

Background

I reminded you last week, that 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?

Last week I looked at the last part of the title “YOUR TALK”, and said the following:

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?**
2. **DOES YOUR TALK BRING CLARITY OR CONFUSION?**
3. **DOES YOUR TALKING FOCUS ON WHAT YOU CAN ACHIEVE OR ON WHAT YOU HAVE RECEIVED?** (Tim Keller)
A FALSE MESSAGE FOCUSES ON WHAT YOU HAVE OR ARE GOING TO ACHIEVED!!!
A TRUE MESSAGE FOCUSES ON WHAT YOU HAVE RECEIVED!!!
 - 1) **Firstly, A GENUINE SENSE OF BELONGING.**
 - 2) **Secondly, A GENUINE REDEMPTION.**

This week I want to look at the first part of the title “YOUR WALK”.

II WHEN YOU WALK ABOUT AS A CHRISTIAN, DO YOUR DEEDS MATCH YOUR DECLARATION?

There is a phrase that appears three times in the passage that gives us three things to measure our walk against, and the phrase is “IF WE CLAIM”

1. **IF YOU DECLARE YOU KNOW THE ONE WHO IS “LIGHT”, YOU CAN'T LIVE IN DARKNESS?**

v6 If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth.

Let me say three things:

1) Firstly, THIS IS ABOUT HABITUAL SINNING. – The word translated “WALK” here means “deliberate, intentional” walk. We all sin, from time to time, yet we should be making every effort, with the Spirit’s help, to change. We can’t use the excuse, “It’s just who I am!!!”.

2) Secondly, WE ARE LIVING A LIE. – One of my favourite words in the English language is the word “CONGRUENT”, and it means “**that which is in agreement or harmony**”.

ARE YOUR WORDS IN AGREEMENT WITH YOUR WAYS.

A liar is a person who does not live a CONGRUENT life.

THEY NOT ONLY LIVE BY DECEIVING OTHERS, **THEY ALSO DECEIVE THEMSELVES!** I believe we have many emotionally and psychologically damaged people in our world because they are living an INCONGRUENT life. WHAT THEY PRESENT ON THE OUTSIDE IS NOT WHAT THEY ARE ON THE INSIDE.

Their greatest criticism of the church is heard in one word, HYPOCRITE.

3) Thirdly, WE DON’T “DO” THE TRUTH. – One of the characteristics that many are looking for in others is “AUTHENTICITY”.

John is very clear in this passage.

IT DOES NOT MATTER HOW MUCH YOU KNOW THE BIBLE, IF YOU DON’T PRACTICE WHAT YOU PREACH, YOU ARE NO DIFFERENT FROM THOSE IN THE WORLD.

2. IF YOU DECLARE YOU AREN’T “SO BAD”, YOU CAN NEVER KNOW TRUE FORGIVENESS?

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.

One of the GREAT joys of being a Christian is the JOY OF FORGIVENESS. ONLY Christians can KNOW the JOY OF FORGIVENESS because we believe in a Faith System based on Grace.

If your FORGIVENESS is based ON YOUR EFFORTS to be acceptable to God, YOU WILL NEVER KNOW IF YOU HAVE DONE ENOUGH to be forgiven!!

BUT If your FORGIVENESS is based on the GRACE and MERCY of God, YOU WILL KNOW WHAT IT MEANS to be forgiven!!

John is directing this statement at a teaching known as Gnosticism, which taught that individual were separated into two parts, the physical and the spiritual. They taught that your “physical” side did not matter, but your “spiritual” was important. What you did “in the flesh” was not sinful as long as your “inner spirit” was “good”.

The modern pursuit of Eastern Religious practices has revived this philosophy of life in a different form. You often hear of words like “Karma”, “inner centre” or “seven chakra’s”. And the key practice in all of this thinking is Eastern Meditation through yoga. The whole key is to discover your true self.

The Apostle Paul deals with the same issue in Philippians 3.

He writes in:

Philippians 3:4-8 though I myself have reasons for such confidence. If anyone else thinks he has reasons to put confidence in the flesh, I have more: v5 circumcised on the eighth day, of the people of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, a Hebrew of Hebrews; in regard to the law, a Pharisee; v6 as for zeal, persecuting the church; as for legalistic righteousness, faultless. v7 But whatever was to my profit I now consider loss for the sake of Christ. v8 What is more, I consider everything a loss compared to the surpassing greatness of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them rubbish, that I may gain Christ.

SO, STOP FOOLING YOURSELF. THERE IS NOTHING YOU CAN DO THAT CAN BRING YOU CLOSER TO GOD, OTHER THAN

RECEIVING THE GIFT OF SALVATION GOD GIVES YOU IN JESUS AND TRUSTING JESUS ALL THE WAY.

2. **IF YOU DECLARE YOU ARE "god", YOU DECLARE THAT "GOD" IS A LIAR?**

v8 If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

The premiss of Atheism is that there is NO GOD.

The truth is, PEOPLE DON'T WANT TO BELIEVE IN GOD BECAUSE

THEY DON'T WANT TO BE ACCOUNTABLE TO HIM

Atheism in practice, in my experience, is the ultimate SIN.

Atheism is simply saying to GOD - **I WILL DO IT MY WAY!!!**

CONCLUSION

SO!!!

DOES YOUR WALK MATCH YOUR TALK?

There is one more Sermon on this passage.

WHAT MUST WE DO IF OUR WALK DOES NOT MATCH OUR TALK?