



But in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. -

Matthew 15:9

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Who is Telling the Truth, the Church or the Holy Spirit?

Just a little comment on the topic that Elkanah wrote about yesterday. When we are told that only trained theologians are qualified and capable of understanding the Scriptures, and that the untrained can only understand proof-texting, I remembered there was a text that mentioned this very concept. When I looked for it I found another text that would touch on it.

“Woe to you, teachers of the law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You travel over land and sea to win a single convert, and when you have succeeded, you make them twice as much a child of hell as you are.

– Matthew 23:15 NIV

Leave them; they are blind guides. If the blind lead the blind, both will fall into a pit.” – Matthew 15:14 NIV

When a person is taught by an institution, they are taught what their instructors were taught by other instructors, who in turn were taught by someone else and that someone else was taught by yet another person and the list goes backward. What they are passing on to each other is simply the same old information that they've been taught.

My concerns are that most of these trained theologians have also been brainwashed by the system. They've been taught that what they are learning is the absolute truth and if they consider another viewpoint then God will burn them in hell. That makes me believe they are worshiping a god they fear and teaching others to also fear this god.

If you happened to look up the two texts above they you'll know that the second was lifted out of a longish passage from whence this group derived it's name.

For in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. – Matthew 15:9 KJV

For what it's worth, in my uneducated opinion the Holy Spirit is capable of teaching ANY person who is willing to be taught. And have you ever stopped to think about whom it is that is teaching you? Follow this through:

Jesus replied, “Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. Anyone who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me. – John 14:23, 24 NIV

Jesus said he is speaking what the Father tells him to speak. Is there anyone who doubts that Jesus loves us but fears the Father doesn't? Don't be afraid of the Father. Jesus said that he and his Father are the same and what he says is what the Father tells him to say. But what about the Holy Spirit?

“All this I have spoken while still with you. But the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you. Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid. – John 14:25-27 NIV

But when the Comforter is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me: – John 15:25 KJV

There's one more text to note and this is Jesus himself speaking:

“I have much more to say to you, more than you can now bear. But when he, the Spirit of truth, comes, he will guide you into all the truth. He will not speak on his own; he will speak only what he hears, and he will tell you what is yet to come. He will glorify me because it is from me that he will receive what he will make known to you. All that belongs to the Father is mine. That is why I said the Spirit will

receive from me what he will make known to you.” – John 16:12-15
NIV

My uneducated brain finds the following chain of events occurring here:

1. The Father loves us. Jesus tells us what the Father tells him.
2. The Father sends the Comforter (Holy Spirit) through Jesus.
3. The Holy Spirit will only speak what he hears from Jesus. Jesus tells what the Father tells him.

Apparently the Holy Spirit is communing with us from the Father. And with that being the case then we have no need to fear the Father for he loves us with an unfathomable love. So when you are confronted with the teaching that Jesus is pleading with the Father for us, stop and think about this teaching. Does it make sense that someone who loves us is anxious to torture and kill us? Not to me, it doesn't. Try turning Jesus around where he isn't facing the Father but instead they are both facing you. They are both pleading with you.

As for education. I admit I have very little in the way of formal training, and my highly educated husband works in a factory. Education isn't the qualification for whether or not the Holy Spirit is able to reach us and teach us about heavenly things. What we need is to be born again and by that I don't mean the ritual of baptism.

Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee,
Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. –
John 3:3 KJV

Have you ever stopped to think about this passage? Are you aware that the kingdom of God and the heavenly city are not the same thing? Or is it?

Once, on being asked by the Pharisees when the kingdom of God would come, Jesus replied, “The coming of the kingdom of God is not something that can be observed, nor will people say, ‘Here it is,’ or ‘There it is,’ because the kingdom of God is in your midst.” – Luke 17:21,22 NIV

This states that unless you have been converted you can't understand what the kingdom of God is. But there is evidence in the Bible to tell us what that is and that's another topic that will take a long time. But here's a text to give you a hint what that might be:

Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,” for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God. – Revelation 21:21-3 NIV

OK, I got a little off track there with the heavenly kingdom/holy city thing. Going off the topic tends to be my specialty but this time I kinda did that on purpose to give you some food for thought. I want to end this but I do have a parting observation.

When Jesus was walking this earth who was it that he made the above statements to? It was his uneducated disciples. It was to the people who hadn't been trained by the church ordained educational system. Those who had been educated by the church were the ones who ended up hating Jesus and were guilty of his murder. Paul had been educated by the church but in order for Jesus to be able to use him in his ministry Paul had to be removed from the Jewish society for a time. He had to unlearn all that the church organization had taught him and relearn what the Holy Spirit wanted him to know.

Is this not happening today? Is the church guilty of promoting dogma that does not promote a God who loves us but instead is focusing on a god who wants to destroy us? The church school education I received taught me to fear god because he was watching, waiting to zap me. I was even taught there is an angel following me everywhere I go and recording everything I do. And the record he keeps will be used against me because if there is only 1 item on his list that I haven't asked for forgiveness then I am doomed.

But that isn't love and it doesn't make any sense. The example is that if we go into a bar or a theater then our guardian angel won't go with us because he is too holy to be in places like that. So what does that say about the recording angel? If our guardian angel is too holy to go in there and the recording angel isn't too holy to go in there, then the recording angel must be an evil angel. That would mean that God would be accepting the list of deeds we have committed from an evil angel who most likely has placed falsehoods on that list. If that's the case then we're all doomed. And another thing to consider is that if our guardian

angel were to ever leave our side for only a brief moment then satan will kill us immediately.

Admit it. You've been to those places and so have I. And if you're reading this then you are still alive, you haven't been killed by satan.

We need to stop believing what we've been told to believe and start thinking for ourselves. We need to allow the Holy Spirit to teach us because, according to Jesus, the Holy Spirit is teaching us what the Father wants us to know and that may not be what the church wants us to know.

It's your life. It's your decision. Who are you going to listen to, your conscience or your preacher?

Happy Sabbath to all,

Hannah

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