***Ignorant Intellectuals, No. 11

RV53-02***

We are studying Revelation 3:7-13 which deal with the letter written to the church in the city of Philadelphia. The Bible reveals to us many things about the ultimate destiny of the human race. The direction of history is part of a divine plan whose basic features are known to us. We know what God is doing. We know where the world is moving. We know where history is moving because God has informed us. Most people, because they are in the dark about what the Bible teaches, are also in the dark about the future of mankind. They don't know where our world is moving today. Spiritual things are learned by the principle of faith in the divine revelation of the Bible. That is, you learn spiritual truths by believing that you have in your hands (in the Bible) an inerrant record from God – a book without mistakes. You do not learn spiritual things by rationalism (by your reasoning capacity). You do not learn spiritual things by empiricism (by your senses). Both of those are false, and both of those are deceptions that Satan plays upon the mass of humanity. The only way you can learn about God is out of the Bible. And to the degree that you are ignorant of what is inside the covers of Scripture, to that degree you are ignorant about the realities which pertain to God.

Now, because humans have been contaminated by a sin nature in the Garden of Eden, we have a natural rebellion against divine authority. We are susceptible, therefore, to believing satanic lies instead of the Bible. It is far more natural for us to believe a satanic lie than it is for us to believe a truth that the Bible tells us. We have a natural inclination to pull back, and to distrust what we find in the Bible. But we are quite ready to believe what Satan teaches people in general. These lies direct a person away from the divine plan of salvation as a grace gift received by faith in Jesus Christ, without the addition of any human doing.

This happens to sincere people as well as insincere people. There are many people who are very sincere who have swallowed Satan's line that somehow they can get to heaven by something they do. You can ask the average person, "How do I go to heaven?" They might say, "Well, it depends how good I am." Immediately, you realize that that person, wherever else he's going, he's not going to heaven. If he thinks it's a matter of how good he is, he's never going to make it. Yet, the world has swallowed Satan's lie that salvation is trusting in Jesus Christ as Savior *plus* something that you do: you take water baptism; you take the Lord's Supper; you become a member of a nice church which has cushioned seats (one of the elite groups); or, any number of other things so that you know that you're going to make it with God.

**Grace vs. Works**

I did something just briefly in prayer meeting, and several people came rushing up and said, "What were those Scriptures?" So, I want to review this and put these scriptures together again, because you are the witnesses of the Lord Jesus Christ, and you have to understand that you must make it very clear to people that there is only one way that God saves, and if you violate His way, you will never go to heaven. Do you realize that there are people who are members of churches who go to church every Sunday; who give their money; who serve the Lord; who praise the Lord; who sing hymns; who do all kinds of things; and, who consider themselves the kinds of people who are going to populate heaven, but they're going to spend eternity in hell, because they have contaminated the only basis upon which God will save a human being?

Notice, first of all, Romans 4:1: "What shall we say then, that Abraham our father, as pertaining to the flesh, has found? For if Abraham were justified by works, he had something of which to glory, but not before God. For what do the Scriptures say? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him as righteousness (saved by faith). Now, to him that works is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of death. But to him that does not work, but believes on him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness." If you work for salvation, you deserve it. You've earned it. But God says, "I don't give salvation to anybody on the basis of what they have earned, simply because they cannot earn it." Everything within us is contaminated by the sin nature, so every good work is also contaminated. There are no good works that God will accept that we are capable of producing.

So, verse 6 says, "Even as David also described, the blessedness of the man unto whom God imputes (He gives) righteousness apart from works, saying, 'Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven; whose sins are covered. Blessed is the man to whom the Lord will not impute sin.'" You can just sense the relief. David says, "Oh God, I thank you for the fact that I don't have to come up with anything to be saved. I don't have to be good. I don't have to be kind. I don't have to be nice. I don't have to be working. I don't have to be anything. I just have to trust in Jesus Christ as Savior, and then let You clean up my life, and make me good and kind and all these other things." ...

The Jews all wanted to be saved by their works system of rituals. They actually thought that these systems of rituals were going to save them. That's like a lot of people today who think that if they go to church on certain holy days like Christmas and Easter, that somehow God will say, "Oh, that's wonderful. I'm going to give you a little boost into heaven for doing that." But Abraham, who was the father of the Jews, was very clearly saved by the fact he trusted in the coming Christ as Savior.

You can match this up to Ephesians 2:8-9, where Paul says, "For by grace are you saved through faith, and not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest any man should boast." Paul says again, "You're saved through faith by believing, and what you believe is the gospel about Jesus Christ: that He substituted for you on the cross. He has paid for your sin, and it comes to you as a gift. It's not of works, lest any man should boast. You're not going to be able to boast about your salvation."

Now once more, back in Romans 11:6, this is the zinger: Paul has been talking here about being elected to salvation. Then he says, "If by grace, then it is no more of works. Otherwise, grace is no more grace. But if it is of works, then it is no more grace. Otherwise, work is no more work." This is the way it is. God says, "One side is grace, and the other side is works. And there is an impassable barrier between them. You cannot mix them. You cannot go to heaven, partly by grace and partly by works. The minute you enter a human doing (and that's what a work is) – the minute you say, "I'm going to be saved because I have water baptism," God says, "You're going to hell. If you trust one little speck in water baptism, you're going to hell." God says, "I will save you on the basis of grace, which means I'm going to give it to you as a gift. So, keep your grubby contaminating hands off My system. Don't you dare come to Me and say, 'Oh, I'm going to get to heaven because I'm going to pray for forgiveness.'" The minute you do that, God says, "You're on your way to hell. I will not give you salvation except as a free gift."

These two are mutually exclusive. If you put some works over here, then grace is no longer grace. Grace means you don't deserve it – it's a gift. If you put some grace over here, then it no longer works. Works mean that you deserve it – you earned it. God says that you cannot mix the two.

I wouldn't want you to be sloppy witnesses and not understand this. We revised our introductory tape on how to be saved for this very thing. We didn't think that we had made it clear enough to people that if they applied one speck of human effort, as the whole opening chapters of Romans so constantly hammers home, you're going to end up in hell. In order to be truly saved, you're going to come to God and say, "I'm not going to try to con You. I'm not going to try to bring You anything. I'm going to recognize I'm a sinner. I'm going to recognize I deserve to go to hell. I'm going to admit that what You say I need is absolute righteousness, which means I have to be just as righteous as Jesus Christ. And I'm going to admit that there's only one way I can be that righteous – because You give it to me. You credited it to my account. When You do that, I've got it. I'm going to admit that You say You're going to give it to me as a gift. If I try to earn it, You're not going to give it to me."

You must make it clear to people, because we live in an era when the minds of men have been contaminated by religious systems, and preachers themselves, such that they believe that something they do is going to have merit with God – that God is going to say, "I think you deserve to come to heaven." There are whole denominations that are marching systematically right into hell. They're singing, "My Jesus, I love Thee;" they're giving their money to the Lord's work; but, they're trusting in some part of ritual or human effort as part of their salvation. If you went to them and said, "You must trust in Christ as Savior," they would say, "Oh, yes, of course I do that. But, you know, you have to have water baptism. You have to have the Lord's Supper. You have to have this, or something else."

When you hear that, I want you to be a good enough witness to know that that person that you're dealing with is unsaved. "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him (plus nothing) shall have eternal life, and not perish." Believe in Him. Believe means trusting in Jesus Christ.

What do you trust in? There are certainly crises points in your lives such that what you trust in is going to come to the fore. One of the news commentators observed that when the Pope was shot, his first utterance was to call on Mary. He looked to the Madonna. And in that moment, you knew that the Pope, if he believes in the works salvation that his church teaches, is not going to heaven. That's a shock, isn't it? All the world is appalled at this horrible thing to an ordinary, good human being. Yet, the Pope revealed in that moment that he was trusting in Mary, who couldn't even hear him when he uttered that cry to her. That's what he was trusting for eternal life. In your crises, ask yourself, to whom will you turn? On what basis will you defend yourself before God and say, "I am entitled to be in your heaven?" Is it because you have earned it, or because God the Son has given it to you? Please get it straight.

We have been contaminated in our thinking to the point where it is very difficult for people to be saved today because they can't find someone who can give the story to them straight. Religion is killing us, and it is driving people to hell. These lies make men think that not only can they get to heaven by their human efforts, but it makes men think that they can deal with human problems and human evils apart from biblical principles – that they can actually handle the evils of our society without consulting the Bible and saying, "What should we do about it?" There are people who think that they can handle the problems of government without going to the Bible and saying, "Now, what are the principles upon which the Bible says we have to deal with these problems?" The Bible says that the knowledge of God and the teaching of doctrine is the beginning of wisdom. But Satan has deceived people into viewing the knowledge of God as a hindrance to human progress. The Bible is therefore considered irrelevant to the big issues facing human societies. So, it is ignored in seeking solutions.

**Ignorant Intellectuals**

The thinking of modern man has been totally poisoned by satanic lies which were treated as truth. Only those with a real knowledge of the Word of God, and of the teachings of Scripture, can recognize that these beliefs of these intellectual men are satanic lies. These lies have been promulgated by intellectuals in our society who were ignorant of divine viewpoint truth, so I call them ignorant intellectuals. That's the problem. These ignorant intellectuals have had a mighty influence upon the world. The sad thing is that, in Christian circles, we have believers and religious leaders who are deceiving the people of God by giving dignity to what these intellectuals have thought, and who have promulgated ideas that the Bible condemns. Because we have Christian leaders who love the world's pseudo-intellectualism, and who want to be thought wise by the world's mighty, they give dignity to these ideas instead of saying, "My friend, you've got a high IQ, but you're ignorant of what God thinks, and you have perverted the truth. What you say is contrary to the reality that God reveals in Scripture.

That is hard for some people: to look at the high; the mighty; and, the important people of our society – the people you hear about on television and in the news, and to realize that these people are out of it. It's very easy for you to be drawn in by them. But the Bible has been very clear to us that the thinking of mankind has been poisoned.

Here are just a few verses so that you have God's attitude toward this kind of thinking. 1 Corinthians 3:18 says, "Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you seems to be wise in this age, let him become a fool, that he may be wise. For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, 'He has taken the wise in their own craftiness.' And again, 'The Lord knows the thoughts of the wise – that they are vain.'" There is very little doubt in that Scripture as to what God thinks about the so-called intellectuals who hold satanic ideas.

Notice 1 Corinthians 1:18: "For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness, but unto us who are saved, it is the power of God. For it is written, 'I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent.' Where is the wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the dispute of this age? Hasn't God made the wisdom of the world foolish? For after that, in the wisdom of God, the world, by wisdom, knew not God. It pleased God, by the foolishness of preaching, to save them that believe." Now, isn't that a verse? God says, "I demonstrated how ignorant intellectuals are who are devoid of God's Scriptures." God has been pleased by the very thing that these intellectuals hold in contempt – what the Bible has to say as being the means to getting a person into heaven, and to escape the destiny of hell.

1 Corinthians 1:26: "For you see your calling, brethren: how that not many wise men after the flesh; not many mighty; not many noble are called, but God has chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise. God has chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty. And base things of the world, and things which are despised, has God chosen. Yea, and things which are not to bring to nothing things that are; that no flesh should glory in His presence, but of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who of God has made up to us wisdom and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, that according as it is written: 'He that glories, let him glory in the Lord.'"

In 1 Corinthians 2:12 we read, "For we have received not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit of God, that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God; which things also we speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches, but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual. But the natural man does not receive the things of the Spirit of God, for they are foolishness unto him. Neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. But he that is spiritual judges all things, yet he himself is judged of no man, for who has known the mind of the Lord that he may instruct Him? But we have the mind of Christ." Who has the mind of Christ? Those of you sitting out there who day-by-day systematically take Bible doctrine into the mentality of your soul. You have been transformed into the mind of Christ. That's why you are protected against the foolishness and the ignorance that has poisoned the streams of thought in our society.

The apostle Paul, in speaking to the Colossians Christians, said to them in Colossians 2:8, "Beware, lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ."

Then Romans 11:33: "Oh, the depth of the riches, both of the wisdom and knowledge of God. How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways. For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who has been His counselor, or who has given to Him that it shall be recompensed unto Him again. For of Him, and through Him, and to Him are all things to whom be glory forever. Amen."

So, what the crowd thinks is generally wrong, because the crowd that you know has been contaminated by influential thinkers with ideas that are exactly opposite to what the Word of God supports. Yet, God says, "You can think the way I think." That is why this service is important. That is why it is important for you to be in the presence of the teaching of the Word of God that is a true exposition of Scripture. That does not mean some preacher who is getting up there telling you funny stories; making you laugh; and, making you think that you're a very wonderful person instead of putting us, as we all should, downwind of ourselves, so we can smell us the way God smells us, and we can recognize our need for the need that we have.

The perversion of the mind of modern man into human viewpoint thinking is the product of influential men of recent centuries. If you have been with us for several sessions now, you have heard about Immanuel Kant; Georg Hegel; Charles Darwin; Karl Marx; George Wellhausen; John Dewey; Sigmund Freud; Søren Kierkegaard; and, John Maynard Keynes. Modern societies function on the satanic lies which these men have interjected into the stream of human thought. These teachings are now destroying the human race, and preparing the world for the nightmare horrors of the tribulation, which is immediately on the horizon.

The Word of God tells us that from the time of the day of Pentecost, when God the Holy Spirit came down to indwell the believers on this earth, there began a period known as church history. At a certain point in time, the Lord Jesus Christ is going to come from heaven. He is going to catch all the believers, those who are in the graves and those who are on the earth, and they are altogether going to be caught up to meet the Lord in the air, and He's going to take them to heaven.

Then something very dramatic is going to happen in heaven. We're going to get to that in the next session. But back here on earth, with all believers removed, there begins a period of seven years that Daniel tells us about. That is going to be hell on earth in the finest degree that you can understand that term. It will be a period of intense human suffering, because God is then going to pour out His wrath upon earth in this tribulation period that the Bible describes, that the Lord Jesus explained in such detail.

Believers are going to be removed from the earth before this period begins. But the societies that are going to be functioning in the tribulation, and the things that people are going to think (their attitudes), and the organization of society is going to be the direct result of the thinking of these men that we have just mentioned, and others like them. The tribulation will be the epitome of the consequences of this poisonous satanic thinking that these men have interjected into human thought. Modern societies function on these ideas, and they are going toward that tribulation era.

During that time, there'll be no Holy Spirit on this earth, or Christians to resist these ideas. Now, there are moral majorities and other groups who are fighting back against the ideas of these men. In the tribulation, they'll have full sway and full reign, and everybody will think that it is the epitome of intelligence to believe these things. Mankind's subjection to these ignorant intellectuals produces this tribulation nightmare, where suffering and death become a way of life. Christians are removed, I'm happy to say, before the bitter fruit of these lies climaxes in the tribulation period.

**John Maynard Keynes**

The last man we looked at was John Maynard Keynes. Just to tie him up a little bit before we move on: John Maynard Keynes came up with the idea that the way to prosperity for a foreign nation is for a government to spend more than it can collect in taxes, and to make up the difference by printing fake money, and putting it out into the economy so as to create a thing called inflation. Inflation is excess money chasing a limited supply of goods, and that causes prices to rise. The idea was that this would stimulate business because all this money was running around.

This began in the United States over 50 years ago, and now we stand on the brink of national disaster. Most Americans think that the United States is almost $1 trillion in debt as the result of John Maynard Keynes' theory. Unfortunately, that's not the whole picture. We actually have another $2 trillion in what they call off-budget accounts that are not reported as being in debt. So, the United States is far in excess of anything it could ever produce again in any way to possibly pay it off. You know very well that when you go in debt personally, the only way you're going to pay it off is because you get out there, and you produce the money some way from your labors so that you can pay it off. This is literally now impossible in this nation.

The public debt has become so great that the government has to tax people more heavily to repay the debt. The result is less money left with people, so they don't invest; jobs fall off; unemployment rises; and, the problem gets worse. Creating purchasing power has been removed from the citizens. The citizens are not inclined to produce. They have been reduced in their wealth, and the nation goes down in its gross national product (its gross national wealth). Why do people do this?

Well, 50 years ago, when they started this, as we have already shown you, when you first throw in this printed money, it does stimulate things. The people who get it first can go out and buy things before the prices have gone up. But then, very shortly, they discovered that after the money got through the society, the prices were all higher, and everything was the same, except that everything cost more. So, the politician says, "Let's do it again." So, they did it again, and they had to do it a little larger. It's like a guy on heroin: a little bit, at first, does a lot. But then, after that, you have to have a bigger kick all the time to get the same effect. Finally, the politicians discovered that they could be elected to office as long as they kept inflating the economy so that they could give money to certain groups who would elect them. That has been going on for 50 years, and politicians have not wanted to stop it, because it helps them to get elected.

Now, the country is in such desperate straits that they are trying to turn the thing around. The Bible condemned inflation to Israel of old, as we showed you. Isaiah said to the people of Israel, "If you do not stop inflating your money, and if you do not stop contaminating the quality of your production (the products you make), I'm going to send you into captivity." Judah thumbed its nose at God; kept inflating its money; and, kept producing sub-quality products, and then God reached over and jerked them up by their hair roots, and sent them off for 70 years of captivity in Babylon. Isaiah said, "I told you that God said that if you don't stop inflating, and if you don't stop contaminating the products, I'm going to put you into captivity."

Why is that so terrible? What a terrible punishment for just making prices go up, and cheating people a little bit on what you produce for them! God condemns inflation because it is the worst form of evil in a society. It corrupts people at every turn. Do you know that just two weeks ago, Americans finally reached the day (sometime in May) when they were now working for themselves? It took up to about the middle of May for you to earn money just to pay your taxes. Now, you're working for yourself, and I hope you can get your heart into it a little more. But from here on, it's all yours, but it took you until the middle of May just to get your taxes paid. Do you know what people are doing? People are mad. People are going underground. A survey recently reported that there is, on the average, $600 dollars that every American has in cash money that he's floating around. He's not keeping it in banks. He's not keeping it in any place that can be accounted for. He has been driven to what? He has been driven to cheating. He has been driven to corrupt his personal moral character to fight back against inflation. That is why God says, "Inflation is a corrupting factor, and I will not tolerate it in a society." It is a hidden tax on everything you buy. It encourages citizens to cheat. It destroys the moral fiber.

I just want to read you a paragraph out of a book called Economics in One Lesson by Henry Hazlitt. It is a tremendous little book that brings it all into perspective. On page 124, he says about inflation: "Like every other tax, inflation acts to determine the individual and business policies that we are all forced to follow. It discourages all prudence and thrift. It encourages squandering; gambling; and, reckless wastes of all kinds. It often makes it more profitable to speculate than to produce. It tears apart the whole fabric of stable economic relationships. Its inexcusable injustices drive men toward desperate remedies. It plants the seeds of fascism and communism. It leads men to demand totalitarian controls. It ends invariably in bitter disillusion and collapse."

That was a very perceptive remark by Hazlitt – that it drives men to want totalitarian controls. One thing the Bible tells us is that the antichrist is not going to force himself on people. They're going to welcome him with open arms. They're going to say, "Here's a man that can stabilize society." Do you know one of the things you're going to stabilize? We already showed you from the book of Revelation: Here's this poor character who has to work all day just to earn one good meal or three cheap meals just to keep himself alive. So, what's he going to do for his family? That's how bad inflation is going to be after the church has been removed. It is the concept of John Maynard Keynes that induced this poison into American society, and that has caused us to destroy the most productive nation in all the world, with the highest standard of living in all the world.

There's one solid way to stop the Keynesian poison of inflation, and our Congress has bills before it, and I would suggest that you pray that God will enable them to pass them. That is to tie our paper money back to gold and silver. The politicians are in deathly fear that somebody is going to do that. We could say that our paper money has to be worth so much gold or so much silver. Remember those old certificates "to bearer on demand" that we used to have. Then you can't print paper money. If you don't have the gold to back it, or you don't have the silver, you can't make fake money. When you can't make fake money, you don't have inflation. So, thank God that we're moving in that direction.

The Bible shows us that what this has done to our society is to destroy us because of the fact that we have misunderstood what government should do. Government is never in the Word of God called upon to do anything but to maintain peace: to maintain internal peace through police forces; and, to maintain external peace through the military. That is the role of government. It is not the role of government to redistribute the wealth of the people. In Romans 13:3-4 and 1 Peter 2:13-14, the Bible is very clear that the role of government is to maintain peace so that people can function in an orderly fashion. And there are certain general duties that the citizens delegate to the government that they cannot handle themselves, and that's all. A nation seriously sins if it permits its government to be an agent to take from those who produce, and to give to others who may have need, whatever their need is. Well, the consequence is national destruction.

You might say, "Well, why can't people understand that? Why don't our politicians understand it?" Don't be naive, folks. They understand it. They know it exactly. We've had administration after administration who knew exactly what they were doing, and they were hiding the effects. When you see off-budget accounts mentioned, just remember that they're hiding the effects of what they're doing, and they know what they're doing. They're doing it because they will get elected. They're doing it deliberately. The Word of God condemns this. It's all done, however, for the sake of good. You can go to these people and say, "Why do you do this?" They'll say to you, "Because people have needs. Here's this poor child starving. Are you going to let this child starve? Here's this poor widow with this family to raise. Are you not going to help her with her dependent children?" And they go through all these needs, which are genuine needs. Nobody doubts that they are needs. But unless you're a wise thinking Christian, they can sucker you with that argument. You might say, "Yeah, we really should help those people."

The question is, who should help them? The Bible says that government should never help them. That violates the will of God. Government is never a producer or a distributor of wealth. The Bible says that churches should do that; families should do that; and, Christians should do that. The admonition of Paul in the Ephesians is: "You people who have been picking up things that don't belong: stop stealing. Go to work. Earn the money that you need, so that you will have your needs provided for, and you'll have enough to look out here and say, "This poor lady needs some help, and I'll give her some help. This man needs some help, and I'll give him some financial help. This man needs a loan. I'll give him a loan, and I'm not going to charge him any interest. I'm going to get him on his feet." You are the agencies who help. That is God's way. That is the way that God prospers a nation. That is the kind of a nation we once had. Don't forget that.

It has only been since the administration of Franklin Roosevelt that all of this has changed, and suddenly government said, "We're going to take over. No matter what the Bible says, the government is going to do these things – not people anymore. So, government bureaucrats and politicians want to decide how to spend the money of the citizens, and it has corrupted our society.

The moral attitude of Americans, from this and these other lines of poisonous thoughts, are absolutely astounding. I have a report here from The Wall Street Journal. It is a survey conducted by Connecticut Mutual Life Insurance Company of Hartford. This report compares the attitudes of the general public on specific subjects with the attitude of people who are leaders in various areas of American institutions.

**Abortion**

For example, what does our nation think about abortion – the taking of a human life, and the taking of something that is destined to be a human being? One of our teachers, in our morning prayer meeting the other day, read the Old Testament psalm that describes how God is so aware of what's going on in the fetus: the plans that God has for the fetus; the designs that He has; the destiny that He has; and, all the details that He has. It is just like the plans that God had for Jesus Christ when He was just a fetus. It is so clear that you are not destroying just a blob of living material that has no relationship to a soul, but that you are dealing with something that is a living human being, destined to be not a dog or a cat, but a human being. Therefore, abortion, whatever else you want to say about it, is aborting that which is, in the image of God, destined to be a human being reflecting the glories of God.

What do Americans think about abortion? 65% of the general public say that it's wrong. Among religious groups, 74% say that it's wrong. Then it drops. Of people in the business world, only 42% think that it's wrong. Of people in the military, 40% think that it's wrong. Of the news media, which are dominated by liberal thinkers, only 35% of them think that abortion is wrong. In government circles, 29% think that it's wrong. Among educators (the people who are teaching your kids) 26% of them think that it's wrong. So, 74% of our educators think that it's right. How do you like them bananas, folks (for those of you who have your kids in public school)? 74% of them are telling your children, "It's alright to have an abortion." In law and justice (and you would expect the law group to be at the bottom, as usual), 25% say that abortion is wrong. The scientists are going to be down there too: 25% say that abortion is wrong.

**Pornography**

What do Americans think about pornographic movies? Of the general public, 68% say that they're wrong. Among religious people, 87% say that they're wrong. Among business people, 70% say that they're wrong. Among the military, 54% say that they're wrong. Among educators, 50% say that they're wrong. Half of the people teaching your children say that pornographic movies are alright. They say that it will broaden your scope, and develop your outlook on life, and introduce you to some things. Among government agents, 47% say that pornographic movies are wrong. Among the news media, 46% say that they're wrong. Among scientist, 45% say that they're wrong. Among lawyers, 41% say that they're wrong.

**Premarital Sex**

What do Americans think about premarital sex? Has our society been contaminated today among American people? Six out of ten Americans think that premarital sex is alright. Only 40% say that it's morally wrong. Among religious groups, 77% say that it's wrong. Then it drops. In business, 38% say it's wrong. Of the military, 28% say that it's wrong. In education, 27% say that it's wrong. In government, only 23% say that it's wrong. Of the news media, 20% say that it's wrong. In science, 20% say that it's wrong. Among lawyers, 17% say think that it's morally wrong.

**Homosexuality**

What do Americans think about homosexuality? That's one of the big games in town. What does the general public think as a result of the influence of our great intellectuals? 71% of the general public says that homosexuality is wrong. That's kind of interesting that that much of our general society says it's wrong. Of religious groups, 73% think that it's wrong. Then it drops. Of the military, only 58% think that it's wrong. In business, 51% think that it's wrong. Of the news media, 38% think that it's wrong. In government, 36% think that it's wrong. In education, 30% think that it's wrong. 70% of educators think that there's nothing wrong with homosexuality. That means that seven teachers out of ten have the attitude that it's OK. I already talked to you a couple of session ago about the textbook in the Irving public schools in the first grade, which is teaching homosexuality as an alternate way of life. Of lawyers, 30% think that that homosexuality is wrong. In science, 27% think that it's wrong.

**Adultery**

What do Americans think about adultery? The whole picture changes. Adultery hits close to home. So, all of these derogare liberal thinkers don't want that because that hits them. So the thing is considerably different. 85% of Americans think that adultery is wrong. 96% of religious groups think that it's wrong. 80% of the military think that it's wrong. 76% of the business world think that it's wrong. 72% of the news media think that it's wrong. 70% of those in government think that it's wrong. 65% of scientists think that it's wrong. 62% of educators think that it's wrong. Even 60% of lawyers and judges think that it's wrong.

**Living Together**

What do Americans think about living with somebody before marriage? Here again is the contamination of our republic. Of the general public, only 47% say that it's wrong to live with somebody before you're married to him. In religious groups, 72% say that it's wrong. Yet, notice that when we say that, that means that 28% of those in religious groups say that it's alright. That's in churches, folks. In business, 37% think that it's wrong. In the military, 36% think that it's wrong. Among educators, 30% think that it's wrong. In the news media, 24% think that it's wrong. In government, 23% think that it's wrong. Among lawyers and judges, 19% think that it's wrong. In science, 19% think that it's wrong.

**Lesbianism**

What do Americans think about lesbianism (female homosexuality)? Of the general public, 70% says that it's wrong. In religious groups, 74% say that it's wrong. Of the military, 60% say that it's wrong. In business, 53% say that it's wrong. Of the news media, 37% say that it's wrong. In government, 35% say that it's wrong. Of lawyers and judges, 30% say that it's wrong. Of educators, only 28% think that lesbianism is wrong. They're lower than the lawyers this time. And the scientists are at the bottom of the pile: 26% of them say that it's wrong.

And it goes on to other areas. But the whole point is that our line of American thought has been poisoned. We swallowed this guff. It has destroyed our moral fiber. And we're standing, struggling on that steep, slippery slope, going down to national destruction, just like Israel of old did, and we're trying to claw at the side of the mountains, trying to get a foothold again. And here it is. It's because of all these men that we've been studying who have poisoned our thinking. And only those of you who are intelligent people, in terms of the Word of God, can back off and say, "Dewey was wrong, and Darwin was wrong, and Kierkegaard was wrong. And Keynes is certainly wrong, and everybody else down the line. And when Wellhausen came along and said the Bible is just the paste-up of writings that men have made apart from God, Wellhausen was wrong."

These men have destroyed the American mentality. Only those of you with Bible doctrine in your souls are the salt of the earth that are left. So, do not hold in low esteem the fact that God has honored you for some reason. ... He has chosen you to be informed. "Why me?" There are a lot smarter people; a lot nicer people; and, a lot kinder people than I am, but He hasn't chosen them. But I know the Word of God. As you fill the mentality of your soul with God's thinking, you cannot help but be a winner.

It starts with getting salvation straight. It's what God gives you by grace, without your contaminating hands trying to help Him along. From then on, He takes you step-by-step from zero babyhood, right on up to the super grace of spiritual maturity, where you built the container in your soul, through the Word of God, where God can start pouring His grace in, and like Psalm 23, you can finally say, "My cup runneth over." That is because he gives you super abounding grace.

I remind you that Christianity deals with absolutes. And that's a scary thing. The Bible deals with absolutes. Do you know what that means? That means that we're going to find out eventually who's right and who's wrong. So, don't take this lightly. There are a lot of crazy people that are devoted to their religious denomination that has a works system of salvation. The Mormons, for example, are very moral; they're trustworthy; and, they form some of the best students we have in our school, but if they believe their works way of salvation, those moral people are going to fill hell, and hell is filled with moral people today. And do you know what? We're going to find out one of these days, pretty soon, who's right and who's wrong? We, or they?

The tragedy is that when they find out how wrong they have been, they're going to be like the rich man in the historical record of the rich man and Lazarus, and there's going to be no return. You can't change it. The issue is going to be settled. We're going to find out who's right – whether it's these men that we have studied, or whether it is the Word of God. When we find out, it's going to be too late for a lot of people.

So, I caution you, whatever you believe, you better go back to the Bible. And don't listen to people. People are the most misinformed; the most confused; and, the most contaminating source of influence you have, unless you're talking to someone who has the Word of God permeating his mentality. That is a trustworthy person. The rest of them have human viewpoint; they're shot-through with it; and, they will destroy you. Learn to appreciate the Word of God, and learn to thank God that you have a source of information of instruction, and be faithful to take advantage of it.

We have studies on all kinds of subjects, and on all kinds of topics, that will enlighten you with God's viewpoint. Take advantage of it. The poor lady whose letter we read in the previous session is a lady who's telling us one thing: Someone has not done the job of teaching her the Word of God. She does not know faith rest; she does not know how to lean upon the Lord; she does not know how to trust the Word of God; and, she does not know how to believe, and leave it with God. But when she gets the Word of God in her soul, she will know it. Somebody is going to find out.

We're going to find out whether the Pope was right in calling on Mary, or whether we're right in calling upon Jesus Christ. You want to make very certain that what you think is exactly what the Bible thinks: not what people think; not what your denomination has told you; and, not the contaminating influence of these thinkers that have slowly permeated our minds, so we don't even know why we think these things. You must make certain that you have the authority of the Word of God. Here is the Word of God. So, you can say, as with the Reformers, "Here I stand, I can do no other."

Dr. John E. Danish, 1977

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