

Messenger Of Truth

"Holding forth the Word of Life" (Phil. 2:16).

August 22, 2011

Issue No. 4 Mark Aites, Editor

What Does It Matter?

What do the following have in common? A stripper that wears a necklace with a cross around her neck, a church going man who uses profanity at the workplace, and people who say they worship God in their own way? The answer is hypocrisy.

Obviously a woman who would so lower herself that she would flaunt her nakedness before others for gain, and yet professes to be Christian, is deceiving herself if she thinks God has no problem with what she is doing (cf. Heb. 3:13). Are there not warnings about the lust of the flesh? (1 Cor. 6:9-10; Gal. 5:21-22).

How can one who sings Stand Up, Stand Up For Jesus or, Purer In Heart O God, and who uses the Lord's name in a profane way throughout the week, convince himself that he lives for Jesus? Apparently Paul didn't mean to write, "Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth" (Eph. 4:29).

And how do those in the modern craze rationalize that they don't need the church? They apparently don't need to worship God on a regular basis. Yet, the early church met upon the first day of every week (Acts 20:7). How do we convince ourselves that we know better how to please God than He does? (cf. Isa. 55:8-9). How do we get around the plain statement that Christ is the Savior of the body? (Eph. 5:23), and the body is the church (Eph. 1:22-23).

It is indeed a crazy world we live in. People make up their own rules and their own laws and expect God to be happy with them. The Bible has become a book of suggestions. It is much the same with the laws of our land. For example with driving, Speed Limits are only suggestions, turn signals are optional, yellow lights mean speed up, stop signs are only in the event an automobile is coming, etc. Far too many no longer take serious any sort of structure in our society. If we don't take seriously the laws enacted by man, it is no surprise that we don't take the Word of God seriously, and vice versa.

There is an old philosophy that continues to rear its ugly head. "As long as you are sincere, it really doesn't matter what you do or believe. "Apparently those who live by it have forgotten the words of the wise man: "There is a way that seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death" (Prov. 14:12). It must have had some significance or the wise man wouldn't have repeated it (Prov. 16:25).

If we are serious about Heaven, then we need to get serious about Scripture. We need to heed the sobering words, "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven" (Matt. 7:21).