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Men's Leadership Ministries

LANDMINES
WALKING WISELY IN EVIL DAYS



Landmines Session Nine

“Rejecting the Authority of Christ and the Scripture”

Review

- Our Key-Text has been Ephesians 5:15-16 – Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise, making the most of your time, because the days are evil.
 - When a man gets serious about following Christ, the Enemy gets serious about him.
- 1 Peter 5:8 – Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.
 - Because you love Christ you have an enemy who hates you.
 - We’re learning to look for the trip-wires, ambushes, and landmines.
 - We’re learning to walk as wise men.

Tonight is the Landmine of *Rejecting the Authority of Christ and the Scripture*. It is a particularly subtle landmine for those who are in the church.

Matthew 28:18 – *Dr. Farrar mentions this but he follows a bunny-trail for a bit.*

He highly recommends a booklet called *Authority*, by Martyn Lloyd Jones. It is 97 pages long.

- In 1957 Martyn Lloyd Jones gave a series of addresses (lectures), and you’d think he was speaking today. The lectures are the contents of the booklet.
- He breaks it down into three sections; The Authority of Christ, The Authority of Scripture, and the Authority of the Holy Spirit.

Matthew 28:16-18 – But the eleven disciples proceeded to Galilee, to the mountain which Jesus had designated. When they saw Him, they worshiped Him; but some were doubtful. And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth...”

- This is a foundational statement.
- All Authority. That means that he’s the Ultimate Authority.
- Nothing came into being except through him.
- All Authority comes from him.
- Go back a few pages. Jesus tells Pilate he’d have no authority unless granted by Jesus to him.

Matthew 28:19-20 – Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”

- It is authoritative for life
- All authority belongs to Christ and his word.

John 8:31-32 – So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, “If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.”

Two principles

1. If you continue in the word, then you are his disciples, and you will experience freedom.
2. If you depart from his word, which is authoritative, then you are deceived. And you will experience bondage instead of freedom.

David Wells, Professor and Gordon Cromwell University and Author of many books about the authority of God and calling us back to scripture.

In an interview titled, “Thinking Biblically about Authority”, he was asked three questions. We’re going to look at two. *(Full interview is provided as an attachment to this session)*

There is great deception among Christians about authority. We’re constantly being hammered by wrong messages about what really is authoritative in our day & age.

See the provided attachment for the questions and answers.

Two Examples of the Crisis within the Evangelical Christianity over the Authority of Christ and of his Word, inside the Church (He actually brings up three).

First Example is Lent

- I’d been in church my whole life and I’d never heard of “Lent”. You know why? It’s not in the Bible! There is a large pull in the evangelical community toward the observance of Lent.
- It is something Evangelicals have historically not done. But we’re being pulled.
- It is all based around a view of worship that adds to the scriptures.
- Dr. Farrar reads from the *Evangelical Dictionary Of Theology*, by Walter A Elwell *(Lent section is provided as an attachment to this session)*
- Be careful of adding to scripture, of putting this on other Christians.

- Matthew 28:18-19a – And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations...
 - The root idea of the Great Commission is to make disciples.
 - Not everyone goes, the idea is to make disciples. He sent them out.
 - Wherever you are, you’re to make disciples. It is for all of us.

- Matthew 28:19b – Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit...
 - Baptism is the first step in public discipleship. It was a public testimony.
 - It is still the public testimony.

- Matthew 28:20a – teaching them to observe all that I commanded you...
 - I don’t see anything about Lent. He didn’t command any of it. It isn’t here. It is made up by men. It is tradition.
 - This is the work of men.
 - This is the work of heretical church. It is works based.
 - The problem is that Roman Catholicism believes that you’re not justified by faith, but by works.

- Galatians 2:19-20 – For through the law I died to the law so that I might live for God. I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.
 - If you love the Lord with a whole heart, you don’t go to Mary and ask for forgiveness of sins. There is one mediator between God and man - Jesus.

- Stick with scripture - Matthew 28:20a – teaching them to observe all that I commanded you...
- If you want to deprive yourself of something during Lent, deprive yourself of Lent.

Is there a place for “Fasting” in the Scripture?

- When you fast, you’re to do it privately. Matthew 6:16-18
- You don’t eat the normal meal, and you pray.
- It is taking time to say “I need you Lord”. It isn’t manipulating God.
- There are times to fast, but it is *not a system* Jesus instituted – something called Lent.

Second Example is The Shack

- Tim Challies - Website and blog - challies.com
- He came out with a review, "What does The Shack Really Teach?"
(Full blog reprint is provided as an attachment to this session)
- Paul Young recently came out with a book called "Lies We Believe about God" where he reveals himself - what he truly believes.
- Challies is very fair, he read the book and went through it chapter by chapter.
- Be like the Bereans and search the scriptures to see if these things are true. You have to test the spirits.
- *Minor bunny-trail here.* The problem with those in the Charismatic movement is that if they don't test according to the scriptures and they can be easily deceived by demons.
- Dr. Farrar reads from Tim Challies' review.
- Romans 3:23 – for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God
 - We're all sinners. This is basic Bible.
- Psalm 103:19 – The Lord has established His throne in the heavens, and His sovereignty rules over all.
 - The authority of Scripture doesn't exist for Paul Young.
- Proverbs 21:1 – The king's heart is like channels of water in the hand of the Lord; He turns it wherever He wishes.
 - God controls every human heart.

Right behind "The Shack" is "Jesus Calling". (Third Example)

- "Why is it that Jesus sounds like a 60 year old post-menopausal woman?"
- You're adding to scripture!
- Looking inside yourself is like going swimming in a septic-tank.
- You don't look inside. You look up.
- Wells said (*in "Thinking Biblically about Authority"*) – "Modern day people, their freedom, is captive to their own self-interest and not the word of Christ." - That's "The Shack".

We're coming up on Easter. What should we do?

- The Gospel is 1 Corinthians 15:3-6a – For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received, that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that He appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. After that He appeared to more than five hundred brethren at one time
 - Christ died for our sins.
 - That's the substitutionary atonement. That, Young says, is "child abuse".
 - How do I teach my kids, grandkids?

- 1 Corinthians 11:23-26 – For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus in the night in which He was betrayed took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it and said, "This is My body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of Me." In the same way He took the cup also after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes.
 - Do that.
 - Jesus didn't say "Put charcoal on your forehead." He didn't say "Eat Kale Salad every other Friday."
 - Until he returns, do what scripture says. Do that.
 - He doesn't want us to earn forgiveness. He wants us to remember that he did it all.

When all else fails, read the instructions.

Prayer: Father, what am I not paying attention to that your word says? I'm under your authority. I want to submit, I want to bow. Not my will but thine be done. In Jesus' name, Amen.