

“THE CHURCH AND OTHER RELIGIONS II”

“14 Be not unequally yoked with unbelievers: for what fellowship have righteousness and iniquity? or what communion hath light with darkness? 15 And what concord hath Christ with Belial? Or what portion hath a believer with an unbeliever? 16 And what agreement hath a temple of God with idols? For we are a temple or the living God; even as God said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God and they shall be my people. 17 Wherefore Come ye out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, And touch no unclean thing; And I will receive you, 18 And I will be to you a Father, And ye shall be to me sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty,” II Cor. 6:14-18.

Look at the opposites in the above text: **(1) Righteous** and **Iniquity**, Fellowship is “joint-participation;” or working in agreement, I Jno. 1. “Iniquity” means to be lawless, Matt. 7:23, shows false teachers to be “iniquitous.” These are folks who follow not the law of God – they are “lawless,” they work “iniquity.” **(2) Light** and **Darkness**: The word “communion” is used to show the separation of the two words. There is no communion between “light and darkness.” We **communion** with those of like mind. We talk or communion with those of like faith – there is no agreement between “light” and “darkness.” God is light and in him is no darkness. We have no communion with darkness! **(3) Christ and Belial**, teachings of Christ and teachings of the Devil, Jno. 8:44: *“44 You are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father it is your will to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and standeth not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father there of.”* The teaching of Christ is **truth** and the teaching of the devil is a lie. There is no “concord,” between the two! **(4) Believer** and **unbeliever**: A believer is one who accepts the words of Jesus and accepts them by being obedient to the Lord’s words. *“23 If a man love me, he will keep my word: and my Father will love him. And we will come unto him, and make our abode with him,”* Jno. 14:23. This is the difference in one who is a “believer,” obeying the teaching of Jesus and one who is an “unbeliever,” not obeying the Lord’s teachings. Again this involves the teaching of Jesus being obeyed and not believing; nor, obeying the words of the Lord. **(5) Temple of God with Idols**: The text uses the word “agreement” which is used to show there is no compatibility between these two! The “Temple of God,” with “idols,” has to do with the “Temple of God,” (the church of Christ” I Cor. 3:19) and teaching and practicing idolatry. The two are not compatible and cannot co-exist. There is no “agreement” between the teaching of “temple of God,” and that of idolatry.

Through the years, I have heard members of the church say: “There are Christians in denominationalism.” One cannot be right in anything religious, against the truth! In Col. 2:8, *“8 Take heed lest there shall be any one that maketh spoil of you through his philosophy and vain deceit, after the traditions of men, after the rudiments of the world and not after Christ.”* The text tells them to “come ye out from among them and be ye separate.”

Several years ago, I was asked, *“On the Radio, all of you Church of Christ preachers sound the same. Why is it this way?”* This was before all of the division occurred in the Church of Christ. My answer was: *“We all preach from the same book!” Such cannot be said today, the preachers do not sound alike. Many in the Church of Christ do not follow the same book!* There is no “agreement,” “concord,” with the Lord’s Church and the religions of the world. *“19 We know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in the evil one,”* I Jno. 5:19.

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