

Spiritual Knowledge Must Lead To Action

There is a great disparity between Christian theology and practice among professing Christians.

This gulf can be so wide in some Christian fellowships that an inquiring stranger who chances upon Christian theology and Christian practice would wonder if there was a relationship between the two.

An intelligent observer of the human Christian scene who heard a Sunday morning sermon and later watched the conduct and heard the conversations of those who heard it, would conclude that they were examining two distinct and contrary religions.

The average church fellowship simply does **not** dare to check its practices against Biblical precepts.

It tolerates things that are diametrically opposed to the will of God, and even based on pagan practices that have been adopted by the Christian Church in the early years under the influence of pagan Roman.

If this matter is pointed out to the leaders of the church, they will defend the unscriptural practices with reference to the traditions of the church or denomination creeds.

I know this by personal experience, more than once.

The mind can approve and the emotions enjoy while the will drags its feet and refuses to change what is pointed out to be unscriptural.

It appears that too many Christians want to enjoy the thrill of feeling right and being seen by others as righteous but are **not** willing to endure the inconvenience of being right, according to God's Word, the Christian Bible. [Matthew 23:1-7, 13]

Such people protest great and undying love for the Truth, God's Word, the Christian Bible [John 17:17] but they will **not** let their love cost them anything.

Revelation 3:1-6 [NIV] *"To the angel of the church in Sardis write: These are the words of him who holds the seven spirits of God and the seven stars. I know your deeds; you have a reputation of being alive, but you are dead. Wake up! Strengthen what remains and is about to die, for I have not found your deeds complete in the sight of my God. Remember, therefore, what you have received and heard; obey it, and repent. But if you do not wake up, I will come like a thief, and you will not know at what time I will come to you. Yet you have a few people in Sardis who have not soiled their clothes. They will walk with me, dressed in white, for they are worthy. He who overcomes will, like them, be dressed in white. I will never blot out his name from the book of life, but will acknowledge his name before my Father and his angels. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches."*

The church at Sardis had this problem, they had a reputation of being Christian but the actions prompted by their knowledge was dead.

Some among their congregation did change as a result of revealed knowledge, and God had placed their names in the book of eternal life, but **not** all were willing to respond to correction.

What can be the effect on spectators who live day by day among professed Christians who habitually ignore the commandments of Jesus Christ and live after their own private notions of Christianity?

Certainly the non-Christian is **not** blamed if they turn away from the invitation of the Gospel Message after they have been exposed for a while to the inconsistencies of those who profess to be following Jesus Christ.

Do not be among those whose personal example of Christian living is seen by non-Christians to be hypocritical, unreal and visionary, things which they are fully justified in rejecting.