

10 RODS OF TRUTH



10 RODS OF TRUTH IN
A RAGING WORLD



RECLAIMING SANITY

September 22

RECLAIMING BIBLICAL LITERACY

September 29

RECLAIMING THE GOSPEL

October 6

RECLAIMING SPIRITUALITY

October 13

RECLAIMING THE NEXT GENERATION

October 20

RECLAIMING MARRIAGE & FAMILY

October 27

RECLAIMING POLITICS

November 3

RECLAIMING THE RAINBOW

November 10

RECLAIMING MASCULINITY & FEMININITY

November 17

RECLAIMING LIFE

November 24

CHAPTER 4: RECLAIMING SPIRITUALITY

Commentary

The reclamation of language, as people of the Word is a primary objective in all phases of the Christian life. The person who sets the premise controls the conversation and the words used in the premise are vital. Because of this, having a dictionary that is not Google is a valuable resource and Noah Webster's 1828 definitions are more helpful for getting at the meaning of words. For example, Google defines superstition as, "excessively credulous belief in and reverence for supernatural beings." Where as Webster defines superstition as, "Excessive exactness or rigor in religious opinions or practice; extreme and unnecessary scruples in the observance of religious rites not commanded, or of points of minor importance; excess or extravagance in religion; the doing of things not required by God, or abstaining from things not forbidden; or the belief of what is absurd, or belief without evidence." Webster clearly lays out "this and not that" principles, while the Google machine scraps spirituality as a category into the superstition bin. Taking the photo negative of Webster's definition of superstition is what I'll use as the basis for a working definition of spirituality. Here I assume that superstition is false spirituality. On the other hand, rightly applied Biblical practice emphasizes religious rites and commandments both in observance and prohibition, as prescribed by God alone, while dismissing the absurd and suspending judgment without evidence. Similarly, idolatry resembles the pure image but inverts light and dark. Idols are photo negatives of God's good gifts, both of his promises and commands. We are commanded to be spiritual to restore what is put out of joint (Galatians 6:1) in the body of Christ. Superstition seeks to restore through outward works, while having the outward appearance of spirituality.

Additionally, we desire predictable outcomes. If we do X, then God will do Y. But this is manifestly not how God ordered the world (Ecclesiastes 7:14, Isaiah 55:9). Therefore, he does not honor a karmic credit and debt system (John 9:1-3). He does not honor a naming and claiming system (Matthew 5:44-48). He does not honor earning spiritual gifts (Matthew 7:21-23, Acts 8:9-24). He does not honor ostentatious displays of worship (Isaiah 29:13, Ezekiel 33:31). That's not how His world works, and He runs this place. Doing good, seeking blessing, striving for spiritual gifting, and sincere worship are all good. On this ground I think we ought to drill down on two points of order.

First, two people can do and say the exact same outward action with one being a sweet incense to God (Psalm 141:2) and the other being an abomination to God (Isaiah 64:6, Proverbs 15:8). The philanthropy of the widow's mite outdoes donations the size of the GDP of a small country from our most famous modern philanthropists (Mark 12:38-44). Reclaimed spirituality is a move to glorify God, who is our source of joy.

Second, no one has the ability to will their belief. Try this moment to believe something that you 100% do not believe. This is why faith and the following repentance is the gift of God, lest anyone should boast (Ephesians 2:8-9). Reclaimed spirituality is living daily to sift out the dregs of superstition in your cup of living water, through a dependence on God for our sanctification, not in willing ourselves to be holy.

Thus, reclaimed spirituality is a rejection of superstition, which drains the life out of the time given to us. Superstition keeps the Christian's aim on living for the weekend. It's like a carrot at the end of the stick, which is a miserable cycle of grasping at wind. You might be in this cycle if you have thoughts like, "I'll be happy when I finally..." Christians have the power to enjoy the work before us each day (Ecclesiastes 5:18-20). Today is a gift from God (James 4:13-17); use it to glorify Him by being thankful. An anxious, joyless Christian is a thankless Christian and will not do. Our enemy has the aim of shifting our gaze toward our feet, desiring us to believe that we make our own destiny. Rather, we know that we are walking in the good works, which God prepared beforehand (Ephesians 2:10). God is writing the story, and the characters do not steer the author's pen. C.S. Lewis puts it better than I ever could in his Screwtape Letters, so I won't try to outdo him. I'll simply leave his work here: <https://renovare.org/articles/avoiding-the-present>.

Note: If you have never read The Screwtape Letters, the book is a fiction written from the perspective of a demon in training so this is to be read upside down (e.g. The Enemy is God in the eyes of a demon).

Reclamation Charge: Live for today in the light of eternity. Don't live for tomorrow in the darkness of uncertainty.

Selected Scriptures

1 John 4:1-3, 2 Timothy 4:3-4, 1 Timothy 4:1-3

3 Key Points:

- | Everyone is spiritual, the question is, what spirit are we talking about?
- | The Holy Spirit is a gift. Enjoy Him.
- | “God told me...” never trumps what the Bible says.

Quote:

“There shall not be found among you anyone who burns his son or his daughter as an offering, anyone who practices divination or tells fortunes or interprets omens, or a sorcerer or a charmer or a medium or a necromancer or one who inquires of the dead, for whoever does these things is an abomination to the Lord. And because of these abominations the Lord your God is driving them out before you.” - Moses

Notes

Small Group Questions

- 1) We are called to test the spirits to see if they are from God (1 John 4:1-3). Have you ever experienced a time when a situation or person seemed spiritually odd? Not just someone or something that was simply weird but something that seemed weightier.
- 2) Have you or someone you know ever experienced or indulged in other spiritual practices, such as Reiki, Buddhism, or any form of superstition? What happened?
- 3) On the Christian side of spirituality, how do you interact with the Spirit of God in your life?