

THE IDOL OF HUMAN LEARNING

by
Scott Jones

"While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word." Acts 10:44

Alas! How many today can make the same claim? How many today can honestly testify that while preaching or giving their testimony, Jesus Christ bore witness by his Spirit, just as he did with Peter in the above verse?

Very, very few indeed, for the idol of human learning has replaced the Holy Spirit, and *WOE* to those who are complicit, which includes almost all of those who stand in the pulpits today. Verily, they shall receive the greater damnation.

"While Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Ghost fell on all them which heard the word."

Jesus Christ and his true ministers don't need to give *invitations*, especially since these *invitations*, and calls for a *decision for Christ*, or the so-called *sinner's prayer*, are carnal and utterly unscriptural, are in fact nothing less than the inventions of carnal, unregenerate human learning. *WOE* unto these men, who perpetrate *FALSE* methods of salvation; *WOE, WOE, WOE* unto these men, who send countless millions to hell by their utterly false and carnal, unregenerate, unscriptural inventions. They shall verily receive the greater damnation.

In fact, Jesus Christ quickens whom he will, and he doesn't need the sinner's permission to do so; Jesus Christ quickens *WHOM* he will, *WHEN* he will, just as he did with Lazarus; Jesus Christ opens and no man shuts; Jesus Christ shuts and no man opens; aye, Jesus Christ quickens his elect *WHEN HE WILL*, and none can stay his hand, exactly as it is written --

"For as the Father raiseth up the dead, and quickeneth them; even so the Son quickeneth whom he will." John 5:21

And those of you who think that you were born with free will may know *INFALLIBLY* that you have never been born *AGAIN*; you may know *INFALLIBLY* that you have never *EXPERIENCED* the *RESURRECTION POWER* of Jesus Christ in the *MIRACLE* of the *NEW BIRTH*; aye, you may know *INFALLIBLY* that the wrath of God abides upon you *STILL*, even while you imprecate the name of Jesus, and unless you renounce your arrogant, satanic pride, and *BEG* sovereign grace to make you a new creature in Christ

Jesus, you may know *INFALLIBLY* that you will not set *FOOT* in the kingdom of heaven. *WOE* unto you arrogant, satanic free-willers, who exalt the will of sinful man over the sovereign grace of Jesus Christ. *WOE* unto you, for you shall surely sink into the lowest depths of hell when Jesus Christ *HIMSELF* declares he never knew you as he looks upon you with utter contempt and scorn in that day that he calls you *CURSED* and casts you into the lake of fire, where your arrogant pride will consume you for all eternity, for its worm dieth not, neither is its fire quenched. *WOE, WOE, WOE* unto the free-willer.

As opposed to inviting a man to lift his heart to Jesus Christ, if perchance Jesus Christ will grant him repentance unto life, or commanding by the power of the Holy Spirit a man to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, wherein the power of the Holy Spirit is communicated by the very command, as the Spirit wills, in that the command issues from one who is truly born of the Spirit; aye, as opposed to these, today's *invitations*, and calls for *decisions for Christ*, or cajolings to pray the *sinner's prayer*, are nothing but the product of an *IDOL*, even the *IDOL* of carnal, unregenerate human learning, issued by men who have *NOT* the Spirit of Christ, and who therefore have no power with God whatsoever. None at all. *WOE* unto these men, who intrude into those things which they have not seen. They shall receive the greater damnation. (*Colossians 2:18*)

"I do find in most men, such a spirit of whoredom and idolatry concerning the learning of this world, and wisdom of the flesh, and God's glory so much stained and diminished thereby; that had I all their aid and assistance at command, I durst not make use of ought thereof, and that, for fear lest that grace, and these gifts that the Lord hath given me, should be attributed to their wits, rather than the light of the Word and Spirit of God. Wherefore, I will not take of them from a thread even to a shoe-latchet, lest they should say, *We have made Abram rich.*" *John Bunyan, The Holy City*

The idol of human learning kept the Pharisees from seeing the glory of Jesus Christ, and so, being blind to the things of the Holy Spirit, these illustrious scholars ignorantly asked --

"How knoweth this man letters, having never learned?" *John 7:15*

It is no different today. Modern apostate Christianity seeks men of human learning to lead its churches and stand in its pulpits, utterly abandoning the sole requirement of being filled with the Holy Ghost and with *POWER*, and so, like the blind leaders of Jesus' day, these modern men of learning are equally as blind as the Pharisees of yesteryear -- and as *POWERLESS* -- for with very, very few exceptions, none of these men are born of the Spirit, as is easily discerned by those of us who are. Moreover, when we hear such men preach, we cringe, just like A. W. Tozer, who solemnly observed --

"There isn't anything quite so chilling, quite so disheartening as a man without the Holy Spirit preaching about the Holy Spirit." *The Tozer Pulpit, Vol I*

Consequently, the pulpits today are likewise overflowing with unregenerate men, carnal men, who know nothing of the real spiritual truths of the gospel, nothing of the real spiritual riches of Jesus Christ, nothing of the real glory of Jesus Christ, having never *SEEN* his glory in the *SPIRIT* -- I say, having never *SEEN* his glory in the *SPIRIT* -- and who, as a result, have no power with God. None whatsoever.

Thus, they must fall back on their human learning before they can even speak a word in their sermons, and they must cajole men to *come forward*, to make *decisions for Christ*, to pray the *sinner's prayer*, and all manner of other anti-scriptural inventions, because they are absolutely, utterly *POWERLESS*, and so, like the concision of old, they desire to make a fair showing in the flesh by counting the numbers of people who have been cajoled to come forward. This is nothing but a carnal, unregenerate scorecard, satiating the lusts of carnal, unregenerate preachers. These men -- every one of them -- know nothing of the Holy Spirit, nor of the Spirit's teaching, nor of the Spirit's *POWER*. Nothing at all. They are as dead in their sins as the congregations they preach to, and unless they repent, they shall not escape. Behold, these men, these pastors, who pretend to be shepherds, but who are, by virtue of their unregeneracy, nothing but wolves in sheep's clothing, their misguided "*good*" intentions notwithstanding, shall receive the greater damnation. *WOE* unto them.

I must ask your sustained attention while I offer an outstanding excerpt from Edward F. Hills, an excerpt which exposes the carnal, unregenerate human inventions of modern apostate Christianity, an apostate Christianity which has turned the Bible inside out in favour of its own inventions, wherein modern apostate Christianity has replaced sound biblical doctrine with fleshly, carnal, ignorant sophisms of human learning by applying human wisdom to divine revelation, thereby intruding into those things which they have not seen, as opposed to those of us who are truly born again, who have most certainly seen. Observe --

"But what if we drop the doctrine of election altogether and assert that Christ died for all human beings? ... First you take as your major premise the proposition, *Christ died for all human beings*. Then you supply the minor premise, *I am a human being*. Then you draw the conclusion, *Christ died for me*. Then on the basis of this conclusion you receive Christ as your Saviour.

But this simple Gospel is not so simple after all. There are difficulties. As an exposition of the way of salvation it is faulty in three respects.

In the first place, I cannot first believe that Jesus died for others and then as a consequence believe that Jesus died for me. For how can I really be sure that Jesus died for others unless I first am sure that He died for me?

In the second place, if I believe this proposition, *Jesus died for me*, merely as the conclusion of a logical syllogism, then I do not truly believe it and hence have no basis for receiving Jesus as my Saviour. But on the other hand, if I truly

believe that Jesus died for me, then I have already received Him as my Saviour.

In the third place, I cannot first believe that Jesus died for me and then on this basis receive Jesus as my Saviour. For repenting, believing, and receiving are all aspects of one act of faith. They go together and cannot be separated from one another. I receive Jesus as my Saviour by repenting and believing that He died for me. If I try to receive Him in any other way, then I am not a Christian but a mystic.

Hence it is a mistake to tell a sinner first to believe that Jesus died for all human beings numerically, and then to believe that Jesus died for him because he is a human being, and finally to receive Jesus as his Saviour on this basis. For this implies that there is no difference between saved saints and lost sinners from the standpoint of faith. Both saved saints and lost sinners could unite in the same confession, *Jesus died for all human beings. Therefore Jesus must have died for me because I am a human being.*

In this case both the saved saint and the lost sinner would believe the same thing, and the only difference between the two would be that the saved saint receives Christ as his Saviour while the lost sinner doesn't. And this would imply that we are saved not by believing but by a receiving which is different from believing, by a *yielding* to Christ perhaps, or a *surrendering* to Him, or a *turning over of our lives* to Him.

But all this is salvation by works and contrary to the bible. For the Scriptures plainly teach that to receive Christ as Saviour is to believe on Him. *Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved [Acts 16:31]. But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His name. [John 1:12].* [Edward F. Hills, *The King James Version Defended*]

Paul told the Thessalonians that the reason they knew they were elect was because when Paul preached, the Word of God came in the *POWER* of the Holy Ghost, *REGENERATING POWER*, aye, because a *REGENERATE* Paul *COMMUNICATED* that *POWER* in his *REGENERATE* preaching, as only a *REGENERATE* man can. Paul the *REGENERATE* had no need of carnal, fleshly, unregenerate *invitations*, or carnal, fleshly, unregenerate *decisions for Christ*, or the carnal, fleshly, unregenerate persuasions to pray the *sinner's prayer*, and what-have-you, for Paul had *POWER*, even the *POWER* of the *HOLY GHOST*. *1 Thessalonians 1:4-5*

T rue ministers of Christ have done as Paul for two thousand years, and Jesus Christ, by his Spirit, has borne witness to his true ministers for two thousand years, *JUST* as he did with Paul. Indeed, this was the very principle that Spurgeon *INSISTED* upon, as even he himself noted with regard to his *PASTOR'S COLLEGE* --

"...but if men of learning and wealth should come, the College will not accept them unless they prove their calling by *POWER* to deliver the truth, and by the blessing of God upon their labors." *Charles Spurgeon, Autobiography, A New School Of The Prophets*

Spurgeon insisted that a man *PROVE* his ability to preach in the *POWER* of the Holy Ghost *BEFORE* he was admitted to his *PASTOR'S COLLEGE*, and it is noteworthy that human learning, such as schools or universities, had nothing to do with a man's qualifications. Nothing whatsoever. A man was admitted *STRICTLY* on his *DEMONSTRATION* that he could preach "*in demonstration of the Spirit, and of POWER.*" 1 *Corinthians 2:4*

This was true of Bunyan, Whitefield, Edwards, and so many other *GENUINELY* born again Christians throughout history.

W*OE* unto you if it is not true of *YOU*, even you who preach and teach in the name of Jesus Christ, yet who demonstrably have no *POWER* with God, because you *YOURSELF* have never *EXPERIENCED* the *RESURRECTION POWER* of Jesus Christ in the *MIRACLE* of the *NEW BIRTH*.

"Preaching is to give life; it may kill... This letter-preaching has the truth. But even divine truth has no life-giving energy alone; it must be energized by the Spirit, with all God's forces at its back. Truth unquickened by God's Spirit deadens as much as - or more than - error. It may be the truth without admixture; but without the Spirit its shade and touch are DEADLY, its truth error, its light darkness." *E. M. Bounds, Power Through Prayer*

W*OE, WOE, WOE* unto the man who doesn't preach in the *POWER* of the Holy Ghost, just as Paul did, just as Peter did, just as Bunyan did, just as Whitefield did, and on and on. Yea, *WOE* unto that man!