

LESSON 5

The Importance of Spiritual Truth & Light

Conviction is often a feeling of guilt and discomfort as God deals with people about their spiritual need. When people become uncomfortable the normal reaction is to discontinue any pursuit of spiritual truth (or to find a wider path). This would be the greatest mistake of a lifetime! The following lesson may make the reader feel uncomfortable, but is necessary to know before finding God. Great joy and peace will ultimately prevail if one continues to seek God in spite of the conviction. ...Acts 2:37, *Now when they heard this* (the gospel which made them aware of their lost spiritual condition), *they were pricked in their heart* (conviction), *and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do?* Notice that they felt guilty and uncomfortable, but they soon found the remedy and ultimately they found joy. Please read on...

IMPORTANT SPIRITUAL TRUTHS

Ignorance is not bliss when it comes to spiritual matters. 2 Peter 3:5, *For this they willingly are ignorant*. Hosea 4:6, *My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge*. Also, most people are hanging on to the first thing they learned spiritually and have never checked into Bible truth. We tend to believe and embrace the first thing we learned, even if it's wrong. WHAT DOES THE BIBLE SAY?

A. God originally created man to love and to love in return.

1 John 4:19, *We love Him (God), because he first loved us*.

B. Mankind turned out sinful

(Jesus said). Mark 7:21-23 *For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness.* (Add; selfishness, lying, stubbornness, anger, cursing, drunkenness, etc).

Romans 3:10, 23, *There is none righteous, no, not one: For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.* Our righteousness is like a filthy rag (Isa 64:6).

C. Mankind is sinful because we are born spiritually dead ...(why?)

Genesis 1:26-27 *And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness...So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him ...*(man was originally a three part being... body, soul & spirit, I Thes 5:23...but sin entered the picture ...Genesis 2:16-17 *And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die....* Did Adam and Eve eat of the tree? Adam & Eve ate of the tree and died like God had warned ...but they didn't die physically... only spiritually. Afterwards, Adam's children were also born as two part beings, now spiritually dead .. Genesis 5:3 *Adam ...begat a son in his own likeness, after his image; and called his name Seth ...* that spiritual deadness trans-ferred to all mankind. Romans 5:12, *Wherefore, as by one man sin*

*entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned ... (We were all born sinners.. Illustration: that is why a toddler will naturally lie, steal cookies, sass back, fight with their siblings, be selfish, etc. Nobody needs to teach them how to sin!) .. Psalms 51:5 (the Psalm writer said), *Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me...* (We are sinners from our conception).*

D. The world is a sinful mess

1 John 5:19, *The whole world lieth in wickedness...* Jesus said in John 3:19, *Men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil...* we must recognize our sinfulness before we can get saved ... Luke 19:10 *For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.*

E. Jesus said most people are going to hell (even within Christianity!)

Matthew 7:22-23 *Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, **I never knew you**: depart from me, ye that work iniquity....*

Matthew 7:13-14 **Wide** is the gate, and **broad** is the way, that leadeth to **destruction**, (hell), and **many** there be which go in thereat: **Because** strait is the gate, and **narrow** is the way, which leadeth unto life (heaven), and **few** there be that find it.

Isaiah 5:14 *Therefore hell hath enlarged herself, and opened her mouth without measure*

F. Everything is not ok

Ephesians 5:6, *Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the **wrath** of God upon the children of disobedience.*

Jesus said, *Take heed that no man deceive you,* (Matt 24:4). Many will not make it to heaven. 1 Corinthians 6:9,10, *The unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God.* God loves mankind, but His justice will not overlook man's sin.

G. People are sadly following their hearts

People are following what they think is right. Proverbs 14:12, *There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.* (including false religion).

Illustration:

Often times people create a 'god' of their own imagination in violation of the 2nd Commandment; Exodus 20:2.

You can't trust your heart! Jeremiah 17:9 *The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know (trust) it?* 1 Corinthians 8:7, *Their conscience being weak is defiled.* 1 Timothy 4:2, *Having their conscience seared with a hot iron.* Hebrews 10:22, *An evil conscience.* Titus 1:15, *Their mind and conscience is defiled.*

We need the truth of God's Word!

Jesus said in Matthew 6:23, *If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness!* (Another reason we need the Word of God)

Illustration:

Peter really thought he would never deny the Lord (his best friend). We can be easily deceived. Jiminy Cricket said *"let your conscience be your guide."* The Bible says the conscience is defiled, corrupted and seared.

HOW PEOPLE ARE BLINDED FROM THE TRUTH

A. Satan has blinded people from the truth

Satan is real ... Jesus encountered the Devil personally in Mt 4:1-11). 2 Corinthians 4:3-4, *But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost: In whom the god (Satan) of this world hath **blinded** the minds of them which believe not ...* John 12:40, *He hath blinded their eyes, and hardened their heart; that they should not see with their eyes, nor understand with their heart, and be converted ...*(Jesus called Satan a liar in Jn 8:44)...Satan deceives with a false appearance, masquerades as loving...2 Corinthians 11:14, *for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light...*

B. Satan's preachers and ministers have blinded people from the truth

2 Corinthians 11:14-15, *Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if **his ministers** also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness...* Jesus said in Matthew 15:14, *If the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch...* (Peter said).. 2 Peter 2:1, *But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies ... be warned!..* 1 Peter 5:8 *Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.* Again ... everything is not ok!

C. The Bible speaks much about people being unknowingly deceived and deluded

Ephesians 4:18, *Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the **blindness of their heart*** John 1:5, *And the light (true gospel) shineth in darkness; and the darkness **comprehended it not** ...* Also... (people don't want the truth because they don't want to repent) John 3:19, *And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and **men loved darkness** rather than light, because their deeds were evil..* Romans 3:11, *There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God... **Jesus said He came to ... Open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me*** (Acts 26:18).

God has to reach out to us through saved & caring people. Jesus said, *No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him* (John 6:44).

*The next lesson will deal with how to know for sure you're going to heaven.