

THE WORLD SYSTEM CHURCH (Satan's imitation Church)

Part 2 -- The Roadmap To The World System Church A Paper Presented to the Gulf Coast Bible Conference

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INTRODUCTION

John Wooden, the successful college basketball coach made an observation about the fundamentals of the game that identified who would be successful. Wooden quoted:

“I discovered early on that the player who learned the fundamentals of basketball is going to have a much better chance of succeeding and rising through the levels of competition than the player who was content to do things his own way. A player should be interested in learning why things are done a certain way. The reasons behind the teaching often go a long way to helping develop the skill.” — John Wooden

A similar thing can be said about the man of God and doctrine. The one who adheres to the plan God has laid out concerning our relationship to His Son has an opportunity to do that which is pleasing to the Father.

I. TRADITIONS ARE SEEN IN SCRIPTURE AS THE MEANS OF UNDERMINING GOD'S PROGRAM.

A. The Greek word for tradition is *paradosis*

1. Traditions are used in a negative way in Scripture. Gal. 1:14 (it was what drove Paul before salvation)
2. Traditions are used in a positive way in Scripture. 2 Thess. 2:15; 3:15 (of those taught to the Thessalonians by Paul)

B. Tradition is often viewed in Scripture as being in direct opposition to the Word of God.

1. The scribes and Pharisees were more concerned with the transgression of the tradition of the elders than the commandments of God. Matt. 15:1-3

2. Tradition was the stimulus that drove the apostle Paul before salvation. Gal. 1:14
- C. Philosophy and vain deceit are two elements of the tradition of men that can lead believers away from grace truth. Col. 2:8
1. Philosophy -- ***a fondness for human wisdom.***
 2. Vain deceit (*apate*), ***that which gives a false impression of reality.*** -- K.D.J. cf. Matt. 13:22 (of riches); 2 Thess. 2:10 (a result of unrighteousness); Heb. 3:13 (of the false impression of sin);

II. HEALTHY WORDS ARE THE FOUNDATION OF THE TRUE CHURCH.

- A. The Greek word for *sound* is *hugies*.
1. *Hugies* is used for ***sound in body; restored to full health.*** cf. Matt. 15:31; Lk. 6:10
 2. *Hugies* is used of one whose ***“teaching does not deviate from the truth”.*** - - Joseph Thayer cf. Tit. 2:8
 3. *Hugies* is contrasted in Scripture with that which the teaching of *myths* in the New Testament. 2 Tim. 4:3-4
- B. The apostle Paul encouraged Timothy to be sound in several key areas.
1. Timothy was encouraged to be “sound” in doctrine (*didaskalia*).
 - a) *Didaskalia* is used in the New Testament for Old Testament doctrine. Cf. Rom. 15:4 cf. Acts 17:2 (the Scriptures)
 - b) *Didaskalia* is contrasted with *didake* -- New Testament doctrine. Tit. 1:9
 - c) A *sound, didaskalia* is what men won’t endure today. 2 Tim. 4:3-4
 2. Timothy was encouraged to be sound in *the faith*.
 - a) *The faith* is a doctrine that ***teaches the believer how to have spiritual victory over all his enemies.*** cf. 1st Pet. 5:9
 - b) *The faith* is seen as the means for aiding the believer in overcoming spiritual enemies. Tit. 1:13
 - c) The absence of *the faith* leads men to reject doctrine in accord with godliness. 1st Tim. 6:5
- C. Timothy was encouraged to be “sound” in “words”. 2 Tim. 1:13
1. *Words* is the Greek word *logos* which is used in Scripture of ***discourse-teaching concerning a particular topic.*** cf. Acts 20:35 (concerning the Lord)
 2. *Healthy words* would be those words consistent with doctrine that

promotes godliness. cf. 1st Tim. 6:3

D. Maintaining healthy words is important to producing healthy saints.

1. Healthy words counteract the improper Old Testament application through the use of exhortation. Tit. 1:9
 - a) “Exhort” to strongly encourage someone to do the things that Scripture instructs.
 - b) The Thessalonians were exhorted by Paul concerning work. 2 Thess. 3:12 (concerning work)
 - c) The Ephesians were exhorted by Paul to walk worthy of their calling. Eph. 4:1
2. Healthy words counteract the improper Old Testament application through the use of “convince” (rebuke)
 - a) *Convince* is the Greek word *elegcho* which means “**to state that someone has done wrong, with the implication that there is adequate proof of such wrongdoing**”. -- Louw-Nida
 - b) Paul wrote to Timothy to rebuke elders who sin before all. 1st Tim. 5:20
 - c) Rebuke is needed concerning those who follow mythological teaching. 2 Timothy 4:2

III. WATERED-DOWN DOCTRINE IS THE CENTERPIECE OF THE WORLD SYSTEM CHURCH.

- A. **Paul warns that the teaching in the last days would be mythological.** The seeds of the world system church that will become Mystery Babylon, as recorded in the 17th chapter of Revelation, are already evident today. In fact, they were evident as early as 95 A.D. The apostle John recorded a letter written to the church at Laodicea. Laodicea literally means “the rule of the people”. It is the church where Christ is standing on the outside of the door knocking. A third class condition is used to assume the possibility that Christ would come in to sup with the one opening the door if they opened it. Laodicea is the World System Church personified. Today, we’ll consider this church and its condition.
- B. Myths are *legendary tales that originated with some truth but continue to grow as the story is passed down through the generations. For many in the Church today, mythological teaching has replaced sound doctrine. The myths preached today are similar to those passed on in the world but with a biblical spin on them. Myths occur when Scripture is taken out of its context and contorted to mean whatever the teacher needs it to mean. The result of this teaching is not*

edification, but the turning of men away from God's provisions of how to live life by God's grace. -- K.D.J.

- C. Myths are seen in and outside of Scripture as being legendary stories.
1. The King James translation of the Greek word for myths is *fables*.
 - a) *"A story or belief that attempts to express or explain a basic truth; an allegory or parable."* -- Random House College Dictionary
 - b) *"In each instance, it signifies the fiction of a fable as distinct from the genuineness of the truth."* -- Evangelical Dictionary of Theology
 - c) *"The reducing of the literal (interpretation of Scripture) to a merely figurative expression for a generalized life force that inhabits the universe."* -- JohnOswalt (Customs in the New Testament)
 - d) *"Tends to consist of tales decked with variegated lies which lead people astray; Thucydides mentions the story-telling propensity of the Chroniclers who preceded him, whose aim was to please the ear rather than to speak the truth; by contrast, he allowed the readers might be put off by the lack of this feature in his own work, but claimed that his aim was to provide an everlasting possession rather than a passing pleasure."* -- Dictionary of New Testament Theology
 2. There are other words used in Scripture to describe the mishandling of Scripture.
 - a) *Deceitfully handling* -- *dolow* -- **"change something to cause it to be false, distort, falsify, adulterate."** 2 Co. 4:2 cf. 1st Cor. 5:6
 - b) *Corrupt* -- *kapeleuo* -- **"peddling the gospel message for personal gain."** 2 Co. 2:17
 - c) *Pervert* -- *diastrepho* -- **to thoroughly twist or distort.** cf. Acts 20:30; 13:8
 3. Peter used the word "wrest" to describe fable telling. 2 Pet. 3:16
 - a) "Wrest" is the Greek word *sterblo* which is used of *the process of using an instrument of torture which stretched a person to the point of dislocated ones limbs out of place.*
 - b) Louw--Nida defines the word as *"to distort the meaning of something in communicating to others, to misinterpret, to change the meaning of to explain falsely."*
 4. Fables are advanced in the place of edifying doctrine. cf. Acts 20:32
 - a) There are four types of fables discussed in Scripture.
 - (1) Cunningly devised -- *sesophismenois* (perf. pass.part.) --

“false wisdom cleverly thought up.” -- Friberg lexicon 2
Pet. 1:16

- (2) Jewish -- *Joudaikois* -- *“pertaining to the manner and customs of Judism.”* -- Tit. 1:14
- (3) Old Wives -- *graodes* -- *“the story-telling of Old women”*.
1st Tim. 4:7
- (4) Profane -- *bebelous*-- *“to tread a threshold; what is open and accessible to all; not religious, unholy”*.-- Thomas Green Lexicon 1st Tim 4:7

IV. THE DOCTRINE OF THE WORLD SYSTEM CHURCH IDENTIFIES IT.

- A. The world system church doctrine for maturity stands in contrast to the doctrine of godliness for the dispensation of grace.
- B. Godliness is the manifesting of the life of God in human flesh.
 1. Was a mystery before this dispensation. 1st Tim.3:16
 2. One has to exercise themselves too. 1st Tim. 4:7
 3. Experiential knowledge of the Son is necessary for. 2 Pet. 1:3
- C. The World System Church has redefined godliness. 1st Tim. 6:5

CONCLUSION