

Background

As I mentioned last week, the letter was written to the church at large, most likely to counteract the teaching of a false leader that had arisen in the church called Cerinthus. Cerinthus began to question the authenticity of Jesus. He questioned the Deity of Christ and taught that Jesus was a great moral teacher whose example should be followed.

THE DANGER OF CERINTHUS IS THE SAME DANGER WE FACE IN OUR DAY!!! AND THE DANGER IS THIS:

MANY PEOPLE HAVE NOT STOPPED TALKING ABOUT JESUS, THEY JUST DON'T TALK ABOUT JESUS IN THE SAME WAY HE, (OR HIS TRUE DISCIPLES) SPOKE ABOUT HIM.

v10 This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. v6 If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth. v7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin. v8 If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. v9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. v10 If we claim we have not sinned, we make him out to be a liar and his word has no place in our lives. 1 John 1:5-10

DOES YOUR WALK MATCH YOUR TALK?

Before we look deeply at this topic let us look at "YOUR TALK"!!!

SO!!!

I WHEN YOU TALK ABOUT JESUS, IS IT TRULY THE JESUS OF THE BIBLE THAT YOU ARE TALKING ABOUT?

1. WHAT IS THE SOURCE OF YOUR TALK?

v10 This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you.

Just because somebody quotes the Bible does NOT mean they believe in the Bible.

Just because somebody quotes the Bible does NOT mean they are doing so accurately.

Just because somebody quotes the Bible does NOT mean they are GENUINE.

THE QUESTION IS: Is your message about Jesus BASED ON HIS TEACHING?

The phrase "we have heard" here points to the *ultimate* and not necessarily the *immediate* source of the message. The writers of the Bible were very careful to acknowledge that the source of TRUTH that they were preaching was based in what GOD REVEALED.

The phrase in the OT was "This is what the LORD says" or "This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says".

The Apostle Peter wrote:

1 Peter 1:10-12 Concerning this salvation, the prophets, who spoke of the grace that was to come to you, searched intently and with the greatest care, v11 trying to find out the time and circumstances to which the Spirit of Christ in them was pointing when he predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow. v12 It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves but you, when they spoke of the things that have now been told you by those who have preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven. Even angels long to look into these things.

WHAT IS THE SOURCE OF YOUR TALK?

2. **DOES YOUR TALK BRING CLARITY OR CONFUSION?**

*v10 This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: **God is light; in him there is no darkness at all.***

The phrase “God is light” is a statement of the absolute nature of God. God is not *a* light, nor *the* light, with reference to created beings, as *the light of men, the light of the world*, but **simply and absolutely *God is light, in His very nature.***

Cerintus believed in Jesus, but the Jesus he believed in was a construction of his own imagination. His Jesus was a GOOD MORAL TEACHER, not THE GOD OF ALL GLORY.

John wrote in the Gospel of *John 1:6-9* “*There came a man who was sent from God; his name was John. v7 He came as a witness to testify concerning that light, so that through him all men might believe. v8 He himself was not the light; he came only as a witness to the light. v9 The true light that gives light to every man was coming into the world.*

And later in the Gospel John wrote in *John 8:12* *When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."*

Does what you say about Jesus make Jesus easier to understand?

We don't need “Prophets” or “Prophetesses” anymore. EVERYTHING WE NEED TO KNOW ABOUT GOD CAN BE FOUND IN THE BIBLE.

3. **DOES YOUR TALKING FOCUS ON WHAT YOU CAN ACHIEVE OR ON WHAT YOU HAVE RECEIVED?** (Tim Keller)

v6 If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth. v7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin.

A FALSE MESSAGE FOCUSES ON WHAT YOU HAVE OR ARE GOING TO ACHIEVED!!!

For example:

God can make you rich, IF YOU JUST BELIEVE ENOUGH!!

IF YOU SOW INTO GODS KINGDOM, God will bless you abundantly.

You can MANIFEST YOUR OWN LIFE SUCCESS if do this or that????

SEVEN/EIGHT/TEN/TWENTY “STEP” to success.

A TRUE MESSAGE FOCUSES ON WHAT YOU HAVE RECEIVED!!!

John mentions two incredible gifts we receive when we become true BELIEVERS.

1) Firstly, A GENUINE SENSE OF BELONGING. - *v7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another*

I am going to focus on the concept of FELLOWSHIP in another Sermon. I just want to say this one thing, and I am loosely quoting from Tim Keller here:

THE ONLY GENUINE BASIS FOR FELLOWSHIP IS WHEN OUR SALVATION IS BASED OF WHAT WE HAVE RECEIVED AND NOT ON WHAT WE HAVE ACHIEVED.

2) Secondly, A GENUINE REDEMPTION. - v7 *But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin*

What can I say about the BLOOD OF JESUS!!!

1. The Blood of Jesus FULLY SATISFIED THE REQUIREMENTS OF GOD.
2. The Blood of Jesus FULLY PAID THE PENALTY OF SIN.
3. The Blood of Jesus FULLY PURCHASED THE REDEMPTION OF ALL MEN.
4. The Blood of Jesus FULLY WASHES US CLEAN FROM OUR SIN.
5. The Blood of Jesus FULLY REMOVED THE CURSE SIN.
6. The Blood of Jesus FULLY SET US FREE FROM THE CONDEMNATION OF SIN.
7. The Blood of Jesus FULLY OPENED THE DOOR OF ETERNAL LIFE.
8. The Blood of Jesus FULLY PROTECTS US FROM THE POWER OF SATAN.

CONCLUSION

SO!!!

WHEN YOU TALK ABOUT JESUS, IS IT TRULY THE JESUS OF THE BIBLE THAT YOU ARE TALKING ABOUT?

DOES YOUR WALK MATCH YOUR TALK?