

## Spiritual Depression-Its Causes and Cures

### -A study through D. Martyn Lloyd-Jones sermon series-

#### Chapter 13 - False Teaching

We are going to look today at how the acceptance of false doctrine will impact the hearts and souls of those Christians who accept it. Believing that which is false brings \_\_\_\_\_ into the inner-man. The soul will be disquieted if it is caught up in error. The church of Galatia and Paul's words to this church will be our focus.

*"They had become unhappy in themselves and they had almost turned against the Apostle. Their condition was one which was so depressed that he could even use this kind of language: 'My little children of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you'.*

Paul states that the Galatians had left their former blessedness in Galatians 4:15. What was the cause of this? It was the acceptance and belief of false doctrine. The acceptance of false teaching was a \_\_\_\_\_ problem in the New Testament.

*"There is scarcely an Epistle where you will not find this matter dealt with somewhere. These infant churches had been much troubled by certain types of teachers who followed the Apostle Paul and imitate his message and preaching in many respects, but added to it their own particular teaching. The result was that it not only caused confusion in the churches but, further, led to this depressed and unhappy condition in the lives of so many Christian people."*

*"The history of the Christian Church since the New Testament canon is full of the same thing. It began at the very beginning and it has continued more or less ever since, and there is a sense in which it is true to say that the history of the Church is the history of the rising of many heresies and the battle of the Church against them, and the delivery of the Church by the power of the Spirit of God."*

Heresies in the Church can take two different forms. Some heresies outright deny the essentials of the faith. However, usually heresy is more \_\_\_\_\_ and will involve either an addition to the revealed Word or a subtraction from the revealed Word. It is this second type of heresy that Lloyd-Jones mentions as a more dangerous form than the first because it cannot always be easily discerned at first. What is important to remember is that those heresies we read about in Scripture are still around this day. They may be packaged a little differently but at their core all heresies we see dealt with in Scripture, the Church still deals with today. These heresies promise something additional but they leave the saints with less than they had before.

*"There is not a single problem or heresy in the New Testament that you will not find in some shape or form in the Church at this moment. We are not engaged in a mere academic discussion of spiritual depression, we are talking about ourselves and we are talking to one another; and it is because these things are still with us and because the Galatian heresy in a modern form is still with us that I am calling you attention to it."*

How are the saints to be kept from the error of believing false doctrine? How are we to avoid falling into the trap of believing a lie? How do we stand for truth and not be swayed by the errors all around us? The answer to these questions involves several considerations but the first and by far the most important involves the issue of \_\_\_\_\_. Are we going to submit to the authority of the Scriptures alone and judge everything in light of the totality of what has been revealed in God's Word?

*"The first thing the Apostle lays down is the question of authority. That must of necessity come first. These perplexities and problems are not a matter of feeling or of experience, and they must never be judged merely by results. False teaching can make people very happy. Let us be quite clear about that."*

*If you judge only in terms of experience and results you will find that every cult and heresy the world or the Church has ever known will be able to justify itself."*

*"He (Paul) says that it is not a question of one man saying this and another man saying that. He asserts that he was not preaching merely what he thought. It was given to him as it was given to the other apostles, and so they were all saying the same thing. Is it, and does it conform to, the apostolic message? That is the test and that is the standard. The gospel of Jesus Christ as announced and taught in the New Testament claims nothing less than that it comes with the authority of the Lord Jesus Christ Himself Who gave it to these men who, in turn, preached it and caused it to be written down. Here is the only standard. And it is the only standard."*

With this understood then we must examine all teachings to see if they "contain \_\_\_\_\_ than the apostolic message" or are they guilty of "\_\_\_\_\_ to the Truth and, while acknowledging the apostolic message to be right, suggesting that there must be something added on to it."

After the initial and primary issue of authority is considered, we must also critically think about what a certain teaching is \_\_\_\_\_ men toward. We must "always be careful to work out the implications of a teaching." This is where Peter failed and had to be rebuked by Paul in Galatians. Lloyd-Jones writes "*Do not look at things at their face value only, but see what they really imply.*"

After the issues the authority and the implications of a certain teaching have been considered we must also examine the \_\_\_\_\_ of the teaching. Where did this teaching come from and who was the first to teach it?

*"Before you accept any one of these teachings always take the trouble to read about their origins. Almost invariably you will find that somebody or other had a 'vision' ...that is the adding to the revelation. That means that the Scriptures are no longer sufficient..."*

Another consideration for us as we think about false teaching is to notice if it is emphasizing "some one thing in particular" and making this one thing to be the most \_\_\_\_\_ thing. Such a focus takes the view off of Christ alone and minimizes the necessity of faith alone.

*"It is always Christ plus something, and you must have this essential addition...these false teachings are always telling us that we must do something ourselves; we must add on some action on our part...faith is not enough. We do not stand by faith, and justification is not by faith only."*

Lastly, we must take into account church history and the \_\_\_\_\_ of the saints of old. Does this teaching match what we read about from those true saints who have gone before us? Are we standing in the same line with those who have gone before us or are we in a deviating line?

*"Are we to say that all these men were lacking in knowledge and insight and understanding? Cannot you see that these new teachings which claim so much are denying some of the greatest Christian experiences through the ages and the centuries. They are virtually saying that truth has only come by them and that for 1,900 years the Church has dwelt in ignorance and in darkness. The thing is monstrous."*

The saints are to stand by faith alone on Christ alone for salvation and our \_\_\_\_\_ is to be in Him. Anything that seeks to become central in my life and tries to vie with or to displace Christ in my life must be error.

*"I will make my boast in nothing and in no one, nor in any special teaching 'save in the Lord Jesus Christ' and Him alone."*