

I WAS STUNNED

By Phil Arms

Last Sunday I was sitting in a church service and began scanning their bulletin of upcoming activities and events. You can only imagine my surprise and shock upon reading the following announcement about an upcoming member's tour.

“This is an opportunity to gain an understanding of our neighbors as we visit a Mosque, Hindu Temple, and Buddhist Temple.”

Of course, the message between the lines here is that if we only understood more about pagans, demon worshipers and Christ hating religions then, perhaps we could be more tolerant and more loving toward their anti-Christian agendas.

It's Appalling!

The politically correct thinking that has so twisted our culture has, alas, infected a lot of Christians and churches.

God has called us to love those without Christ and to reach out to them with the Gospel. We have not, however, been called upon to tolerate apostasy and heresy. Nor have we been called to try to “understand” them.

While the word “tolerance” feels all warm and fuzzy, the way the culture means it is far more compromising. Tolerance as preached and practiced by the politically correct means that we should all accept the religions and beliefs of others as credible and as valid as our own. And this unscriptural attitude has been pushed in and accepted by millions of Christians who have been seduced into believing that true Christian love means we lay down our belief in the exclusivity of the Gospel.

Under no circumstances must we be understanding of the Christ-rejecting, satanically inspired, spiritually depraved religions that plague our world and nation. These false religions with their doctrines of devils must be seen for what they are and not in any way embraced by Christians as “just another way to God.”

It is the desire of world that Christians, whom the world hates, be willing to accept every religion and philosophy as critically vital as their own.

The culture in which we live is insulted and offended when Christians have the audacity to stand up and proclaim "Christ is the only way to life now and Heaven after death. This message infuriates the egotistical, self-centered nature of mankind. It forces them to acknowledge their sin and their need for the grace and mercy of God. It demands they repent of their egotistical, self-loving lifestyles.

The depraved nature of man has always attempted to find another road to redemption; a road that does not require man to bow a knee to God, turn from their sins and allow God to create a new man with a new nature.

Every other religion in the world teaches man gets to God through his own works, righteousness or good behavior toward their fellow man.

And every religion in the world beyond true Christianity is no more than a Christian heresy.

Whether it is Islam, whose founder, Mohammed, was a crazed, illiterate pedophile with a delusional, messianic complex, or Buddhism, whose adherents are sent on a lifelong search for truth and enlightenment that they never find, they all represent human attempts to reach, pacify and please false gods.

And, no, the Allah of Islam is not the same Almighty God of the Word of God. Allah was the name of the moon god, one of thousands of demon entities, worshiped in the Middle and Far East several hundred years after Christ.

Are these Christ denying religions, along with Hinduism, whose followers worship the pagan goddess Vishnu and hundreds of other false deities, religions that believers need to be more tolerant and accepting? Are these the perverse systems we are to acknowledge as valid and be more understanding of if we are to be true loving Christians?

Absolutely Not!

Christians are taught in the Word of God to categorically mark and reject those who preach any message that contradicts Biblical Christianity.

Paul warned repeatedly of those who teach anything that is contrary that is contrary to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. You may ask, "Well, how serious was he on the matter?"

He writes in Galatians 1:6, "I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel, which is not another; but there are some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. But Though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed...so say I now again, if any man preach any other Gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.

Paul does not admonish us to consider their feelings or to try to understand them or to tolerantly receive them. He flat out states identify them by what they teach about Jesus and if it contradicts the truths of God's Word, then let them go to hell.

You may respond, "But, Phil, that's just too harsh." My dear friend, my name is not on the letter to the Galatians. Paul, writer of almost two thirds of the New Testament, is the name at the bottom of that letter.

Further, he states in Titus 3:10, "A heretic (one who perverts the Gospel) after the first and second admonition, reject!"

A Better Choice

I suggest to those followers of Christ who want to be more tolerant, understanding and accepting of these false religions, that they need to rediscover Christ and the glory of His Word. They need to grasp the absolute uniqueness of Jesus Christ and His message.

We need not devote our energies to touchy, feely, warm and fuzzy efforts to embrace false religions.

Far better it is to devote mind, body, and soul to our relationship with Christ and to losing ourselves in the richness of God's Word.

Paul writes of his one driving desire in life in Philippians 3:10, "That I may know Him and the power of His resurrection and the fellowship of His sufferings, being made conformable to His death."

This should be our priority; to lose our life in His; to declare, "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I but Christ lives in me and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me." (Galatians 2:20)

Redeem the Time

Our anthem, especially in these perilous times should be the great old hymn, "More, More About Jesus" which repeatedly proclaims the glory, the splendor, the all sufficiency of Christ. Yes! Yes! More about Jesus would I know!

His light and His life in us will expose the darkness and lies of every other false road to God and will point, without hesitation or apology, to the Cross and Christ as mankind's singular and exclusive way to eternal life and personal redemption.

If Christians truly understood these godless religions that some want to become more tolerant and accepting of, then they would not be so eager to receive their teaching as "just another way to God."

This month we are making available some resources that expose the deceitful ploys of these false religions that are Trojan Horses attempting to find "reasonable loving people" to convert or gullible Christians to neutralize as they work to destroy and literally take over this nation. They are making remarkable headway in Europe and Asia.

In closing I ask you to join us in our efforts to lift high the Name of Jesus. We certainly need God's people to stand up and support us as we move forward to rescue the perishing, expose the enemy and point souls to the King of Kings.