

“AND YE SHALL BE AS GODS, KNOWING GOOD AND EVIL”

It still works, and we still take the bait.

"You shall be as god himself, equal to him, rivals with him; you shall be sovereigns and no longer subjects, self-sufficient and no longer dependent." (From Matthew Henry's Commentary on Geneses 3:5)

What Is A God?

The dictionary defines a “god” as: “a personal being conceived as superior to nature and mankind and entitled to worship.”

Since the fall of mankind, man has felt capable of deciding for himself what is good or bad, right or wrong, independent of the word of God. Therefore, man, acting as a god himself, can accept, reject, or modify God's laws as he sees fit; and this he does to his own destruction.

Have you ever decided for yourself what was good or right for you in spite of what God's word said? Of course, haven't we all? Don't we often go to the Bible looking for proof of our beliefs rather than instruction in righteousness (II Tim. 3:16)? Others, ignoring available facts, are too comfortable with their present life to change. But you see, they don't have to change, they are “gods,” they are sovereign.

For example, many have decided that the first day of the week (historically a day of the sun god) is a better day to observe than the seventh, in direct opposition to the fourth commandment. They can cite a variety of reasons (really excuses), but the bottom line is: since they are “gods”, they have chosen a more convenient less controversial day instead of the day God made holy. Didn't God warn against worshiping Him the way others worship their gods (Deut. 12 30-32)? Are they not adding to and taking from God's instructions?

Every time we decide a matter for ourselves in opposition to God, we are acting like a god. It may seem the right and good thing to do at the time but: “There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death” (Proverbs 14:12). We can't always see the end from the beginning, but God can.

Satan's lie still works, but it now comes disguised as love, tolerance, peace, political correctness, positive thinking and a kind of sloppy agape or greasy grace that covers all shortcomings. (Forget about sin, that's too negative; besides it hurts your self-esteem).

Some Smooth Things We Often Hear That Sound So Right:

Actual quotes from ministers whose names you would recognize: “Aren't we all seeking the same thing, some call

it God, a higher power, a spiritual guide, etc.”

“Don't we all have that inner self that gives us power to be, do, or have whatever we desire? We simply must learn how to use that God given power within.”

“After all, if God made us in the likeness of God, then we are Gods.”

“What the mind is able to conceive, the mind is able to achieve.”

“You don't have a god in you, you are one.”

“Just as dogs have puppies and cats have kittens, so God has little Gods...”

“Today I lay claim to all the attributes of God...as a Divine being... I rejoice in my Divine nature.”

“We are each destined to become a god, to be *like* God Himself.”

Do They Sound Familiar?

“I will be like the most high [God]---” (If you don't remember who said that check Isaiah 14:14).

So, we are being told that we are gods, but God says, “...for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return” (Gen. 3:20).

But didn't John say, “Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be, but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is” (I John 3:2).

Well, Are We or Aren't We?

If we choose our own way of righteousness (or worship), as did Cain, we are attempting to please God by our own wonderful works (Matt. 7:21-23). Deciding for ourselves how to worship God instead of the way He has directed. Cain, you remember, attempted to please God by offering his own good works instead of acknowledging the symbolic death of God's Son, as did Able (Gen. 4:3-5; John 3:16; Heb. 11:4).

The Only Way!

“There is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved” (Acts 4:12). But of course, isn't He the one who paid the price?

“For by *grace* are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves; it is the *gift* of God, not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto *good works*, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them” (Eph. 2:8-10).

That last verse (10) explains why James can say, “Ye see then how that by works a man is justified, (proven) and not by faith only” (Ja. 2:24). *Evidence of faith is results.*

A common error of most religions is the belief that some ritual, or some person must intercede for us, or that we have to earn, or in some way deserve salvation, before we can

even approach Christ. Work out your own salvation, says Paul, and with great concern (Phil. 2:12). Some teach that Christ is only a way, not the way. Some will simply not understand. "For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the *power* of God" (I Cor. 1:18).

The Coming Deception

We are warned of a great deception coming in the end times, so great that even the elect will barely miss being deceived (Mk. 13:22). First will come a great falling away, mixed with signs and lying wonders; a cunning trap for those that would believe in omens and wonderworking miracles rather than God's word.

Do some set themselves up for this great deception? Absolutely! "*Because they received not the love of the truth*, so that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie" (II Thess. 2:8-12).

Notice that the love of truth was sent but refused, therefore a lie was sent and it was received, why? Because, "they took pleasure in unrighteousness."

Pray for a love for the *truth*; seek the *truth* with all your heart. Learn to identify a lie, and run from it as though running from Satan himself, for he is the father of lies. But,

be forewarned, if you speak the truth, you will be evil spoken of.

“And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of” (II Peter 2:2).

Why do so many Christians strongly state their belief in the Bible yet refuse to accept what the Bible plainly says, preferring tradition over God's word (Mark 7:9).

Much of the latter day deception is built around self-deification, *elevating man to Godhood*, or *lowering the Son of God to mere man*. We often hear strong delusions many times even from the pulpit. Can you prove them wrong from scripture?

“We can all attain Godhood through our own effort just like God did.” Check Acts 4:12 or I Timothy 2:5.

“As man is, God was, as God is, man will become.” Try John 1:1-5 or Hebrews 7:3.

As John said, we will be like Him, but it will be in His time, in His way, according to His will. It is the narrow way (Matt. 7:13-15). Hebrews 6:1-2 mentions each step of His way.

Aside from the usual cults, there are many so-called “New Age” techniques that are becoming quite popular. Outright occultism, spirit guides, self-realization, visualization, positive confession, positive thinking, faith healers, being slain in the spirit, abuse of the gift of tongues, etc; all designed to elevate self.

Humility, A Key To Learning

In Luke 18:9-14 Jesus speaks a parable about those who trust in their own righteousness. One was convinced of how right he was about his religious beliefs, the other confessed to God his sinful condition and begged for mercy. Jesus ended his story by saying, "I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other, for every one that exalts himself shall be abased, and he that humbles himself shall be exalted." Can one progress beyond his present state when deceived by his own righteousness?

A Dire Warning

“Let him that thinks he stands take heed lest he fall” (I Cor 10:12). In today’s world, self-esteem is held to be more desirable than humility. Acknowledging that we are nothing but animated dust without God, but that all things are possible through God is true humility (Phil. 4:13).

Some of the many paths to this deception come from activities or programs such as:

1. Ecumenicalism: reducing religion to its lowest common denominator.
2. Psychic phenomena: activities of demons.
3. Praying to the dead saints and/or Mary: an abomination to God.
4. Astrology: consulting demons for guidance.
5. Channeling: playing with demons.
6. Yoga: consorting with demons.
7. Hypnotism: yielding control of oneself to demons.
8. Miracles as a sign of truth: believing in miracles over God's word.
9. Events such as the Toronto Blessing: an invitation to demons.
10. Mindless repetitions: a form of self-hypnosis heard in much of modern Christian music.

The fallen women:

As far back as 1986 the Catholic Church was calling for her daughters to come home. She still claims to be the only true church, but salvation is in the individual not a denomination. The Pope's invitation for a gathering of all religions at Assisi to pray for peace was an overt move toward ecumenicalism. (To be ruled by the Pope, of course). Is this not preparing the world for the woman who was sitting upon the beast spoken of in Revelation 17?

Many have already bought into the coming world religion and its apostasy, (perhaps without even realizing it) which will be led by the Catholic Church, men such as: Billy

Graham, Robert Schuller, Benny Hinn, Jerry Falwell, Paul Crouch of TBN, Jack Hayford, Kenneth Hagin, Kenneth Copeland, Chuck Colson, and many more names you would recognize.

What's lacking in the ecumenical movement is the redeeming blood of Christ, as the *complete* and *only* way to eternal life, which will be totally rejected by the one world religion.

Here Is A Very Interesting Prophecy

“The chief danger that confronts the coming century will be religion without the holy ghost, Christianity without Christ, forgiveness without repentance, salvation without regeneration, politics without God, heaven without hell.”

William Booth, the founder of The Salvation Army.

So much of today's religion is heavy on emotion but light on substance. Being “gods” and knowing (deciding) good and evil for ourselves over God's law, is rebellion and is unacceptable to God.

“To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them” (Isa. 8:20).

Could it be that it's later than we think?

Del Leger, Pastor, Christian Church Of God, Grand Junction, Co.
www.ccofgod.org. (970) 249-6857, dlleger@montrose.net

Other study guides of interest:

ANSWERS TO THOSE WHO CREPT IN UNAWARES
TAKE HEED THAT NO MAN DECEIVE YOU
THAT ROARING LION
THE PROTECTING WALL
THOUGHTS ON PRAYER
THE BEGINING OF ERROR

“Truth: the most deadly weapon
ever discovered by humanity.
Capable of destroying entire sets,
cultures and realities. Outlawed
by all governments everywhere.
Possession is normally
punishable by death”

-John Gilmore.-

“For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ.

And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.

Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.”

2 Cor. 11:13-15

“The Truth May Set You
Free But First It Will
Make You Mad.”

Gloria Steinem