

*"Let no one in any way deceive you, for the Day of the Lord will not come unless the apostasy comes first" 2 Thessalonians 2:3*

If we allow the 'apostasy' in our land to continue, soon we will not be able to defend Scripture in our churches! We can not sit back and hope for the Rapture; we must be proactive and vigorously defend our Bibles.

*"... always be ready to make a defense to everyone who asks..." 1Peter 3:15*

First, we must do what the atheist do. WHAT??? Yes!!! We must decry religion! That's Humanity seeking a belief in something; anything!!! Instead, we must defend 'Christianity.' This defines 'relationships' stimulated by God seeking Humanity. There is a big difference here! Our Lord created us, you and me, for relationships.

Contemporary reasoning cultivates a desire to lump 'Christianity' and 'Religion' together. This leads many to subliminally perceive a false god that encourages the temptation to 'grasp' rather than to 'receive'. This can promote grasping at Satan's bait; it can be for anything, even good stuff, rather than receiving God's grace with the wise counsel and joy it offers. It is grace that provides our Position of innocence we could never earn and with it a spiritual Authority never before experienced.

So, how do we decry 'Religion' without giving relationships a bad rap? How do we subdue grasping? How do we encourage receiving? We must present 'GRACE' as a concept that will encourage obedience while not appearing to depend on past behavior to gain a new position. WOW, can we do that??? We must.

The most common challenge to being able to receive God's 'grace' is that age old perception of personal unworthiness. This is because humanity is tempted to perceive God's unconditional love as conditional - based on a behavior and performance history rather than on receiving a position of Christ's innocence and spiritual authority. The hunger for worthiness may morph into grasping which can easily gravitate into a narcissistic or even an atheistic perception of creation, especially when God gets the blame for bad circumstances or poor choices.

Secularists hate 'creation' discussions because they admit to a designer. If there is a master designer of humanity... who is He and what does He expect? Paul answered this question on Mars Hill in Athens. Pointing to a man-made "unknown god" statue, he said in Acts 17:23-25:

*"...what you worship in ignorance, this I proclaim to you. The God who made the world and all things in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands; nor is He served by human hands, as though He needed anything, since He Himself gives to all people life and breath and all things;"*

Our institutional churches can not continue to practice "CHURCH-Lite" if they want to serve their reason for existing - teaching the incarnated Spirit of the Christ, the promises of eternity and the consequences of sin, simply stated, selfish living.

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