturbed and deranged. From innocent, sweet, well-meaning children into something as hideous as Mr. Hide. Our nation, no longer content with the concept of “giving our children back to God” (Psa. 127:3; 1 Sam. 1:11), through biblical teaching, prayer, and religious observance now reaps the fruits. Mixed dancing (with the opposite sex) in provocative clothing, acting out sexual humping motions’ meets with most Mom’s approval! On Sunday, father and son spend quality time together at Six Flags, instead of worshiping God. Children are taught by example that there is no God, or that. He is not to be feared. And we wonder why our children’s hands are filled with bloodshed, violence, and rebellion. They are being taught how to conform to this world. Jesus said, “Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me” (Mat. 19:14).

Homes Do Not Be Conformed to this World! Homes are forming in the sins of adultery, fornication, and homosexuality, and children are being born out of wedlock. No one goes to church, or reads the Bible, or sees a need to pray. Absolute truth (the Bible) is laughed at, while God’s people are viewed as fanatics. Problems in these homes; teen pregnancy, suicide, incarceration, alcoholism, gambling, abuses-physical/sexual/verbal/substance, disrespect, etc. is a result of being conformed to this world. It’s influence is all around, however, God’s plea remains, “Be not conformed to this world!” Through Bible learning and compliance (2 Tim. 2:15; Mat. 7:21). We teach our homes how to conformed to the world above (Col. 3:18-21; Eph. 5:22-6:4)!

—selected

BELVEDERE BEACON

“Ye are the light of the world” (Matthew 5:14)

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The Unloving Religion

It is an oxymoron, the conjoining of contradictory terms, to say that there is a religion that is unloving, because most *define* religion according to Christian morality. Yet, there are numerous religions that are void of love. Some have perverted Christianity by having an unloving attitude. All one has to do is study the Klu Klux Klan to see hatred and wickedness disguised as Christianity. Wickedness can come in different forms and from every class of people. One of the most unloving religions in the world today is Islam.

President George W. Bush has stated many times that Islam is a “religion of peace.” Recently, “the president visited a Washington, D. C. mosque and proclaimed Islam a “religion of peace” (Thomas). Regardless of what President Bush and many political leaders teach, Islam is not a “religion of peace.” No Muslim who is faithful to the teachings of the Quran can promote peace and love to nonbelievers. Just examine the evidence from their “Holy Writing.”

In the Quran, all Muslims are commanded to make physical war. Note what the Quran teaches about fighting.

And slay them wherever ye catch them, And turn them out From where they have Turned you out (Surah 2:191).

Let those fight in the cause of Allah Who sell the life of this world For the Hereafter. To him who fighteth in the cause of Allah Whether his is slain Or gets victory— soon shall We give him A reward of great (value) (Surah 4:74).

Fighting is prescribed Upon you, and ye dislike it, But it is possible That ye dislike a thing Which is good for you... (Surah 2:216) (Quran).

The writings of the Quran commands all who follow it to wage physical war. Does that sound like a religion of peace to you?

It is very dangerous to underestimate the resolve of Muslims for world dominance. To teach that Islam is a religion of peace will only aid them in their goal to destroy all religions except Islam. Jesus said: “Behold, I send you out *as* sheep in the midst of wolves. Therefore be wise as serpents and harmless as doves” (Mat. 10:16—NKJV). When it comes to the teachings of Islam, all must be wise.

Works Cited

Thomas, Cal. “We worship the same Almighty.” *Jewish World Review*. 16 Mar. 2008. <<http://jewishworldreview.com/cols/thomas100907.php3>>.

The Holy Quran. Translated by Abdullah Yusuf Ali. Beltsville, MD: Amana Publication, 1997.

Paul Vaughn
Lewispport, KY

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

SUNDAY:

Bible Classes for all ages 10.00 am.
Morning Worship 11.00 am.
Evening Worship 6.00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY:

Bible Classes for all ages 7.00 p.m.

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CREEDS

As a young child being reared in denominationalism, this writer clearly recalls the practice in worship of the recitation of creeds. Those assembled would recite various creeds, particularly the so-called “Apostles’ Creed.” Of course, one would assume that a creed called the Apostles’ Creed would have been instituted by the apostles. However, the Apostles’ Creed in its actual form was not framed until at least 300 years after the death of the last apostle, although other supposedly Christian creeds had been written as early as the second century AD. What is the purpose of a creed? A creed is defined as “a formal statement of religious belief.” A creed is designed by a particular religious -group in order to make clear what it is they believe and to define parameters of what is acceptable doctrine. Virtually all denominations have creeds by which they abide, although many of the “lay members” may not be aware of their own creeds. However, their creeds dictate what they are taught from their pulpits and in their classrooms. The Schaff-Herzog Encyclopedia attempts to justify creeds by saying, “In the Protestant system the creed is not to coordinate with, but always subordinate to, the Bible.” But the Protestant denominations which fled from Roman Catholicism and its binding of human tradition fell into the same trap when they decided to base faith upon anything other than the Bible alone.

Jesus promised the apostles that the Holy Spirit would guide them into “*all truth*” (John 16:13) and through the apostles gave to man “*all things that pertain unto life and godliness*” (2 Peter 1:3). When men adopt a creed, they accept that which is different from the Bible. Either a creed will have less than the Bible, more than the Bible, or the same as the Bible. What Christ gave is completely sufficient; but if one accepts a - creed which is less than the Bible, he no longer has that which is sufficient as his guide (Psalm 119:105, 130; 2 Timothy 3:16-17). If one accepts a creed which is more than the Bible, he has added to the word of God and brought himself under a curse (Proverbs 30:6; Revelation 22:18-19). If one accepts a creed which is the same as the Bible, someone has wasted his time-in trying to write a creed.

A curse awaits any who bring a doctrine different from the Bible (Galatians 1:6-9), yet creeds are intrinsically different from the Bible. The doctrine which Christ gave us is our only acceptable system of belief (2 John 9-10). Creeds deny that all can understand the Bible alike, or at least admit that those who adhere to their particular creed cannot understand it alike without being given a standard that supersedes the word of God. We cannot accept the beliefs of any man as our authority. Only the word of God is “*able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified*” (Acts 20:32), and only by this word will one be judged (John 12:48).

Lee Moses
Fulton County Gospel News
Mammoth Spring, AR

Ken Chumbley

NEWS AND NOTES

Keep in your prayers the following: Helen Culpepper, Pam Gossett and mother, Kathy Treadway’s mother, Lavonne McClish, Linda Chumbley, and Rachel Fitzpatrick’s aunt (Eula Baker) who has cancer, Maomi Aaron’ sister who has having health problems, and Tim Smith.

Graham Moulton’s condition remains critical. He responds very little and is not able to talk. It is hard on Joan and the girls. They are very stressed and do not know from day to day whether Graham will be with them another day/ Continue to keep him and the family, as well as the Mildenhall church, in your prayers

Susan and Aaron Arnold were both sick Sunday and unable to be out. It was good to see all the Arnolds out Wednesday evening.

It was good to see Sister Grimsley out on Sunday after having been sick for some time.

Rachel Fitzpatrick was out of town Sunday as was Pam Gossett. It was good to see both of them Wednesday evening.

A soup and finger food pot-luck is planned after evening worship tonight. Plan to stay and eat together.

A DEVOTED HEART IS...

An understanding heart— *Incline your heart to understanding* (Proverbs 2:2)

A trusting heart— *Trust in the Lord with all your heart* (Proverbs 3:5)

A guarded heart— *Above all else, guard your heart* (Proverbs 4:23)

A tranquil heart— *A tranquil heart is life to the body* (Proverbs 14:30)

A happy heart— *For the happy heart, life is a continual feast* (Proverbs 15:15)

A righteous heart— *The heart of the righteous ponders how to answer* (Proverbs 15:28)

A wise heart— *A wise man's heart guides his mouth* (Proverbs 16:23)

A discerning heart— *The heart of the discerning acquires knowledge* (Proverbs 18:15)

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