

We saw in verse 44 that Jesus plainly tells this religious crowd the devil is their father. They act just like him. They love the things he loves and they hate the things he hates. They don't abide in the truth because he doesn't abide in the truth. We saw in the last part of verse 44- When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.

These religious crowds are just like their father the devil; they hate the truth. They hate the truth because the truth hath no place in them, and they have no love for the truth. Their unbelief makes them mad; crazy. A wall goes up when they hear the truth.

Verse 45- And because I tell you the truth, ye believe me not.

Because Jesus tells them the truth they don't believe Him; this implies that if Jesus were to tell them a lie they would receive and believe the lie and Him. The madness here is they would rather a lie over the truth.

John 8:31, 32

John 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

John 1:17 For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ.

This religious crowd were bound by the law and more so by their traditions. They would rather stay bound; being bound was their comfort zone.

If you were not part of their group, you were considered a sinner.

Luke 18:9-14

The religious crowd will exalt their own goodness, their own deeds, and proclaim the short comings of others. Notice the use of the word I and the exaltation of self.

John 8:45 And because I tell you the truth, ye believe me not.

Jesus makes this plain in verse 45, they don't believe Him because He is telling them the truth. This isn't anything new. This is a result of the fall of Adam in the garden of Eden. Because of our depraved nature we automatically run from the Word of God which is truth.

Genesis 3:8 And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden.

Adam and Eve hid themselves from God.

Adam and Eve ran and hid themselves when they heard the voice of God in the garden and mankind has been running ever since. This is why God is the initiator of salvation. He must draw, literally drag us. Only He can open up blinded eyes and cause the deaf to hear; only He can quicken us who are dead in trespasses and sins, only He can make us alive.

Lost depraved man refuses to hear the truth. He is dead to the truth; he has no feelings towards it. This means he will readily receive and believe what isn't truth; which means he will receive a lie over the truth. This means lost man will receive some crazy teachings and make up crazy beliefs. Madness because of unbelief.

Some of these beliefs will have religion mixed with it, some of them won't. Even with all the proof, they still deny the truth and embrace lies and deceptions.

Here are some examples. Some of these are funny; some are plain madness.

Some refuse to believe that we are descendants of Adam, but instead that we are descendants of monkeys. These say we evolved from one species to another. Let's look at two definitions.

Microevolution- evolution change within a species or small group of organisms, especially over a short period.

A common word for this is adaptation. This means that this species is adapting to its surroundings. Markings of moths may change and bird's beaks may grow longer, but this is a change within the species. This is the species adapting to its surroundings. This is very common and we see this. What we don't see is one species evolving into another species.

Evolution- the process by which different kinds of living organisms are thought to have developed and diversified from earlier forms during the history of the earth.

Notice the words "different kinds". Evolution is one kind of species evolving into another kind. Fish into birds, apes into men. There is absolutely no proof of this, and there has never been any proof of this. One kind of species has never changed into another. If so then we would see this still happening today.

Even though there is no proof of this multitudes believe it. There is proof all around us of a Creator, yet these would rather believe a lie over, instead of the truth.

Genesis 1:20-25

Romans 1:25 Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen.

Agnosticism- a person who believes that nothing is known or can be known of the existence or nature of God or of anything beyond material phenomena; a person who claims neither faith or disbelief in God.

A simple definition here would be, I don't know.

These often believe "something" created the world, but it's not the God of the Bible.

Colossians 1:15-20

To recognize that God created means they would have to recognize why God created; to fulfill His plan of redemption through His Son Jesus Christ. We have peace only through Jesus Christ.

So if I don't want to be held accountable to the Creator I'll make something up so I can live life the way I want to. This is madness. This madness is all around us. It is in the schools and in the colleges and surely in the government.

Then you have people such as the cult of the Jehovah's witnesses. They don't believe that a literal lake of fire, hell, is where all unbelievers will spend eternity in utter agony and torments. The founder of this cult, Charles Taze Russell, hated the doctrine of eternal punishment, so he took the Bible and changed the words. He also hated the deity of Jesus Christ so he also changed those words. Multitudes follow and embrace these teachings. Why? Why would someone follow a man over the Scriptures? They would rather a lie over the truth.

Mark 9:42-48; Luke 16:19-31; Revelation 20:11-15; Revelation 21:8- "their part".

The opposite of eternal life is eternal death.

hell- haides- the place (state) of departed souls.

This is the place in which the souls of the wicked were subjected to punishment.

They are not judged and burnt up, but rather suffer the torments of eternal punishment.

Even though there is much biblical evidence, these would rather believe a lie over the truth.

The most popular belief since Cain and Abel is the teaching of doing good works to earn heaven. This was also popular among the Jews.

Romans 10:1-4; Romans 5:1, 3:28, 3:22.

Galatians 2:16

Titus 3:5 Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;

This is so obvious, the evidence is overwhelming, why would people rather a lie over the truth?

They love that which is false.

John 3:19 And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

Psalm 58:3 The wicked are estranged from the womb: they go astray as soon as they be born, speaking lies.

Psalm 62:4 They only consult to cast him down from his excellency: they delight in lies: they bless with their mouth, but they curse inwardly. Selah.

Isaiah 28:15 Because ye have said, We have made a covenant with death, and with hell are we at agreement; when the overflowing scourge shall pass through, it shall not come unto us: for we have made lies our refuge, and under falsehood have we hid ourselves:

II Timothy 4:4 And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.

II Timothy 3:7 Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.

Truth is light and light exposes that which is in darkness. What will you and I do with the truth? People run from the truth and embrace lies because they don't want to deal with the truth. Just because someone doesn't want to deal with the truth doesn't change the truth nor does the rejection of the truth make it go away. Just because someone doesn't believe in God doesn't mean God doesn't exist; and the same with eternal judgment. One day every knee will bow and every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.

You and I must deal with the truth, or the truth will deal with us for eternity. Run to Jesus Christ.

John 8:31, 32.

John 8:45

What will you do with the truth?