

# COUNTERFEIT CHRISTIANITY

## THE PASSAGE

Hebrews 13:7-9

## THE TRUTH ABOUT COUNTERFEIT CHRISTIANITY

(1) Counterfeits always look like the **REAL THING**.

John 8:44/ 2 Corinthians 11:14-15 & 2 Thessalonians 2:9/ Deuteronomy 18:21-22

(2) Satan's goal is not to make us **BAD PEOPLE**.

His goal is to keep us from **JESUS**.

2 Corinthians 11:14-15

(3) No one gets into heaven by being  
**GOOD** enough or **DISCIPLINED** enough.

Isaiah 64:6/ James 2:10/ Hebrews 13:9/ Galatians 2:21/ Colossians 2:13-14

## HOW TO KEEP FROM BEING BURNED

(1) Stick to the **BIBLE**

2 Corinthians 11:3-4/ 2 Timothy 3:16-17/ Acts 17:11 & 1 John 4:1/ Galatians 1:8-9

(2) Keep it **SIMPLE**

1 Corinthians 1:26-29/ 2 Corinthians 1:13/ Mark 10:15/ Matthew 22:34-40  
1 Timothy 1:3-7/ 1 Corinthians 8:1-3/ Colossians 2:20-23

## Food for Thought for the week of August 5, 2018

(Questions and Scriptures for further study)

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1. This weekend, we were cautioned to look for spiritual “counterfeits.” Several times in the New Testament, Jesus cautioned people in a similar way by encouraging his followers to avoid darkness and walk in the light. How do the following verses break down the difference between light and darkness?

**John 3:19-21** (NIV) - <sup>19</sup> This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. <sup>20</sup> Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. <sup>21</sup> But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God.

**John 8:12** (NIV) - <sup>12</sup> When Jesus spoke again to the people, he said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.”

**John 12:35-36** (NIV) - <sup>35</sup> Then Jesus told them, “You are going to have the light just a little while longer. Walk while you have the light, before darkness overtakes you. Whoever walks in the dark does not know where they are going. <sup>36</sup> Believe in the light while you have the light, so that you may become children of light.” When he had finished speaking, Jesus left and hid himself from them.

**1 John 1:5-9** (NIV) - <sup>5</sup> This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. <sup>6</sup> If we claim to have fellowship with him and yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live out the truth. <sup>7</sup> But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all<sup>[a]</sup> sin. <sup>8</sup> If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. <sup>9</sup> If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

Can you think of any times when walking in the light felt frustrating, but turned out to be for your benefit?

2. Larry cautioned us to avoid “spiritual wolves in sheep’s clothing.” He pointed this out in Genesis 3:1-7 where Satan deceived Eve, not by using huge lies but by using half-truths and questioning God. As you re-read the passage, can you think of any areas where you’ve been deceived, tempted, or fallen into half-truths similar to Adam and Eve?

**Genesis 3:1-7** (NIV) - <sup>3</sup> Now the serpent was more crafty than any of the wild animals the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, “Did God really say, ‘You must not eat from any tree in the garden?’” <sup>2</sup> The woman said to the serpent, “We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden, <sup>3</sup> but God did say, ‘You must not eat fruit from the tree that is in the middle of the garden, and you must not touch it, or you will die.’” <sup>4</sup> “You will not certainly die,” the serpent said to the woman. <sup>5</sup> “For God knows that when you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” <sup>6</sup> When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it. <sup>7</sup> Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they realized they were naked; so they sewed fig leaves together and made coverings for themselves.

3. Hebrews 13:7 stresses the importance of following spiritual leaders. Spiritual leaders can be mentors, pastors, bosses or friends. No matter who they are, it's important to pick spiritual leaders wisely. Proverbs has much to say about who we pick to surround ourselves with and how that impacts us. What truths are seen in the following verses that could be applied to picking the right spiritual leader?

**Proverbs 27:5-6** (NIV) - <sup>5</sup> Better is open rebuke than hidden love. <sup>6</sup> Wounds from a friend can be trusted, but an enemy multiplies kisses.

**Proverbs 13:20** (NIV) - <sup>20</sup> Walk with the wise and become wise, for a companion of fools suffers harm.

**Proverbs 14:7-9** (NIV) - <sup>7</sup> Stay away from a fool, for you will not find knowledge on their lips. <sup>8</sup> The wisdom of the prudent is to give thought to their ways, but the folly of fools is deception. <sup>9</sup> Fools mock at making amends for sin, but goodwill is found among the upright.

**Proverbs 22:24-25** (NIV) - <sup>24</sup> Do not make friends with a hot-tempered person, do not associate with one easily angered, <sup>25</sup> or you may learn their ways and get yourself ensnared.