

THE "OLD" NEW TESTAMENT

Luke wrote a parenthetical statement concerning those of Athens saying, "(For all the Athenians and strangers which were there spent their time in nothing else, but either to tell, or to hear some new thing)" (Acts 17:21). There are apparently many "Athenians" in our day and in our land, for there are many that would present many "new" things that supposedly come out of the Bible.

The New Testament is "new" in that it is that which came after the old law of Moses. The Hebrew writer stated, "In that he saith, A new covenant, he hath made the first old" (Heb. 8:13). This "new" testament or covenant was given to the followers of Christ during the first century, or in other words, the New Testament is some nineteen hundred years old now. It became the testament of force upon the death of Christ. Again, the Hebrew writer wrote, "For where a testament is, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator. For a testament is of force after men are dead: otherwise it is of no strength at all while the testator liveth" (Heb. 9:16-17).

One does not have to travel nineteen hundred years from the binding of the New Testament in order to find those who would change it, teaching something new. Even in his own time, the apostle Paul wrote, "I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ" (Gal. 1:6-7). No matter if it is in Paul's day or ours, "But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed".

There are many false teachers in this world, many like what Jesus described as wolves in sheep's clothing (Matt. 7:15). By good words and fair speeches, they will deceive the hearts of the simple (Rom. 16:18). The end result of following such a "new covenant" is eternal damnation in the fires of hell. Of those of this stripe, Jesus said, "Every plant, which my heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up. Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch" (Matt. 15:13-14).

There may well be new ways to illustrate or explain the truth, but any doctrine newer than the New Testament is too new! *Robert*

WHAT IS THE QUESTION?

Occasionally someone will say to me, "I have a question", and I'll say "green. That's the answer, if you ask the right question". Asking the right question is really important in finding out what it is you wish to know. Along these lines of thought, most have heard said, "you usually find what you are looking for". This is so true in so many situations. One looking for flaws in the life of another can readily find them. Somewhat like the mote in thy brother's eye that one can see, while not even seeing the beam in their own eye (Matt. 7:3).

Yet the gist of this brief article has to do with priorities. What is it that we are seeking in this life?

If the question concerns material prosperity, which it does for multitudes, then the answer may well involve hard work, smart work, education, long hours and other such methods. They have all be used with success in gaining material prosperity. If you seek riches, you will probably be able to find it.

If the question concerns power or authority, then the answer may be found in specific education, nurturing friendships of certain ones that could help and other endeavors to promote one in the political realm. Also, through the previously mentioned realm of material prosperity, one might also gain authority by way of becoming a leader in whatever business one is in. If you seek power, you will probably be able to find it.

If the question is one of glory and praise of man, then the two most noted paths to glory would be the sports arena and the entertainment realm. More people can name and tell all about their favorite athletes, singers or movie stars than can tell who their own congressmen are or who the original twelve apostles were. If you seek the praises of man, you will probably be able to find it.

However, if the three above mentioned realms is where your priority is, you are asking the wrong question. All these shall pass away (I John 2:16-17). The ultimate goal and that for which we should therefore question is how to have a home in heaven. Jesus said, "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you" (Matt. 6:33). If we will set our sights in heaven, then when this life on earth is done, we shall have a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens" (II Cor. 4:18-5:1). So, the major question is, "what is the question."

Tilis