

Saturday, July 8, 2017 – The Cost is Too High

"Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit. Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire. Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them" (Matt. 7:15-20).

The words of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ give warning of false teachers who would lead the flock of God astray. He revealed their identifying mark: we will be able to know they are false teachers by their fruit (teaching, doctrine). Jesus also warned, ***"And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many...For there shall arise false christs, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders, insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect" (Matt. 24:11,24).***

The inspired Peter predicted, ***"But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction."*** The sad result of their false teaching is that ***"many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of" (2 Peter 2:1-2).***

In previous years I have written of the dangers of men like Jeff Walling, Pat Bills, Dan Billingsly, Mac Deaver and others because they are false teachers yet still pose as servants of God within the Lord's church. They are wolves in sheep's clothing. They are doing the bidding of Satan.

We, in the Lord's church, as long as they hold to their false doctrines, are COMMANDED to mark and avoid these men as false teachers (Romans 16:17, 2 John 9-11). Certainly, we still pray that they will turn from their sinful state but we are to have NOTHING to do with them in any shape, form or fashion. I have been a Christian for 42 years and I am still dumbfounded by our (the Lord's church) continued inability to not understand or OBEY the plain and simple teaching of the scriptures regarding this subject.

Yet, reviews of speakers at various lectureships, youth rallies, 'gospel meetings,' etc. are chalked full of these men who have betrayed Jehovah God and the very teachings of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Unbelievably, there are defenders who seek to justify the use of these perverters of God's truth.

Without a doubt, Max Lucado, Satan's favorite apostate from the Lord's church, has deceived more sincere members of the Lord's church over the past 20+ years than virtually anyone else. Max seems to believe he is the leading

authority on what the First Century church believed and practiced and is the spokesperson for the Lord's church today and what we should believe and what we should practice.

If there is ANY doubt of the unmitigated arrogance of Max Lucado, please read his 2005 interview with Baptist Press as he attempts to 'enlighten' us all on how he is helping to cure the Lord's churches image problem.

<http://www.bpnews.net/20752/max-lucado-transcends-church-of-christ-beliefs>

After reading this dribble, I was reminded of what Peter says in 2 Peter 2:20-22:

²⁰ For if, after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and overcome, the latter end is worse for them than the beginning. ²¹ For it would have been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered to them. ²² But it has happened to them according to the true proverb: "A dog returns to his own vomit," and, "a sow, having washed, to her wallowing in the mire."

Justification for the use of Max, whether for speaking or the use of his blasphemous writings in classes or sermons, is because "he says some 'good' things." NEWSFLASH! Max postures for maximum influence. Of course he says some nice things. He turns a nice phrase. We have faithful brethren who can do the same without the baggage of false doctrine! Why would you choose to quote the devil? He, too, said some true things when tempting Jesus. That does not mean we should hold him up for adulation.

When we are talking about teaching others the way of the Lord, He has given us His Word and told us we CAN understand it (2 Tim. 3:16-17). When we decide to take shortcuts by using false teachers in any shape, form or fashion, we risk a single soul be led astray.

Brothers and sisters, that cost is JUST TOO HIGH!