

Righteousness and Truth Redesigned
Harmony M.B.C., February 13, 2011
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2Cor. 11:14 And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light.

2Cor. 11:15 Therefore *it is* no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.

There is a sinister program afoot today that has its roots in the long range plans of Satan. The program is a very subtle one, because it involves the slow conversion of the attitudes of billions of people on earth. Satan is at work revolutionizing the views of human-kind for the purposes of leading them to a completely different definition and philosophy about righteousness, truth, and enlightenment.

Since the time of Christ, the Lord's people have been indoctrinating the inhabitants of earth about what righteousness, truth, and enlightenment is. Although the world at large has never embraced the believer's teaching, it has nonetheless impacted societies across the globe, and has resulted in some cultures practicing some form of ethics and morality patterned somewhat after the righteousness of God. In this indoctrination process by Christians over time, they have used the Bible to teach the truth about the attributes or righteousness, truth, and enlightenment. In that teaching, righteousness has been an attribute of Jesus Christ passed on to believers in the new birth, and it has been defined also as the behavior of Christians when they pattern their behavior after the example of Christ using the Bible as their guide. Truth has been taught by Christians to be the essence of the Messiah...that is...He and He alone is the embodiment of truth. Truth has also been taught by Christians as what the Bible teaches about things in general, because those things are the declarations of Jehovah Christ. Enlightenment has been taught by Christians as the experience that is gained by people when they are born again and when the Holy Spirit begins to teach them about the things of God.

Today, that is all changing. In this century, we will see an evolution in thought, philosophy, and the definition of truth. This evolution is being helped along by both secular and religious cultures. Already, much of the truth that is real and Bible-based has been altered and mixed just a little with what I call "New Age" religious thought, and secular leaders of the world are crafting a new way of re-defining truth. They have adopted as their own the historical question of Pilate to Jesus in which he revealed to us his compromised unbelieving soul. "What is truth?" he said. And by it he, and all others who ask this question, mean to undermine the foundations of God. This is exactly where liberal and lawless human thought is taking us today. But, it is not the godless spirit of unregenerate mankind which has control of this program. It is him who from old time has appeared as an angel of light. We are not ignorant of his devices. But, he is doubling his effort in this century and more than ever he is putting his ministers at the front of the effort. This is where the beliefs of God's people will be threatened and disrupted during these last days of human history on earth.

We want to think about a few aspects of this sinister program and its devices. May the Holy Spirit help us to arm ourselves with the truth of God and seek the protection of God as we face

this great onslaught of lawlessness in the world.

I. Lies Have a New Face, a New Standing, and a New Credibility

- ❖ Have you noticed that leaders across the world can and do lie straight-faced and those lies are left standing as though they were the truth?
 - Righteousness is now measured by how persuasive one can be with his lies before the public.
 - Jesus said, of the devil (**John 8:44**): “When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.”
- ❖ Have you noticed that when you speak out about the lies that abound in our world, you are branded as bigoted, an extremist, or a racist? More and more this attitude is creeping into so-called religious circles
 - **John 8:47** He that is of God heareth God's words: ye therefore hear *them* not, because ye are not of God.
 - **2Peter 2:1-2** But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. 2 And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of.
 - Have you noticed how often nowadays truth is being called “relative.”
 - Jesus Christ as the Truth of God is not relative...He is fixed...immovable as the embodiment of God's reality
 - The truths that God has given to us in His Word are not relative...they are fixed...never to change...never open to interpretation by men, never subject to modification to fit the situation.
 - God tells us about the perversion of truth by reprobate humanity (**Rom. 1:25**) “Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator....”

II. Wicked Men Have a New Face, New Standing, and a New Credibility

“his ministers...transformed...as ministers of righteousness....”

- ❖ How is it that nowadays among a vast number of people...especially Americans so-called, people like Mao Tse Tung, Hugo Chavez, Hitler, Stalin, and Castro are heroes, wise men, men who understood reality and who spoke the truth?
- ❖ These people that I named have collectively ordered, or were the leaders responsible for the murder of not less than 65 million people during their lifetimes.

III. Jesus Christ is Reduced to a Second-Rate Prophet, or Just a Model Man

- ❖ More and more Jesus is just being bundled with a lot of other historical “good guys.”
- ❖ Worse than that, the list of “good guys” includes historical figures who taught absolute paganism, or taught a religion of violence and hate.
 - One strong and growing New Age “truth” about Jesus is being propagated by Neo-Marxists:(<http://bible.postedpost.com/2008/08/11/religion-and-faith-how-marxists-see-jesus/>)
 - Neo-Marxists are attracted to Jesus as a model for human life and action. He is an authentic man; a man for others; a totally committed man. They are impressed with

Jesus' stand for truth and justice, and by his solidarity with the poor, the suffering, the dying. His love is not abstract or sentimental, but practical and concrete. For Neo-Marxists, Jesus is a 'prophet and reformer'. They see him as one who opens up new possibilities and a new future for mankind.

- They give us a dynamic picture of the man Jesus, but they point only to the secular fulfilment of humanity. NeoMarxist views of Jesus are still based on materialistic-atheistic presuppositions. They still reject the God-centred interpretation of Jesus which the New Testament teaches.

IV. The Bible is Reduced to Being “Just One of Many Religious Books”

- ❖ One of the most critical steps in Satan's program of changing the world's philosophy about what is truth and what is righteousness is to marginalize the message of God to men.

V. Where is this all going?

- ❖ Best expressed by a statement of mission or purpose of the Shi'ite Muslim sect called The Bahá'í: teachings state that the **unification of humankind** is the **paramount issue** in the religious and political conditions of the present world. (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Baha'i_Faith).
- ❖ More from the Baha'i philosophy: “**Globalization** represents not only the progressively greater manifestation of this principle, but also **humankind's progressively greater perception of the bonds which already unite it.**”
- ❖ That is where things are going in the mind of Satan and in the minds of his ministers.
- ❖ But, globalization DOES represent the progressive movement toward something. Namely, the evolution of truth into a lie.
- ❖ And, human kind will never be united because there are those who are the subjects and even the ministers of Satan
- ❖ Last, there is another story. It is in the last phrase of our text: “whose end shall be according to their works”
 - It does not matter how the world and liars of the world paints up these emissaries of the devil to be ever so glorious, God says their end "shall be according to their works." Those works are wickedness.
 - This end is to be a judgment of wrath from God and an eternal destiny in the lake of fire that burns forever and ever.
 - While we labor down here for the cause of righteousness, let's remember that the judge of all the earth is going to settle this once and for all.