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Learning And Discerning

"He that is spiritual judgeth all things."

(First Corinthians 2:15)



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Lifting Up The STANDARD

"When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the LORD shall lift up a standard against him" (Isaiah 59:19).



Challenging And Encouraging God's Remnant To Remain Faithful

Issue 9 - March 2014

Exposing Error: Is It Worthwhile?

By Dr. Harry Ironside

Objection is often raised even by some sound in the faith regarding the exposure of error as being entirely negative and of no real edification. Of late, the hue and cry has been against any and all negative teaching. But the brethren who assume this attitude forget that a large part of the New Testament, both of the teaching of our blessed Lord Himself and the writings of the apostles, is made up of this very character of ministry—namely, showing the Satanic origin and, therefore, the unsettling results of the propagation of erroneous systems which Peter, in his second epistle, so definitely refers to as "damnable heresies."

Our Lord prophesied,

"Many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many."

Within our own day, how many false prophets have risen; and oh, how many are the deceived!

Paul predicted,

"I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them. Therefore watch."

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"Let's just keep the meetings positive and stay away from any issues."



We Have Been Given The Awesome Responsibility to Take Care of "His Lambs" And "His Sheep" (John 21).

He didn't say we should have some meetings that make us feel good, while the wolves devour **His** sheep.

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My own observation is that these “grievous wolves,” alone and in packs, are not sparing even the most favoured flocks. Under-shepherds in these “perilous times” will do well to note the apostle’s warning:

“Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers.”

It is as important in these days as in Paul’s-in fact, it is increasingly important to expose the many types of false teaching that, on every hand, abound more and more. We are called upon to “contend earnestly for the faith once delivered to the saints,” while we hold the truth in love. The faith means the whole body of revealed truth, and to contend for all of God’s truth necessitates some negative teaching. The choice is not left with us.

Jude said,

“Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints. For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ” (Jude 3, 4).

Paul likewise admonishes us to...

“Have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them” (Ephesians 5:11).

This does not imply harsh treatment of those entrapped by error quite the opposite. If it be objected that exposure to error necessitates unkind reflection upon others who do not see as we do, our answer is: it has always been the duty of every loyal servant of Christ to warn against any teaching that would make Him less precious or cast reflection upon His finished redemptive work and the all-sufficiency of His present service as our great High Priest and Advocate.

Every system of teaching can be judged by what it sets forth as to these fundamental truths of the faith. “*What think ye of Christ?*” is still the true test of every creed. The Christ of the Bible is certainly not the Christ of any false “-ism.” Each of the cults has its hideous caricature of our lovely Lord.

Let us who have been redeemed at the cost of His precious blood be “good soldiers of Jesus Christ.” As the battle against the

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A Very Serious Warning To Pastors



Jeremiah 23:1,

“Woe be unto the pastors that destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! saith the LORD.”

Ezekiel 34:7-10,

“Therefore, ye shepherds, hear the word of the LORD; As I live, saith the Lord GOD, surely because my flock became a prey, and my flock became meat to every beast of the field, because there was no shepherd, neither did my shepherds search for my flock, but the shepherds fed themselves, and fed not my flock; Therefore, O ye shepherds, hear the word of the LORD; Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I am against the shepherds; and I will require my flock at their hand, and cause them to cease from feeding the flock; neither shall the shepherds feed themselves any more; for I will deliver my flock from their mouth, that they may not be meat for them.”

Numbers 27:16,17,

“Set a man over the congregation..that the congregation of the LORD be not as sheep which have no shepherd.”

Ezekiel 34:5,

“And they were scattered, because there is no shepherd: and they became meat to all the beasts of the field, when they were scattered.”

First John 4:1,

“Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.”

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forces of evil waxes ever more hot, we have need for God-given valour.

There is constant temptation to compromise. "Let us go forth therefore unto Him without the camp, bearing His reproach."

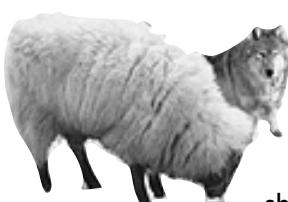
It is always right to stand firmly for what God has revealed concerning His blessed Son's person and work. The "father of lies" deals in half-truths and specializes in most subtle fallacies concerning the Lord Jesus, our sole and sufficient Savior.

Error is like leaven of which we read, "A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump." Truth mixed with error is equivalent to all error, except that it is more innocent looking and, therefore, more dangerous. God hates such a mixture! Any error, or any truth-and-error mixture, calls for definite exposure and repudiation. To condone such is to be unfaithful to God and His Word and treacherous to imperiled souls for whom Christ died.

Exposing error is most unpopular work. But from every true standpoint it is worthwhile work. To our Savior, it means that He receives from us, His blood-bought ones, the loyalty that is His due. To ourselves, if we consider "the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt," it ensures future reward, a thousand-fold. And to souls "caught in the snare of the fowler"- how many of them God only knows - it may mean light and life, abundant and everlasting.

Dr. Harry Ironside

This Is A Major Issue!



Evangelical groups have cried out against judging for years; however we are seeing those who call themselves fundamentalists denouncing those who warn against the wolves among the sheep. The few who dare to continue to preach like these fundamentalists of yesteryear preached, are accused of being unloving and unkind and causing division. They are written off as having a "negative spirit."

The message of our present day scripturally ignorant compromising leaders is "Judge not, that ye be not judged" (Matthew 7:1).

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"A Discerner"



Hebrews 4:12,

"For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword...and is **a discerner** of the thoughts and intents of the heart."

The Greek word translated "discerner" in the verse above is "kritikos." It is from this word that we get our word "critical."

The dictionary definition of critical is "expressing or involving an analysis of the merits and faults a work."

Hebrews 5:14,

"But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to **discern both good and evil.**"

The Greek word translated "discerner" in this verse is "diakrisis." According to Strong's Concordance this word means "judging."

First Kings 3:9,

"Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart **to judge** thy people, that I may **discern between good and bad.**"

What was Solomon's purpose in having an "understanding heart"? He said he wanted to be able, "to judge" (Verse 9).

What did Solomon want "to judge"? He wanted to judge "between good and bad" (Verse 9).

Malachi 3:18,

"Then shall ye **return, and discern** between the righteous and the wicked, between him that serveth God and him that serveth him not."

John 7:24,

"Judge righteous judgment."

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What Did Jesus Command?

John 7:24,

"Judge righteous judgment."

What part of His command is too difficult to understand?

Matthew 7:15,

"Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves."

How can we possibly beware of the false prophets unless we judge them by the Word of God?

Jesus Openly Judged False Teachers

Matthew 23:23-34,

He Judged them as..."hypocrites," "blind guides," "blind," "whited sepulchers," "serpents," and a "generation of vipers."

We Are Commanded To Judge False Prophets.

First John 4:1,

"Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits, whether they be of God; because many false prophets are gone out into the world"

We Are Commanded To Mark And Avoid False Prophets.

Romans 16:17,

"Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them."

How can we mark and avoid them, unless we judge them according to the Word of God?

Other Scriptures

- **Titus 1:13**, "Rebuke them."
- **Ephesians 5:11**, "Have no fellowship with them."
- **Second Thessalonians 3:6**, "Withdraw from them."
- **Second Timothy 3:5,7**, "Turn away from them."
- **Second John 1:10,11**, "Receive them not into your house."
- **Titus 3:10**, "Reject the heretic."
- **Second Corinthians 6:17**, "Separate from them."

This Is A Major Issue!

We must do as commanded or lose our young people to the wolves."



C.H. Spurgeon

"Discernment is not knowing the difference between right and wrong. It is knowing the difference between right and almost right."



A. W. Tozer

"Among the gifts of the Spirit scarcely one is of greater practical usefulness than the gift of discernment. This gift should be highly valued and frankly sought as being almost indispensable in these critical times. This gift will enable us to distinguish the chaff from the wheat and to divide the manifestations of the flesh from the operations of the Spirit."

First Thessalonians 5:21,22,

"Prove all things; hold fast that which is good. Abstain from all appearance of evil."

Ephesians 4:14,

"That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive."