

## THE VOICE OF ANTICHRIST

I was planning on doing a study on the heart, the soul, and the flesh nature, but I feel it's more important to continue exposing the oh-so-subtle ideas and arguments the spirit of Antichrist is using to deceive God's people right now. It shouldn't surprise me after everything I've seen in over the years, but it still does at times, how Satan manages to use the same old ideas, over and over again, to deceive the brethren.

Many *thousands* of people have come out of the Religious System over the years because they realized the ministers of that System were teaching *doctrinal* error and were compromising God's *truth* in order to have spiritual unity with other "Christians" who walked in, or promoted error. Yet now, some of those same people are telling the brethren to do the *very thing* they once knew was so wrong, and which caused them to leave that system in the first place. How can people become so deluded that they have no problem saying it's wrong for those *inside* the system to compromise God's truth in order to have unity, but somehow it's not wrong for those *outside* the system to do exactly the same thing?

When preachers and Bible teachers *inside* the system tell us we shouldn't let our "pet doctrines" or our own "personal opinions" separate us from other believers; or when they tell us we should never judge others—especially in regards to each other's doctrinal positions—we all agree this is *not* the voice of the Holy Spirit speaking. We all agree that this kind of talk is the work of the enemy who is trying to dilute the purity of the true ekklesia. We even have a common name for this kind of thing: *Ecumenicism*. Everyone who has left the Religious System knows the *Ecumenical Movement* was spawned by Satan and it's goal is to mesh everyone together into one gigantic, defiled, religious stew.

Well, does leaving the system change any of this? Can we come out here and do the same thing *they* are doing *inside* the system, and still remain pure? So the numbers change. Inside the system you're in a church with 50 people, or 500 people, or 5000 people. Out here, we get in little clicks of 2, or 4, or 8 people. But you're still facing some of the same situations. And when somebody in our little click or our little group starts going off or teaching really bad error and everyone in your little group is following them, what are you going to do? Are you going to do the same thing they do in the system? Are you going to compromise the truth in order to keep peace in your little click; or will you come out *again*?

Over the years, I've watched many of those who left the Religious System go into one kind of error after another. So one of the warnings I often sound in this chat room is that leaving that system does not make us immune from deception. I can assure you that the *same* seducing spirits which have overcome your fellow Christians inside that system, are out here trying to do the same thing to *you*—and what's so frustrating, what's so pathetic, is that these religious spirits use the same lies and pervert the same passages of Scripture out here as they do inside the system, and some of us are *still* falling for it!

More than a few people who at one time had enough discernment to recognize the seductive voice of Antichrist *inside* the system are now succumbing to that same voice out here. So please remember this one thing—it's not the fact that we have entered the race that counts; and it's not how fast we run that counts; and it's not how good we look while we are running that counts. What counts is whether or not we make it to the *finish line*. Lot's of people who have heard the call to Sonship over the years and who have entered that race, are *no longer* in the race because they have been deceived, and they have *no idea* they have been deceived. They have no idea they are no longer in the race because that's part of the deception!

The reason people can get deceived and not realize it is because when we go into deception we don't lose all our *head knowledge* of God or His truth. When we get deceived, God doesn't come along and take away all the knowledge or experience or wisdom He has given us over the years. The Scripture says the "gifts" of God are without repentance (*Rom. 11:29*).

This is why people get so confused when they run across a minister who has been given a genuine spiritual gift (or gifts) from God, and is preaching the truth for a while, but then at some later point, goes off into deception. Even in that deception, a true gift from God *can* still function. However, since people don't understand this, they don't know how to view this person. Is he a "sheep" who got deceived; or is he a "wolf" who never belonged to Christ to begin with? Is his gift real; or is it a counterfeit? If it's real, why would God allow a true spiritual gift to continue to function in a *defiled* vessel?

It would be wonderful if when we started going into deception, God would remove from us all the knowledge, experience and gifts we have been given. That way we would know without a doubt that something is *drastically* wrong. But He doesn't do that. His conviction and His checkings are gentle and they are easy to ignore. Because they are easy to ignore, people go into deception and don't know it. So I just want to make sure we can all recognize the voice of Antichrist when we hear it—whether that voice is coming from inside the system or from outside the system.

Please listen to the following quotes. They are from a recent article that was written by an individual who has been *out* of the religious system for many years. The point of this article is that certain people need to search their souls to see if they are truly walking in *God's* love and righteousness, or if they just assume they are walking in these things, when in fact they are walking in criticism, judgmentalism and self-righteousness. Unfortunately, this person's view of love and righteousness has been defiled by religious spirits.

The article starts off by saying that things are happening in the world at such a rapid pace, it is hard to take it all in, and that people are practically falling over themselves trying to figure out how to fit the things that are happening into their end-time theologies. Then the writer asks: "*Is that what we were called to do? Are we really supposed to try and make people and events fit into our preconceived ideas? Is our focus supposed to be on other people, what they are doing and saying? Or is our focus supposed to be on the Lord God?*"

"Focusing on God" may sound like great spiritual advice, but in the context of the message this individual is trying to get across, it's not spiritual at all because the whole point of this person's message is that we shouldn't be looking at other people's problems. We should *only* be concerned about our own spiritual condition. There seems to be a complete lack of understanding in this individual's mind that it's possible to both judge ourselves and guard our own hearts, while at the same time, watch for the souls of others. In all this person's writings, it's always an either/or proposition. Either we can watch what others are doing, or we can watch what we are doing; but we can't possibly do *both* at the same time.

And as we shall soon see, when this person talks about focusing on other people, this is not simply a reference to butting into the business of everyone around us—which is something we should *not* be doing. The point being made is that we should not worry about what anyone else is doing, *including* preachers and Bible teachers who are leading the people of God into deception.

“As the ‘Apostasy’ within the ‘Church’ has grown, so has there been an increase of those who **feel it is their ‘calling’ to expose these errors**. However, **what began with good intentions seems to have a way of taking on a life of its own as it goes along**. It is sad, but many who started out sounding a warning cry against grossly false teachings, **end up becoming ‘witch-hunters’... labeling everyone with a view different than their own as being ‘false’...which means that they have inadvertently set themselves up as being the ‘only one with the truth.’** They spread their message across the internet and via whatever venue is open to them, fully convinced that they are ‘called to set the record straight.’ In the process, they themselves have become part of the problem, and are in fact doing **as much or more damage** to the ‘Body of Christ,’ than **those they are exposing**. We have an over-abundance of the ‘pot calling the kettle black’ throughout the Church world.

Regardless of whether a person is in or out of organized religion...with all of the ‘labels’ we have created to define and describe the multitude of teachings and practices flourishing today, is it any wonder that confusion is rampant? How many times have you been introduced to someone, or just heard about them, and depending on the denomination that they are affiliated with, have immediately pigeon-holed them without a second thought? “O, one of ‘them,’” without any leading of the Spirit... or giving the accused a chance to be judged on their own merits. No, we fall back on our ‘knowledge’ and our own ‘prejudices,’ justifying ourselves in the process. **Perhaps the reason that the ‘world’ doesn’t want any part of what we have to offer, is because we look and act just like them, only we have the audacity to be self-righteous, critical and judgmental to boot.**

Whatever happened to...’They will know we are Christians by our love?’

It is amazing when passing judgment on others, how quickly we forget our Lord’s warning found in Matthew 7:2 ‘For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again.’ Somehow, in our way of thinking we fail to make the connection...that **as we find fault, criticize, and yes, pass judgment on others...we can fully expect to receive the same kind of judgment ourselves**. I dare say, that thought does not cross our radar screen. In our mind, we are nobly defending the truth...**at least our perception of the truth. We usually don’t give a second thought to ‘turning the other cheek,’ or praying for the deceived soul we are attacking either**, as we are engaged in “fighting the good fight.” 1 Timothy 6:12 “Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.” Well, we got part of it right, anyway...our justification might be, “well, at least we were fighting something!”...or not.

{Here the writer quotes half a dozen passages about loving one another: Matt. 22:37-38; Rom. 13:8; Gal. 5:13; I. Thess. 4:9; I. John 3:11 & 4:7-8}

We are sadly lacking when it comes to fulfilling what our LORD decreed to be the second greatest commandment...Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. It is troubling that we show great concern for how we conduct ourselves in the world, yet when it comes to the ekklesia (called out ones, Body of Christ), **we feel justified in employing whatever kind of abusive language and behavior we deem necessary in order to make our point**. There seems to be almost an obsession with people...that they are RIGHT! And whoever gets hurt in the process of striving to establish their ‘rightness’ is of little to no consequence. This widely prevalent attitude is purely carnal, of the FLESH...and no amount of white-wash will ever make it right.”

Let’s look closely at what is being said here. First of all, notice how hypocritical it is to on the one hand, decry the evil of Christians judging and accusing other Christians, while at the same time, doing exactly that.

This little passage is full of accusations against, and the judgment of, believers who feel God is calling them to expose the false teachers in our midst. The writer of this article says those who do this:

- ~ Have become part of the problem.
- ~ Have becoming witch-hunters.
- ~ Are labeling everyone with a view different as being false.
- ~ Are setting themselves up as being the only ones with the truth.
- ~ Are finding fault, criticizing, and passing judgment on others.
- ~ Are not defending truth, but merely **their own perception** of the truth.
- ~ Are hypocrites (pots calling the kettles black).
- ~ Are acting like the people of the world.
- ~ Employ whatever kind of abusive language and behavior they like.
- ~ Are obsessed with proving they are right.
- ~ Are purely carnal and of the flesh.
- ~ Refuse to turn the other cheek.
- ~ Refuse to pray for those who are deceived.
- ~ Are doing more damage to the Church than all the false teachers they are exposing.

That's a pretty impressive list of accusations for one who says we shouldn't criticize and accuse each other! What was it Paul said? "...for wherein thou judgest another, thou condemnest thyself; for thou doest the same things. (Rom. 2:1). However, the hypocrisy manifested in these kinds of statements is not the real danger. The thing that's dangerous is all the talk about loving one another and turning the other cheek, for these *are* Scriptural commands. We are to turn the other cheek—at least under certain conditions—and we are to love the brethren.

The problem here is, the spirit that's speaking through this individual is purposely speaking only *half* the truth in order to lead the reader to a conclusion they would not otherwise reach, had the *whole* truth been spoken. This is one of the enemies favorite tactics—and Biblically ignorant Christians fall for it all the time. The truth is, the Scripture never tells us to "turn the other cheek" when it comes to false teachers who are leading the brethren astray. This is what Paul says about dealing with false teachers:

*Since an overseer is entrusted with God's work, he must be blameless—not overbearing, not quick-tempered, not given to drunkenness, not violent, not pursuing dishonest gain. Rather he must be hospitable, one who loves what is good, who is self-controlled, upright, holy and disciplined. He must hold firmly to the trustworthy message as it has been taught, so that he can encourage others by sound doctrine and refute those who oppose it. For there are many rebellious people, mere talkers and deceivers, especially those of the circumcision group. They must be silenced, because they are ruining whole households by teaching things they ought not to teach—and that for the sake of dishonest gain. Even one of their own prophets has said, "Cretans are always liars, evil brutes, lazy gluttons." This testimony*

*is true. Therefore, rebuke them sharply, so that they will be sound in the faith and will pay no attention to Jewish myths or to the commands of those who reject the truth.*

*Titus 1:7-14 NIV*

I could spend the next hour going through all the passages in the New Testament that command us to do the *very opposite* of what the writer of that article says we should do. But this one passage alone puts the lie to everything that individual wrote. The Scripture tells us to rebuke false teachers, to expose them, and separate from them if they do not repent. It doesn't say we should "love" them and overlook *the damage* they are doing to God's people; it doesn't say we should turn the other cheek when they are leading God's people astray; and it doesn't say we should ignore their error for the sake of unity.

The write of that article asks the question: "*What ever happened to... 'They will know that we are Christians by our love'?*" This person wouldn't be asking that question if they really understood God's love, but they don't. For example, it would be easy to take the things Paul said about what kind of person an overseer should be—hospitable, not violent, not quick tempered, controlled, etc.—and say: "*See, we should never say a mean or negative word to each other*". This is precisely the attitude that is displayed in all this person's writings. But if you keep what Paul said in it's proper context, you will see that being all these things does *not* mean God never expects us to "rebuke" people. It does not mean that He never expects us to rebuke some people SHARPLY!

The Greek word that was translated "sharply" there is *apotomos*, which means "cuttingly" or "severely". It comes from a Greek root word (*apotemno*), which means "to cut off". Paul is talking about a *very harsh* correction. The harshness is in *direct proportion* to the level of destruction these false teachers are causing. Harshness is not necessarily the opposite of love. As a matter of fact, in this particular case, such a harsh correction *is* a manifestation of God's love for the people He is trying to keep from destroying themselves, and others along with them.

You see, the spirit of Antichrist has its own *perverted definition* of love, and it's constantly trying to *impose* that definition on the Word of God. It's constantly whispering in the ear of the person who reads passages about the love of God in the Scripture, in order to get them to believe a lie. I've found over the years that the people who talk the *most* about love, are usually the ones who don't have any idea what the *true* love of God is. God's love isn't the kind of weak and effeminate, or soulish and sensual thing most people think it is. It can be as harsh as it is gentle. Furthermore, God's love *never* condones sin or false doctrine. If God loves you and you are teaching error—especially the kind of error that destroys the faith of others—He will expose you and embarrass you and do whatever is necessary to get your attention so you will see the truth and repent. However, if God doesn't love you, He will let you go on your merry little way, heaping up damnation as a result of leading others astray.

The writer then proceeds to quote Ephesians 4:4-16: *That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; But **speaking the truth in love**, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ: From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the **edifying of itself in love**.*

The writer says: “If we are truly born again, we are all parts of the same body” and therefore: “we are called to build on another up...not tear each other down”. Once again, the problem here is that the spirit that’s speaking through this individual is purposely speaking only *half* the truth in order to lead the reader to a conclusion they would not otherwise reach, had the *whole* truth been spoken.

Paul commanded Timothy to *rebuke* those that sin *in front of* the whole congregation (*I. Tim. 5:20*). That would be pretty embarrassing wouldn’t it? I wonder if the writer of this article would view such a practice as “building up the body”? I think not.

Paul also told Titus to *rebuke* people with *all authority* (*Titus 2:15*). Once again, this wouldn’t set too well with our illustrious writer for two reasons. First of all, it doesn’t fit this person’s view of what it means to “build one another up”. In order to rebuke someone, you will first have to “judge” them and determine that they are in need of a rebuke! That’s knit-picking and fault-finding and criticism and judgmentalism in this person’s eyes. Well, if people were to listen to the perverted ideas of this individual, we would all be walking in total deception right now, since no one would be discerning the difference between truth and error out of fear being guilty of “judging” one another, or of being a knit-picker, or a “witch-hunter”. We would all be scared to judge between right and wrong out of fear of being guilty of “criticizing” each other and “tearing each other down”. Everything in this article is Antichrist nonsense.

Another reason Paul’s instruction to Titus wouldn’t sit to well with the writer of that article is because this individual doesn’t believe we can rebuke with “all authority” because in their view, we shouldn’t be walking around *thinking* we *know* the truth. Those who are truly spiritual have come to understand that they can’t really know anything or be sure of anything—except that they “love” Jesus, of course. “Knowledge” is basically *worthless* because it only puffs people up. Knowledge is all in the realm of the mind; and God’s not interested in your thinking process or your reasoning process. He’s only interested in your “heart”. He’s only interested in whether or not you trust Him and obey Him. What you know with your brain is *irrelevant*. In fact, the less you know—or at least the less you *think* you know—the better off you are spiritually because this whole thing isn’t about “knowing”; it’s all about *feeling*.

Before I move on, I want to look again at the statement the writer make about if we are truly born again, then we are all parts of the same body; for you see, this is another example of using *the truth* to deceive people. It is certainly true that if we are really born again we are all parts of the same body. But *the way* this person is applying that truth is deception because what they are saying is that since we are all parts of the same body, we have no right to treat anyone else who is part of that body negatively. We have no right to “tear them down” in any way—and tearing them down *includes* judging their doctrines, their fruit, and their religious experiences. Not tearing them down *includes* not exposing them if they are teaching false doctrine. Not tearing them down *means* that we ignore whatever damage they are doing to the rest of the body of Christ—all in the name of love. Again, this is just more Antichrist nonsense.

One of the things that is consistently absent in the articles of this writer is the distinction the Scripture makes between those who are in *public* ministry and those who are not. As I said the other week, if you teach publicly—I don’t care how big your ministry is: whether you are a Benny Hinn with millions of followers, or a home Bible study teacher, or a Dan Mace with an itty-bitty chat room—if you teach publicly, then you are in a different category than the rest of the brethren. Those who teach publicly become answerable *to* the rest of the body of Christ. The doctrines and ideas and revelations of those who teach publicly are

supposed to be judged by the rest of the body of Christ. Once you start a public ministry of any kind, you better be prepared to have your teachings scrutinized by the rest of the body because that's our job! That's our responsibility! That's our privilege as the children of God—and only the SPIRIT OF SATAN would tell God's people they don't have that privilege. Only the SPIRIT OF SATAN would tell God's people that in the name of "love" they must never judge or expose the doctrine of public teachers. Only the SPIRIT OF SATAN would tell you and me that we have no right to warn God's people of those who are moving under the power of seducing spirits and are preaching the doctrines of devils!

What is taught publicly is to be judged by ALL the members of Christ's body. You and I don't need a degree or ordination papers before we can judge the teachings, the fruit, or the religious experiences of those who become teachers in the body of Christ. We don't have to ask their permission to discuss in a public forum, the things they have taught publicly. And we certainly don't have to consult them first, before publicly refuting any error they may be propagating. So don't ever let anyone scare you or bluff you into keeping silent when you know God want's you to expose the error or the name of someone who is doing harm to the rest of the body. That's your job and your privilege as a child of God.

"Knowledge is what the mind of man seeks after; but knowledge alone can be a dangerous thing: '...Knowledge puffeth up, but love edifieth' (I. Cor. 8:1). We need to: '...**know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge**, that ye might be filled with all the fulness of God' (Eph. 3:19). Otherwise, we are: '...ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth' (II. Tim. 3:7). It is all of God, 'not of works, lest any man should boast'. . .Child-like faith and trust are absolutely required, along with obedience. . .If we are basing our righteousness **on what we know**, we are in deep trouble. **Until we come to the place where we can lay down all of our knowledge**. . .we are our own worst enemy. . .How we treat others does matter. . .Our hearts cry in this hour should be: 'Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts' (Ps. 139:23). Fully realizing: 'And **if any man think that he knoweth any thing, he knoweth nothing** yet as he ought to know' (I. Cor. 8:2)."

Here is yet more twisting of the intended meaning of the teachings of Scripture. This person's view is that "knowledge" is basically worthless because knowledge is what the carnal mind of both the saved and the unsaved lust after, and we all know that "knowledge puffeth up", don't we. This idea that knowledge is bad, but simple trust is good, runs throughout all this individuals writings. That's why there is such an obvious comparison made between I. Corinthians 8:1—which says knowledge puffs people up—and Ephesians 3:19—which says love *surpasses* knowledge.

In other words, to walk in love is far better than to have knowledge. It's the *carnal* Christian who seeks after knowledge, and then turns around and uses that knowledge to judge the doctrine and/or behavior of other parts of the body, which they have no right to do. But *spiritual* believers—like the writer of this article—don't seek after knowledge. In fact, they have *let go* of all their knowledge because they have come to realize that until they let go of all that knowledge, they are their own worst enemy, for it's *knowledge* that stops God's life from coming forth in people. Thus, knowledge has become the enemy of trust and faith. The writer is constantly pitting one against the other. Obviously there is a complete lack of understanding that God wants us to *use* our minds. He wants our minds fill with *His* knowledge.

The Scripture never presents faith and reason as opposites; or trust and knowledge as opposites. What it does talk about is the difference between the carnal wisdom and knowledge of *this world*, and the wisdom and knowledge of *Christ*. Both kinds of knowledge and wisdom *utilize* the human brain or mind. Just because someone has a lot of “knowledge”, that doesn’t mean they are “carnally minded”. God never requires us to just empty our heads of all the knowledge we have acquired over the years. What he wants us to do is put all that knowledge under the GOVERNMENT of His Holy Spirit, so He can separate the truth from the error, worldly wisdom from spiritual wisdom, and human reasoning from spiritual reasoning.

Please notice how this writer twists what Paul said about knowledge so that it now means something other than what Paul originally intended. After denigrating knowledge in general and saying how we will never come forth in Christ unless we let go of all our worthless knowledge, the writer quotes I. Cor. 8:2—“*And if any man think that he knoweth any thing, he knoweth nothing yet as he ought to know*”. The idea is, not only should we view knowledge as an inferior and negative thing which hinders us from coming forth in Christ, even if the reader refuses to listen to the great wisdom of the writer of that article, even the reader continues in their ignorance, thinking they “know anything”, it doesn’t really matter what they think because God’s Word says they “know nothing as you ought to know”.

But is that really what Paul was saying? Was he saying that none of us can know anything? That we should all empty our heads of any knowledge we have learned over the years? Well, let’s read *the context* of the passage that this person is mis-using. The subject is the conscience of weak brethren with regards to meat that has been offered to idols.

*Now as touching things offered unto idols, we know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge puffeth up, but charity edifieth. And if any man think that he knoweth any thing, he knoweth nothing yet as he ought to know. . .Howbeit **there is not in every man that knowledge**: for some with conscience of the idol unto this hour eat it as a thing offered unto an idol; and their conscience being weak is defiled. But meat commendeth us not to God: for neither, if we eat, are we the better; neither, if we eat not, are we the worse. **But take heed lest by any means this liberty of yours become a stumblingblock** to them that are weak. **For if any man see thee which hast knowledge sit at meat in the idol's temple, shall not the conscience of him which is weak be emboldened to eat those things which are offered to idols; And through thy knowledge shall the weak brother perish, for whom Christ died? But when ye sin so against the brethren, and wound their weak conscience, ye sin against Christ.***

*I. Corinthians 8:1-2 & 7-12*

To put it very simply, the “knowledge” Paul was referring to in this passage specifically had to do with knowing all meat is fine to eat, regardless of where it came from. In Paul’s day, some of the people who produced meat for the public, also produced meat specifically for pagan temple and worship. Likewise, some of those who sold meat to the public, did the same thing. As a matter of fact, some of the best “meat markets” were actually located at those pagan temples because the best meats were offered to the pagan god’s of those various cultures. So the meat you ate for supper could very easily have come from a temple

meat market. Paul is talking about the new believer who would not be able to partake of meat that was purchased in a temple meat market without defiling his own conscience. That is, without thinking he was doing something wrong.

The more mature believers in that same fellowship would *know* (ie: have knowledge) that it didn't matter to the Lord *where* the meat came from. But apparently, the believers who had that "knowledge" weren't moving in *love* because they refused to be hindered in their eating habits by the weak conscience of the new converts. They ate whatever meat they felt like it, based on the CORRECT knowledge that where it came from wasn't important. In so doing, they would embolden the weak brother to partake of meat that he would not otherwise partake of, thus causing him to defile his own conscience.

Paul wasn't saying the knowledge regarding the true nature of meat was wrong. Nor did he tell these brethren to empty their head of all that nasty knowledge. What he said was, your correct knowledge is not being exercised in the *love* of God. It's your pride that is demanding the new converts to defile their consciences, just so you can keep eating what you want to eat. *Die to yourself* in this particular area. Restrain your eating habits while in front of the weak brethren so as not to cause them to sin against themselves. Unless you exercise that CORRECT knowledge in love—unless that knowledge is used for the good of the rest of the body—it's not profiting you. It is only making you proud.

But you see, it's obvious that the problem in this situation was not that the knowledge *itself* was wrong. The problem was how that knowledge was being *applied* in the life of the assembly. Those who had the correct knowledge didn't place that knowledge under *the government* of the Holy Spirit. They used that knowledge for *selfish* purposes. They didn't use it to edify the rest of the body.

Knowledge is *not* God's enemy; and it's not our enemy either. Knowledge is just as necessary as anything else in order to come forth in Christ—and those who say we must let go of all our knowledge have been deceived. Certainly we must let go of any knowledge that is false, or which stands in opposition to God's ways or His kingdom. But knowledge *in and of itself* is not bad; nor is it inferior to love, faith, trust, or any other Christian virtue. That's just more Antichrist nonsense.

I would like to take a look at an article this writer is currently recommending to everyone. It's from another individual who has been out of the Religious system for a while, and who has a little web site and does public teaching. In this article this man is talking about the leaven of the Pharisees and the Sadducees. He defines that leaven as: (1) false doctrine that permeates the truth; and (2) seeing things more literally than spiritually. This viewing things literally caused them to focus more on the outward acts than on the inward condition of the heart. Also, viewing things literally and in a physical sense also made them incapable of understanding the spiritual mysteries God has hidden in the Scripture. He says:

"Jesus also gave this specific warning to his followers: 'Take heed and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees' (Matt. 6:16). Leaven, or as Jesus followers learned by revelation as Jesus spoke this parable to them, is understood spiritually to mean **doctrine**. The **doctrine** of the Pharisees and Sadducees was warned against by Jesus, and therefore, on good authority, we can safely say it is **false doctrine**. It is false doctrine that will **permeate the truth**. Therefore we start with the mystery or parable of leaven or false doctrine and conclude that the leaven Jesus warned his followers about would be an obstacle. An obstacle for Jesus followers to learning and applying the truth, if they were

not careful and take heed of His warnings. The Pharisees of 30 AD were legalists, believing that the disposition of the heart was less vital than the outward act. Lawyers and exposition of the law grew to be extremely important, resulting in inherited precepts and interpretations with binding force, beyond the Law of Moses. The Sadducees, on the other hand, had yielded more to Greek Influence and had adopted the principles of the Aristotelian philosophy and refused to accept any doctrine which they could not prove by pure reason. **It seems most of the Pharisees and Sadducees back then thought; physical or "literal". The carnal mind/flesh & blood, is not capable of understanding the spiritual mysteries** deliberately hidden by God in natural types, metaphors and parables in the Bible."

So a big part of the leaven of the Pharisees is reading the Bible with the *carnal* mind. Reading the Scripture with the carnal mind means that when you read the Bible, you *can't see* the deeper "spiritual mysteries" or the types and shadows that lie beneath the obvious meaning of the passage. All you can see is the surface meaning of what has been written. So when you read the Scripture and accept what it says at face value instead of getting the deeper, spiritual meaning of what's being said, then you are doing what the Pharisees and Sadducees did. You are reading the Word with the carnal mind.

Now, one of the verses where the carnal minds of *modern* religious leaders have failed to see this deeper meaning is the one in II. Thessalonians chapter two, where Paul talks about the "man of sin" being revealed. Our modern-day Pharisees and Sadducees, being able to only see the surface meaning of the text, have interpreted what Paul said there as a reference to a *literal* man they call "the Antichrist".

But of course, the writer of this article has seen past all this carnal interpretation and has seen the "mystery" that lies beneath it all. And what is that mystery? Well, the mystery of what Paul is talking about there is "the flesh". The man of sin sitting in the Temple of God is really a reference to our "flesh" sitting on the throne of our hearts.

"Of course, 'the son of perdition' is identified in II. Thess. 2:3 as 'that man of sin', and is used as a base support scripture for some traditional teachings on the anti-Christ being a literal man who is to be revealed, consumed by the Spirit of His mouth, and destroyed by the brightness of His coming. Ok, so now we might ask; how can 'that (literal) man of sin', 'that Wicked (literal man)' literally 'sit in the temple of God showing himself that he is God'?

II. Thess 2:7 'For the mystery of iniquity doth already work...' () Anything the Bible calls a 'mystery' will certainly require the attention of Christians with ears to hear in order for it to be revealed. Strictly literal interpretations should immediately raise some red flags. Rev 2:9 I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich) and I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan. If (flesh and blood) men are referenced by Jesus as a 'synagogue' of Satan, as above, then by direct contrast, other men (flesh and blood men) could be referenced as a 'temple of God' and they are. . . I can't help but think about where **my flesh would like to sit** (as it were) in this scheme of things. Any bets?

II. Thess. 2:4 "Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God..." Would I (**my flesh**) **exalt myself and oppose God's rule**? I can speak from past experience. I (**my flesh**) **would love to exalt myself and would love not to be ruled by God** or anything else."

So according to this Bible teacher, there is no great end-time entity that rises up in the last days to actually overcome some of God's people, like the Scripture says in various places. Rather, it's just a simple case of people allowing their flesh man to sit on the throne of their hearts instead of submitting to God and allowing the Spirit of God to sit in that throne. The "man of sin" is our "flesh" ruling over us instead of God. Our flesh sits in us (the temple) and exalts itself above the will of God.

The only problem with this is that the man of sin, referred to by Paul in that passage, is clearly said to gain entrance in to the temple by *supernatural* means. It's the "sign's and wonders" that allow that man of sin to take his seat in God's temple.

*And then shall **that Wicked be revealed**, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming: Even him, whose coming is **after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders**, And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness **in them that perish**; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.*

*II. Thessalonians 2:8-10*

I'm sorry, but nobody's flesh contains supernatural power. Only God and Satan have supernatural power. Paul is talking about a *supernatural* entity. The entity referred to as "*that Wicked*" gains entrance into the temple and takes his seat in that temple through supernatural power, signs and lying wonders. After discovering the mystery about the man of sin being our "flesh", this writer reveals another mystery, which is that the entity referred to as "even him" in that passage is none other than the Lord Jesus:

**"If we can set aside what our leavened religious traditions have taught us**, we may begin to see through to the truth. However, be forewarned; **the traditions** of men are powerful and can be powerfully deceptive. OK, now look again at the two verses that follow:

And then shall that wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of His mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of His coming. Even him, whose *coming* (G3952) is *after* (G2596) the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders..."

In verse nine above, the 'Even him' has been offered as an anti-Christ, by **carnal tradition** and now by many main stream eschatology teachers. Look very carefully, **without bias or precondition**. The 'him' (Even him whose coming) is NOT an 'anti-Christ' but is in fact 'Him' (the Lord ) who destroys 'him' ('that wicked') with 'the brightness of His coming'?

Look at the Greek definition of **coming**: G2952; *parousia* (par-oo-see'-ah). From the present participle of G3918; 'a being near, that is, advent (often, return; specifically of Christ to punish Jerusalem, or finally the wicked); (by implication) physical aspect: -coming, presence.'

Coming in verse nine, **is the same Greek word that was used for the Lord's 'coming'** or presence in verse eight. Now consider the context of verse 8 through verse 12 and look again at the **Greek definitions of the words 'after'** as used in verse nine. The term after

means: 'concerning, pertaining to, touching'. So verse nine would be better understood to mean: 'Even Him, (**the Lord**) whose coming is (**pertaining to and because of the**) working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, and with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved'."

One of the things you have to watch is when people start referring to the Greek language to prove their points. It's just as easy to twist and misapply the *Greek* meaning of a word or phrase as it is to twist and misapply the *English* meaning of a word or phrase. Studying the Greek can be very useful as long as it helps to *establish* the truth of the Scripture and not contradict it. I use the Greek at times myself. But all too often people use the Greek to contradict and oppose the clear meaning of a passage. This is one of those cases.

*And then shall **that Wicked** be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming: **Even him**, whose **coming** [parousia] is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders,*

*II. Thessalonians 2:8-9*

The writer of this article says that because Paul used *parousia* when referring to the "Him" in verse nine—which is the term that is also used throughout the New Testament when referring to the Lord's return—this means the "Him" in verse nine is talking about Jesus, not the man of sin. When you change the "Even him" from some agent of Satan to Christ, you have made a very drastic change indeed.

*I am glad of the **coming** [parousia] of Stephanas and Fortunatus and Achaicus: for that which was lacking on your part they have supplied.*

*I. Corinthians 16:17*

*Nevertheless God, that comforteth those that are cast down, comforted us by the **coming** [parousia] of Titus;*

*II. Corinthians 7:6*

*That your rejoicing may be more abundant in Jesus Christ for me by **my coming** [parousia] to you again.*

*Philippians 1:26*

Based on the Greek that's used in the preceding passages, I could say that I believe the "Him" in verse nine of II. Thessalonians chapter two is Stephanas, or Fortunatus, or Achaicus, or Titus, or even Paul, since the same exact Greek word (*parousia*) is used when referring to *them* coming. So you see, it's very easy to manipulate the Greek meaning of a word to fit your desired view. People do this all the time. Sometimes they know what they are doing. Other times they are simply being seduced by invisible forces.

He also said that the Greek term for “after” (Strong’s #2596; *kata*—kat-ah’) means: “concerning, pertaining to, and touching”. Well, yes and no. It does mean those things. . . and also about fifty other things as well. Actually, *kata* is translated a bunch of different ways in the King James, but the writer of this article conveniently forgot to mention about 95% of them! Below is Strong’s definition of *kata*:

“A primary particle; (prepositionally) down (in place or time), in varied relations (according to the case [genitive case, dative case or accusative case] with which it is joined):

KJV -- about, according as (to), after, against, (when they were) alone, among, and, apart, (even, like) as (concerning, pertaining to touching), aside, at, before, beyond, by, to the charge of, [charita-] bly, concerning, + covered, [daily-], down, every, (+far more) exceeding, X more excellent, for, from ... to, godly, in (-asmuch, divers, every, -to, respect of), ... by, after the manner of, + by any means, beyond (out of) measure, X mightily, more, X natural, of (up-) on (X part), out (of every), over against, (+your) X own, + particularly, so, through (-oughtout, -oughtout every), thus, (un-) to (-gether, -ward), X uttermost, where (-by), with. In composition it retains many of these applications, and frequently denotes opposition, distribution, or intensity.

So the mysteries of this passage so far are: (1) the man of sin is our “flesh”; (2) the “him” who’s coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, *is Jesus*. But there’s more! The next mystery contained in this passage is that the thing that has been *holding back* the man of sin from being revealed all this time is “*a spirit of deception*”. He says:

2 Thes. 2:7: ‘For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way’. Ok, so **who is the ‘he who now letteth’**? Letteth in the Greek means: ‘to hold down (fast), in various applications (literally or figuratively): - have, hold (fast), keep (in memory), let, make toward, possess, retain, seize on, stay, take, withhold’.

The Peshitta text says: ‘For the mystery of iniquity is already at work: **until he who now is the obstacle is taken out of the way**’. What happens when the obstacle is removed? Verse seven indicates that would be the end of the Mystery of iniquity. And, by extension, the removal of the obstacle would seem to facilitate the revelation of this mystery of iniquity. **Could God be a part of setting up or authorizing this obstacle** in the first place? ‘He who now is the obstacle’ or ‘He who now letteth’ ...is said to be ...‘TAKEN out of the way’. By extension, if he is to be ‘TAKEN out...’ we might wonder if the one who will ‘take him out...’ might have been the same one to ‘SEND’ him in, in the first place?

2Th 2:10 ‘And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. 2Th 2:11 And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: 2Th 2:12 That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.’

In verse seven, was the “he who is now the obstacle” sent, by God, as described in verse eleven above? Again, in verse seven we see that “he who is now the obstacle”, will be removed to facilitate the revelation of “the mystery of iniquity”. Could it be that **a messenger of Satan was sent by God with a strong dilusion and is in fact the “he who is now the obstacle”**? Did not God send or authorize the “strong delusion” to make those that received not the love of the truth so that they should believe a lie (Vrs. 11 above)?

**A strong delusion could also legitimately be called an obstacle to the truth** for sure, because the antonym for delusion is reality or truth. (delusion vs truth). There is biblical basis for God sending a “messenger of Satan” to serve His purposes in 2 Corinthians 12:7-10. Look again at 2nd Thess. 2:7. The Peshitta text says: ‘For the mystery of iniquity is already at work: until he who now is the obstacle is taken out of the way’. So, if **“he who now is the obstacle” was a messenger of Satan sent by God with a strong delusion, or obstacle to the truth, how was it to be applied or perpetrated, in fact?**

Here from Galatians 5:7-9 is a clue: ‘Ye did run well; who did hinder you that ye should not obey the truth? This persuasion cometh not of him that calleth you. A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump’. In this case it was not God that sent the hindrance or obstacle but perhaps some false teacher for which they had ample warning beforehand. Jesus said to his followers in Matt. 16:6: ‘Take heed and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees’. Or, in other words, **any doctrine which proposes literal or carnal minded, fleshly interpretations for things purposed by God to be hidden which can only be revealed by and through His Holy Spirit. The carnal mind always wants to interpret spiritual mysteries literally.** It is a war - Flesh vs Spirit.

**The obstacle** in 2Thes. 2: 7 **could be a spirit of deception sent by God**, working through people who will not accept the truth in order that they would believe a lie. And, would not **this spirit of deception** even work through Christians who have not taken heed to Jesus warning to his followers regarding ‘the leaven (or doctrine) of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees’—carnal flesh trying to solve ‘the mystery’s of God’?

How presumptuous we are? Do we think like God? Are not His ways higher than ours? Let God be God. When he hides something, be assured it will remain hidden until He chooses to reveal it. And then it will be revealed only in His time and only to whom He chooses to reveal it and only to serve His purposes at HIS good pleasure. Let Him who hath an ear, hear.

So according to this guy, the thing that has been *restraining* the full revelation of the man of sin is actually a spirit of deception. I’m not sure this guy has even read what Paul said because Paul clearly said the thing that has been restraining the full revelation of the man of sin has been doing so since his day.

*Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, **and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition**; Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God. **Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things?** And now ye know what withholdeth that he might be revealed **in his time. For the mystery of iniquity doth already work**: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way. **And then shall that Wicked be revealed**, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:*

*II. Thessalonians 2:3-8*

Paul said, remember when I was with you I told you all about this stuff? The mystery of iniquity, the thing that will eventually produce the man of sin, is already working now, and it will continue to work until the

proper time. But even though it is working right now, in our day, it's being held back, or held down, or restrained. And it will continue to be restrained until the time comes for it to be fully manifested. When that time comes, the thing that is NOW restraining it, will be removed; and THEN the man of sin will be revealed. So if the thing that has been *restraining* the full revelation of the man of sin since Paul's day is has been "a spirit of delusion" as the writer of this article states, then God sent that spirit of delusion upon the world *thousands* of years ago. And, supposedly this spirit of delusion will now be removed so the man of sin can be revealed? Does that make sense to anyone in this room? Compare this foolishness to what the Bible actually says. I would like to read II. Thessalonians 2:6-8 from some other versions:

*And now ye know **that which restraineth**, to the end that he [the man of sin] may be revealed in his own season. For the mystery of lawlessness doth already work: only **there is one that restraineth now, until he be taken out of the way**. And then shall be revealed the lawless one, whom the Lord Jesus shall slay with the breath of his mouth, and bring to nought by the manifestation of his coming;*

*The Revised Version*

*And now ye know **that which restraineth**, to the end that he [the man of sin] may be revealed in his own season. For the mystery of lawlessness doth already work: only **there is one that restraineth now, until he be taken out of the way**. And then shall be revealed the lawless one, whom the Lord Jesus shall slay with the breath of his mouth, and bring to nought by the manifestation of his coming;*

*The American Standard Version*

*And you know **what is restraining him now** so that he [the man of sin] may be revealed in his time. For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work. Only **he who now restrains it will do so until he is out of the way**. And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will kill with the breath of his mouth and bring to nothing by the appearance of his coming.*

*The English Standard Version*

*And you know **what restrains him now**, so that in his time he [the man of sin] may be revealed. For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only **he who now restrains {will do so} until he is taken out of the way**. And then that lawless one will be revealed whom the Lord will slay with the breath of His mouth and bring to an end by the appearance of His coming;*

*The New American Standard Version*

*And now you know **what is holding him back**, so that he [the man of sin] may be revealed at the proper time. For the secret power of lawlessness is already at work; but **the one who now holds it back will continue to do so till he is taken out of the way**. And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will overthrow with the breath of his mouth and destroy by the splendor of his coming.*

*New International Version*

*You already know **what is holding this wicked one back** until it is time for him [the man of sin] to come. His mysterious power is already at work, but **someone is holding him back**. **And the wicked one won't appear until that someone is out of the way**. Then he will appear, but the Lord Jesus will kill him simply by breathing on him. He will be completely destroyed by the Lord's glorious return.*

*Contemporary English Version*

So again, the spiritual mysteries that are contained in this passage are: (1) the man of sin is our “flesh”; (2) the “him” who’s coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, is Jesus; and (3) the thing that has been restraining the revelation of the man of sin for thousands of years is actually a spirit of deception. Anyone see a pattern here? Let me help you out. Jesus becomes the agent of Satan in point two, and the Holy Spirit (the Restrainer) becomes a spirit of deception in point three. That’s called *blasphemy*, my friends.

Do you think the guy who wrote this article has any idea what he has done? I don’t. I think this guy is as sincere as any one in this room. I think he is just as convinced that he loves Jesus as any one of you are convinced that you love Jesus. I think he *truly* believe the Holy Spirit is revealing the deeper mysteries of the Scripture to him; and if he realized that he was letting *religious spirits* teach him from God’s Word he would be very grieved and heart-broken.

Now, in all fairness, I need to say that he had some good truth in that article as well. He talked about the need to die to self in order to come forth in Christ and things of that nature. So my question to you is this: knowing that it had some good truth in it, would you recommend this article to any of your friends? What if you found out your friends were reading it? Would you warn them about the error it contains, or would you just trust that God Himself would reveal what was true and what was false to them? Well anyway, I’ve converted what Paul actually said in II. Thessalonians 2:3-12 into this guy’s mystery version of it:

*Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and **the fulness of man’s flesh be revealed** That flesh will oppose and exalt itself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that it as God sits **in the hearts of God’s people**, shewing itself that it is God. Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things? And now ye know **what the obstacle is that’s hindering the full manifestation of man’s***

***flesh nature. The obstacle to that revelation is a spirit of deception that will be sent by God to delude all those who refuse to accept a love for the truth. For the mystery of iniquity does already work, and it will continue to work, until God removes the spirit of deception that he has sent upon the earth. And after that spirit of deception has been removed, then shall the full manifestation of man's wicked flesh be revealed, which the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming. Yes, even the Lord (him) who is coming to do this because of all the evil working of Satan in men (not because they are living in the flesh) with all power and signs and lying wonders, And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them the obstacle (a deceiving spirit) which He will then remove, so the fulness of the flesh nature can be revealed and so everyone will believe a lie and be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in the unrighteousness of their flesh nature and their own wicked hearts.***

Pretty clear, isn't it?

Okay, so just let me remind you once more that these kinds of writings are coming from people who have left the Religious System. These writings are not coming from Todd Bentley or Kenneth Copeland or Joel Osteen. They aren't coming from the prosperity preachers on TV. They aren't coming from the false Apostolic movement or the false Prophetic movement. They are coming from people like *you and me*—people who originally came out of that system because they *recognized* the enemy was seducing and overcoming it. Yet, somewhere, somehow, they *ended up* being deceived themselves.

So let's be very careful in the coming days. Satan isn't stupid and don't ever think he is.

Watch, watch, watch. . .pray for more and more spiritual discernment. . .and stay on the wall 24/7.

Amen!