

Are We Any Better?

We just read the impact of lies and untruths in our present society. We could pick pretty much any topic that is in the news and depending on one's political views, you could find support for your beliefs, *regardless* of facts. We have been lied to and cheated by those we have entrusted to run our government and lead the masses. But are we any better in the so called "churches?"

We are all familiar with the political terms, "left" and "right". It is apparent that anything associated with "the left" now represents pretty much anything that is Anti-American or contrary to the traditional values of our nation. Socialism, violence, abortion, deceit, agitation, intolerance, incivility, decadence, perversion/abominations, and anti-Christian verbal and physical persecution, all are current descriptions of the "left".

So why are they called the Left? Is it something new or perhaps a new term for this type of behavior? Or, did the Left become this way through time? The terms left and right can be merely neutral descriptions. I remember at one point the left were simply liberals. But they have now mutated into a group that conforms to whatever mood, gender or ideal strikes their fancy. Even beyond socialists.

The left side and left-handedness play a distinctively negative role in many languages. I never knew it but the word "sinister" is derived from the Latin term

that means, "on the left side." Does God's Word have anything to say about the "left' mentality?

Ecclesiastes 10:2 A wise man's heart is at his right hand, but a fool's heart at his left.

Matthew 25:31-32 "When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the holy angels with Him, then He will sit on the throne of His glory. All the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats."

Matthew 25:33 "And He will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left."

Matthew 25:34 "Then the King will say to those on His right hand, 'Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.'"

Matthew 25:41 "Then He will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels.'"

Interesting.

All that being said, I don't want to ridicule the lost but simply identify a mindset.

They are terribly lost and deceived. This brings me back to the question in the first paragraph, "are we any better in the churches?"

I'm still amazed that it took me half a century to overcome what was taught to me as "truth" when I grew up. Don't think you're a "late bloomer", better late than never. Some of us have had similar journeys and we know that God knows what He's doing (**Phil. 1:6**).

My earliest recollections of church were Sunday School at a Methodist church while living with my grandparents in Virginia. I even remember my grandparents watching the early Billy Graham Crusades on TV. When we moved to Pennsylvania, I was only 4 years old. We started going to a local Presbyterian church. Now both my mom and grand mom taught me about Jesus and always be good and "say your prayers." I've probably mentioned in the past of how my grand mom would scare us into believing that "the bad man" would get us if we were not good. We were taught to celebrate Christmas, Easter and even Halloween was okay. So why would my own mom and grand mom lie to me? They simply *didn't know any better* as they were taught in the same manner I was, what their parents and their parents before them taught them and so on. I in turn, taught the same to my children. Through the years I "rounded the horn" so to speak in attending various denominations of churches. Catholic and Pentecostal included. I am grateful for God's grace, mercy and forgiveness.

We know that Satan is the father of all lies (**John 8:44**). Once he deceived Eve in the Garden of Eden, the rest of humanity was a snap. When we grew up, we trusted

our parents as we loved them and we knew they would never intentionally hurt us or deceive us. Teaching harmless traditions of Santa Claus and the Easter Bunny seemed totally innocent at the time. But are they harmless? (**Mark 7:8, Col. 2:8**) I did begin to question the math from “Good Friday” to Easter Sunday at the age of 9 as it didn’t add up to 3 days and 3 nights. I didn’t think Jesus was poor at math by any consideration. But it took another 40 years before things began to add up. Sabbath keeping was the first hurdle (**Ex.31:13, 17**). Keeping God’s Holy Days followed (**Lev. 23:2**). God’s calling had begun decades earlier and it wasn’t until I began to be obedient to His Commandments and keeping His Sabbaths and Holy Days that the veil began to come off. One of the most critical realizations in my transition was I had never read God’s Word for myself!

I like so many human beings are led to believe that going to church on a Sunday, throw a buck in the plate and you’ll go to heaven and walk on streets of gold when you die! Evidently those teaching God’s Word omit a few scriptures to fit their agenda (**Gen. 3:19, Ecc. 9:5, John 3:13**). “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I will also reject you from being as a priest to Me. Since you have forgotten the law of your God, I will also forget your children.”-**Hosea 4:6**. Is it any wonder we’re in the current state of moral decay?

We are deceived from the time we can understand our own language and it continues throughout the rest of our lives. Unless God intervenes (**John 6:44, 65**). God gives us ample warnings throughout His Word about being deceived (**Deut. 11:16, 28:45, Luke 21:8, John 7:47, 1 Cor. 15:33, Gal. 6:7**).

The deception and lies certainly seem totally out of control these days with all the hype over COVID, global warming /climate change, vaccines, gender identity, the election results and so on and will only continue to get worse (**2 Tim. 3:13**). I find it tragic that the greatest lies and deceptions are being taught in churches pushing a false doctrine and cut and paste Christianity to fit their own denominational agendas. The sheep in the pews are being fed a constant diet of lies and deception. But we know the end of the father of all lies and those who deceive (**Jude 6, Rev. 19:20, 20:10**).

God's judgement will begin in His Own house (**1 Pet. 4:17**). It may have taken over half a century to bring me to God's Truth and Way of Life and I am eternally grateful to God The Father and Our Savior Jesus Christ. "For we also were once foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving all kinds of lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful and hating one another. But when the graciousness and the love of God our Savior toward man appeared, not by works of righteousness which we practiced, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and the renewing of the Holy Spirit, which He richly poured out

upon us through Jesus Christ our Savior; so that, having been justified by His grace, we would become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.”- **Titus 3:3-7**

This doesn't make us better, but we are *chosen* and *set apart* (**Deut. 7:6, 14:2, Psa. 33:12, Matt. 22:14**).

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