

Insecurity, Fear & Delusion – how do we face it and fight it?

God calls us to be ‘lovers of truth’; to be ‘seekers of truth’.

The Apostle Paul tells us in 2 Thessalonians 2 that people perish because they refuse to love the truth. Not only that, but that when they refuse to love the truth; God sends a deluding influence so that they can believe a lie.

[2 Thess 2:10-11 ...They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. For this reason God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie...](#)

Is Paul here, speaking only of our salvation or speaking to a wider context that in refusing to seek after all truth, God may well send a deluding influence on any of us, so that we may easily be deceived in a number of different areas of life and faith?

I believe that this statement by Paul does in fact have a more universal and broader implication.

Consider first the many examples in the Old Testament. For example, God hardened the heart of the Pharaoh of Egypt so that he refused to believe God’s agents, Moses and Aaron; God allowed the ears of the sons of the prophet Eli to be deaf to Eli’s words of warning so that they did not repent of their sin and turn back to God (2 Sam 2:22-25).

In the New Testament, we see in Romans 1 that God gave men over to deception because they did not want to continue in God’s truth.

[Romans 1:28 And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind,](#)

We see also in 2 Timothy that when men are not willing to seek truth and endure sound doctrine, God allows them to find teachers who will encourage them in their deception. These ‘teachers’ are in effect the deluding influence that God sends.

[2 Tim 4:3-4 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; 4 and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.](#)

So it seems to me, that anyone, including believers and including our Pastors, our church leaders and our Bible scholars can all be deluded in some area of their understanding, if they are not always ‘lovers of the truth’; if they are not always open to criticism; open to other perspectives and open to new scholarship which may give new insights and, even improve our Bible translations, which in turn may lead to the need to discard some of our pet doctrines or practices.

In fact, I believe this ‘God-sent’ delusion has infected much of the Christian church for much of the last 1900 years in a number of very significant areas of faith and practice!

So it seems to me that the traditional Christian Church may be blind to significant portions of God’s clear truth.

Why is it that sincere and earnest Pastors seem happy to rest in their beliefs that were perhaps ingrained from Bible College or from their time in the pews? Why do so many Pastors seem unwilling to read widely; to read honest critiques from Bible scholars; to read the criticisms of their opponents; to be challenged by, and confront the beliefs of such ideologies as Catholicism, Replacement Theology, prosperity religion; materialism; paganism, and Islam, etc.?

It seems that many are insecure or fearful. God's word tells us in Rev 21:8 that cowardice is a sin. Cowards will not enter the Kingdom of God; the New Earth and New Jerusalem. Perhaps it is fear or insecurity that prevents many from being earnest and zealous 'seekers after truth'?

Yet, are we not all cowards by nature? Are we not all fearful of standing against the tide of this world; standing against the crowd when they practice evil?

Before you, perhaps indignantly, say you are not a coward, please reflect on whether, or when, you have taken up your cross and stood against this evil age and its practices.

Two very significant examples of the worst practices of this evil age are

- 1) the persecution of our elder brothers, the firstborn of God, the Jews, wherever they live, but most especially in their homeland, Eretz Israel - the Holy Land. I speak of Anti-Semitism, in all its many forms. We, of the faith of Messiah Jesus are the adopted children of God; whereas, the natural born sons and daughters of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob are the chosen ones; the nation and people that God first called to be a light unto the world; a light to the rest of mankind, the Gentiles. God has not forsaken them; He has separated Himself from His firstborn, but He promises to keep His covenants with them and to call a remnant back to Him, [see the appendix for a brief outline of this issue and some relevant scriptures]
- 2) the murder of the unborn. Abortion is the wilful killing of the most innocent of God's creation made in His image. Not since the days of Noah has there been such violence upon this earth. We see today some 60-70 million unborn children killed by surgical abortion every year and countless more deliberately killed by chemical abortion as well. [Also see appendix]

So I ask you; what have you done today to speak out against either of these two evils? What have you done this week or this year?

You may disagree with me regarding these two evils – perhaps your Pastors or leaders have convinced you that the church has replaced Israel and that therefore Anti-Semitism is not that serious; or perhaps, because of the deafening silence of the church on the issue of abortion you have not yet come to the realisation of the enormity of this evil before God. If you do in fact disagree on the significance and 'truthfulness' of these issues, I implore you to study some of the recommended readings in the appendix.

May God have mercy on us.

It is each of us individually and not our Pastor or church leaders who will stand before the Messiah, the righteous Judge and have our heart searched on these matters. It is therefore you and I who need to be sure regarding where we stand before God for our own peace of mind and salvation.

Look at Proverbs 24:10-12

If you falter in times of trouble,
how small is your strength!
Rescue those being led away to death;
hold back those staggering toward slaughter.
If you say, "But we knew nothing about this,"
does not he who weighs the heart perceive it?
Does not he who guards your life know it?
Will he not repay each person according to what he has done?

The Jew and the unborn are being led away to death; they are staggering toward slaughter thanks to the evil in men's hearts. Can you now say you knew nothing of this; can you deny God's ability to know your heart on this?

If your heart then has repented and turned to God, you may now reflect again and ask 'Have I tried to rescue the innocent unborn?'; 'Have I stood in the breach on behalf of God's chosen people, our elder brothers, the Jews?'; 'Have I fallen on my face before Almighty God and sought His counsel and His leading in this?'

If not, why not? Is it fear?

Is it not incredibly scary to consider sitting in front of an Abortion Clinic to try to persuade and prevent a woman from killing her own child? Especially, when the likely consequence is arrest and imprisonment. Is it not intimidating just to consider speaking out on this issue in any group, as you may expect rejection and angry responses?

Does it not fill us with great fear and trepidation to consider standing with Jews as they are carried off to the gas chambers or stoned and butchered by angry mobs shouting "Kill the Jews! We shall drink the blood of the Jews!" ('*Palestine: The Original Sin*' by Meir Abelson, The Olive Tree Connection 2007 p12).

So I ask again:

"Are we not all cowards by nature? Are we not all fearful of standing against the tide of this world; standing against the crowd when they practice evil?"

If you now sense the terror and fear within you, you may ask the vital question; how do we stand against evil and with our Messiah? How do we overcome the sin of cowardice?

We must put on the armour of God (Eph 6:13-18). We must seek the Kingdom of God and His righteousness; we must put our faith and trust in our Father in Heaven; we must lean on our Messiah and Saviour who said 'my yoke is easy and my burden light' (Matt 11:29-30)

As Jesus states to the religious leaders of his day: "But you have neglected the more important matters of the law—**justice, mercy and faithfulness**. You should have practiced the latter, without neglecting the former." (Matthew 23:23). Jesus was here repeating the pivotal statement in Micah 6:8 "He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To **act justly** and to **love mercy** and to **walk humbly with your God**."

We must learn from Jesus; we must walk in His ways and we must do so continuously; daily; fervently. Only by being immersed in the love and Spirit of God and His truth may we find the strength and courage to stand with our Messiah and against such evil.

If we love one another, God abides in us, and **His love has been perfected in us**.

By this we know that we abide in Him, and He in us, because He has given us of His Spirit. And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son as Saviour of the world.

Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God. And we have known and believed the love that God has for us.

God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him....**perfect love casts out fear**. (1 John 4:12-16,18 NKJV)

Paul Herring June 2007

Appendix:

1. The 'Church' has not replaced 'Israel':

Christianity is a relationship with God that only came about through the death of the Jewish Messiah. It was by His blood that Gentiles could join Jews as 'children of God'. Paul reminds us Gentiles that we were totally alienated from God, outside Israel's covenants, without hope and without access to God; until brought in by the blood sacrifice of our Jewish Messiah.*

At least, some eighty percent of our Bible (the 'Old Testament' or Hebrew Scriptures) was written in Hebrew, by Hebrews, for Hebrews; and although Gentiles could come to God, they had to come through Israel's God-given religion. Jesus himself instructed the disciples to go only "unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel", and reminded the Samaritan woman, and us, that "salvation is of the Jews". (John 4: 22)

Since the call of Abram, every covenant that God has made for the benefit of mankind was made with a Jew. The New Testament would be incomprehensible without the prior testimony of the Hebrew Scriptures.

Paul also makes in very clear in Romans 9-11 that we Christians have been grafted into the Good Olive Tree. Israel is that 'good olive tree' that will be restored to God in due time. In fact, it is the 'good olive tree' that is the root and that bears us the 'branches'. We would be most wise never to exalt ourselves above our 'roots' but instead pray for God to restore them. Pray, as Paul tells us in Romans 11:29, that 'all Israel shall be saved', and pray for the peace of Jerusalem (Ps 122:6).

In Deuteronomy 30 we read that God will not only return the Jews to their land but that he will 'circumcise their hearts' so that they too will be saved.

Romans 2:28-29 A man is not a Jew if he is only one outwardly, nor is circumcision merely outward and physical. No, a man is a Jew if he is one inwardly; and circumcision is circumcision of the heart, by the Spirit, not by the written code. Such a man's praise is not from men, but from God.

One of the clearest passages that demonstrates that God has not finished with the Jews and Israel and that the church has not replaced Israel is Jeremiah 16:14-15

"However, the days are coming," declares the LORD, "when men will no longer say, 'As surely as the LORD lives, who brought the Israelites up out of Egypt,' but they will say, 'As surely as the LORD lives, who brought the Israelites up out of the land of the north and out of all the countries where he had banished them.' For I will restore them to the land I gave their forefathers

What people would and do remember the amazing deliverance of the Jews from Egypt as one of their most cherished memories? Only the Jews themselves. While Christians may know of and be in awe of this event, it is not one of the most significant historical events to a Gentile Christian. But it is to a Jew.

Note here that God is prophesying that this people, the Israelites, will in the future acknowledge an event to be a greater miracle than their salvation out of Egypt. An event involving a return to the promised land. This event began in 1948 and has been on-going since with the return of Jews from all nations under the sun continuing to this day. Only through the most contorted and twisted allegorical manner can this prophecy be apportioned to Christians. This scripture alone should make it abundantly clear that God has not finished with, or divorced Himself from His first born children, His Chosen People, the Jews.

See articles at <http://www.christian-zionism.org> for a fuller explanation as well as the following URLs:

'Myths & Facts Online: A Guide to the Arab-Israeli Conflict' by Mitchell G. Bard

<http://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/jsource/myths/mftoc.html>

Honest Reporting: Brief History of the Region <http://www.honestreporting.com/a/region.asp>

Also the book: 'Dancing with the Scimitar of Islam' Frank Selch, The Olive Tree Connection, 2003

Some other pertinent scriptures are Ps. 85; 105:8-10; Jer.31:31-33; 33:19-26; Ezek.36:19-30.

* Paul says, "Remember then your former condition, Gentiles as you were by birth, and 'the uncircumcised' as you are called by those who call themselves 'the circumcised' because of a physical rite. You were at that time excluded from the community of Israel, strangers to God's covenants and the promises that go with them. Yours was a world without hope and without God. Once you were far off, **but now you are in union with Christ Jesus through the shedding of Christ's blood.** For he is our peace; the one making the both one; destroying the enmity in his flesh and the dividing wall which separates -, putting an end (to) the law of commandments in dogmatics; in order to create in himself one out of two into one (brand-) new man – making peace. **And reconciling both in one body to God through the cross putting to death the enmity.** . (Eph. 2:11-18).

Firstly, I would hope it is obvious that it is the cross or more specifically, our Lord's sacrifice that has brought about this reconciliation and has allowed Gentiles to become like the community of Israel, and thus 'children of God'.

So what was it that made this "wall of separation" or "barrier of enmity"? What was the barrier caused by?

I submit that it was two issues, namely:

- 1) **flesh** (circumcision versus un-circumcision – the physical difference between Jew and Gentile), and
- 2) **the law of commandments in dogmatics** (i.e. the Oral Torah or the 'traditions of men' – the difference in actions between righteous Jews and righteous Gentiles).

By becoming part of the Body of our Messiah; by becoming His brothers and sisters (Matt 12:50), we become spiritually circumcised thus removing the 'flesh' issue.

By accepting 'Messiah's laws' we accept the 'completed Torah', but not the 'traditions of men' or dogma of the Scribes and Pharisees.

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2. Abortion Resources/Information

- Eternal Perspective Ministries have many great articles such as 'Abortion-relevant References from Scripture and Church History' <http://www.epm.org/articles/abortohts.html>
- A small book and a great introduction to this issue: 'Why Pro-life' Randy Alcorn, Multnomah Publishers 2004
- 'Where is the Outcry' – an article by the author on 'Rescuing' – available from the author. Email: pfherring@gmail.com
- From Fr. Frank Pavone, M.E.V. National Director (USA), Priests for Life:

Abortionist Warren M. Hern has written a book 'Abortion Practice'. It is a medical textbook on how to do abortions, and it provides descriptions of the abortion procedures. So many argue about abortion, having never heard a description of what it is.

Take, for example, the abortion procedure called Dilatation and Evacuation (D&E). Through this procedure, the child is dismembered within the womb. Hern describes the procedure at various stages of pregnancy, starting at 13 weeks. Quoting from the section "21 to 24 Weeks Fetal Age":

"The procedure changes significantly at 21 weeks because the fetal tissues become much more cohesive and difficult to dismember. This problem is accentuated by the fact that the fetal pelvis may be as much as 5cm in width. The calvaria [head] is no longer the principal problem; it can be collapsed. Other structures, such as the pelvis, present more difficulty....A long curved Mayo scissors may be necessary to decapitate and dismember the fetus... "(p.154).

Another abortionist, Martin Haskell, describes the same procedure. The following words are from court testimony. Please note that he was testifying as an expert witness about legal activity.

"Let's just say for instance we took a different view, a different tact and we left the leg in the uterus just to dismember it. Well, we'd probably have to dismember it at several different levels because we don't have firm control over it, so we would attack the lower part of the lower extremity first, remove, you know, possibly a foot, then the lower leg at the knee and then finally we get to the hip."

"When the abortion procedure is started we typically know that the fetus is still alive because either we can feel it move ...or... we actually see a heartbeat as we're starting the procedure. It's not unusual at the start of D&E procedures that a limb is acquired first and that that limb is brought through the cervix ...prior to disarticulation and prior to anything having been done that would have caused the fetal demise."

"When you're doing a dismemberment D&E usually the last part to be removed is the skull itself and it's floating free inside the uterine cavity...like a ping-pong ball floating around ... Finally ... a nip is made out of some area of the skull that allows it to start to decompress. And then once that happens typically the skull is brought out in fragments rather than as a unified piece, the result being that sharp bony edges of the skull are exposed" (US District Court for the Western District of Wisconsin, Case No. 98-C-0305-S).

Find more details about abortion procedures at www.priestsforlife.org/images