

Infallibility

Matt 4:4

1

4 But He answered and said, "It is written,"

There is something that we all engage in, most often without even realizing it. What is your safety net? Psychologists tell us that we all have one, or more. It's a behavior that is readily seen in small children who imprint on their parents, most often, as their haven of safety. It's their blanket, their favorite stuffed animal, sleeping with the light on, these are all things that could be described as safety nets. As we grow older, we don't grow out of the need for safety nets, we just transfer them to other things. Jobs, financial security, children, grandchildren, spouses, the world is full things that people put their trust in, find security in, something that they find to be... 2

Eccl 1:12

3

12 I, the Preacher, have been king over Israel in Jerusalem. 13 And I set my mind to seek and explore by wisdom concerning all that has been done under heaven.

Solomon says that he

4

"Set his mind"

To seek and explore wisdom. The idea of a safety net is something that gives us confidence, a confidence that we can put our trust in. That's why there are so many different things that people choose as their personal safety nets. Solomon searched knowledge, pleasure, relationships, escape, anything and everything that the world has and is trying to find that one thing that he could place his confidence in and use as his safety net, his place of comfort and trust. People tend to desire some fixed point in their lives, an anchor, if you will. The engineer believes that with a big enough fulcrum for his lever, move the world. Without that anchor, man feels the emptiness that Solomon was trying to fill. No one likes feeling like they have no safety net, no anchor. That's why there are so many different things that people attach themselves to. They find that one thing that they are maybe good at, the thing that gives them stability. People don't rest until they have found that something that they think is certain, is sure, settled, decided, that something that gives them the confidence that Solomon looked for in Ecclesiastes to answer the question of life.

As we have discussed, so many people search through the world and what it offers for that illusive element that they can incorporate into their lives to give that feeling of completeness, the confidence that they can put their trust in. Others tend to linger hopefully around the idea of an infallible church. The problem with this is that they don't take the time or make the effort to find the one Church that is indeed infallible. Rather they settle for whatever strikes their fancy without doing their due diligence of finding out what the true Church is.

I have been doing some research lately on the origins of the Book of Mormon. Many years ago, as a young man, I had been told that it had its origins in a work of fiction from old England. I wanted to find out if that was true. What I found is that that is about half true. One of the theories that I found concerning the origin is that it did indeed come from a book of fiction, but not from a book from England, but rather was written in the US about 1812 entitled...

5

“Manuscript Found”

There is some confusion that has been promoted as Spaulding apparently wrote two books one called *Manuscript Story* which is about a group of Romans that were blown off course and wind up in early America. The other is this *Manuscript Found* and is about the supposed lost tribes of Israel that head out for Great Britain and are also blown off course and wind up in America. There are many similarities between this last work of fiction and the Book of Mormon, and obviously, depending on who is writing the comparison you’re looking at, you will find that these similarities are either called coincidental or that they are proof of Joseph Smith plagiarizing the work of Spaulding and turning it into one of the biggest deceptions the world of religion has ever known, and there have been many.

In the middle to late 1800’s Mary Baker Eddy began a movement that became the Church of Christ, Scientist, what is now known as Christian Scientist. In the late 1900’s Charles Taze Russel began a movement that became what is known today as Jehovah’s Witnesses. These are just a couple of the many that have sprung up. While they tend to somewhat independent of each other, I think that the community church movement is just another one of Satan’s deceptions that he is perpetrating on people. They incorporate just enough of the Bibles teachings to make people think it’s real and truthful. Another deception that leads man astray.

People have accepted these deceptions and followed these teachings; and these groups grew into what they are today, huge movements that have attracted thousands of people to them. People believe in the judgments of the general councils or the charismatic man leading the church, and think that they have found their stability in the lie they are listening to. Apparently, that is easier than actually looking at the Bible and seeing what God has to say. The interesting part of almost all of the different religions out there is that they all claim to believe in the Bible as the Word of God. That is the constant in any comparison of them. Now the truth of the matter is that, while they make that claim, they don’t practice what it says completely. People have been deceived into thinking that they are doing what God wants.

This brings us to our discussion in this lesson from the passage we began with...

6

“It is written,”

There are some ideas I want to pursue for a bit from this passage...

7

- 1) The chosen weapon of Jesus
- 2) Christ showed us how to use it
- 3) How should we use it

This first point...

8

- 1) The chosen weapon of Jesus

What was His chosen weapon, and by weapon I mean, what did Jesus use to defend himself from or even attack, His enemies? In Luke 4 in the account of Satan’s temptations of Jesus, we read

where Jesus is tempted by Satan three different times and in three different ways, and yet, every time Jesus answers the same way...

9

“It is written”

In...

John 6:30-31

10

30 So they said to Him, "What then do You do for a sign, so that we may see, and believe You? What work do You perform? **31** Our fathers ate the manna in the wilderness; as it is written, 'HE GAVE THEM BREAD OUT OF HEAVEN TO EAT.'"

The Jews in response to Christ asked Him for a sign and then referred to God supplying manna to the Israelites in the wilderness when they said, “It is written.” This was a term that was used to describe what was recorded in the Old Law, “It is written” means that what was being said or quoted comes from that Old Law. When Jesus used that term with Satan He was quoting from that Old Law as His source of authority. Note what that necessarily implies. Jesus quoted God’s Word as the authority by which He resisted Satan but also as the authority over which Satan has no power. The point is that while Satan might, and does, disobey that authority, he is, after everything is said and done, still subject to that authority. The Word of God is the authority in this world and everything and everyone of this world is subject to it, including the god of this world, Satan.

Man is under the authority of God’s Word, whether he thinks so or not. That is the purpose of the Church, to spread God’s Word to the world. Therein is the difficulty that comes from all the deceptive religions. Their purpose, as designed by Satan, is to keep man from coming to an understanding of the truth. One of the ways he does this is to make people think that God’s Word is so complicated that the common man can’t hope to understand it, so they depend on other so-called men of understanding to tell them what it says and what to do. For years the Catholic church has told their members to not worry about reading the Bible, if they have questions, ask one of the priests and you will be told what it says and what it means. Until man comes to the conclusion that God’s Word is the only infallible source of authority, he is lost. That is the weapon of our Lord and Savior, the Word of God. The Word of God will defend us from all of Satan’s deceptions; the Word of God is the two-edged sword that is our weapon to attack the deceptions of Satan. And there is an irony in the statement of Jesus that “It is written,” Jesus is the Word...

John 1:1-2

11

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. **2** He was in the beginning with God.

Jesus is not hard to understand. He wants us to love Him and to keep His commandments, John 14:15. If we do that, we will never fail, because the Word of God, Jesus Christ, is infallible.

Consider for just a moment the options that Jesus had when Satan tempted Him. Remember, Satan is under the authority of God. Jesus could have just commanded Satan to cease and desist and he would have had to. He could have called down legions of angels, as Satan quotes in...

Psa 91:9-12

12

9 For you have made the Lord, my refuge, Even the Most High, your dwelling place. **10** No evil will befall you, Nor will any plague come near your tent. **11** For He will give His angels charge concerning you, To guard you in all your ways. **12** They will bear you up in their hands, That you do not strike your foot against a stone.

Jesus chose to use the most powerful weapon ever given to man, the authority of the Word of God.

In His using of it...

13 2) Christ showed us how to use it

He could have called down legions of angels to aid Him, if He had but exercised his divinity, a single word would have sent Satan away. But instead of angelic or divine power, he used,

14 *"It is written"*

In doing so he taught His Church that force, or carnal weapons, things of the world, are not the answer, but rather, a trust in the omnipotence, the power of the authority which dwells in the sure word of testimony, will protect it from all of Satan's assaults. This is our battle-axe and weapon of war. God's Word, in its simplicity and truth, will defend, protect, and defeat any and all that seek to destroy His Church. Note what Christ told Satan, "It is written," He used God's word to resist Satan's temptations. Can't we? Can't we use His Word to resist the temptations that we face?

1 Cor 10:12-13

15

12 Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed that he does not fall. **13** No temptation has overtaken you but such as is common to man; and God is faithful, who will not allow you to be tempted beyond what you are able, but with the temptation will provide the way of escape also, so that you will be able to endure it.

God provides the way for His children to be able to resist, to be able to escape, to be able to endure. But notice something, He doesn't say that there will not be any temptations, but rather He promises that He will provide a way by which those temptations can be escaped, endured. That is the Word, that is Christ. Christ is our escape, and not just from temptation, but also from the burden of the penalty of sin that comes when we fail and fall prey to the temptations. Christ is also our endurance, the way by which we can endure this life and receive a home in heaven. That is the power of the Word...

2 Cor 13:4

16

4 For indeed He was crucified because of weakness, yet He lives because of the power of God. For we also are weak in Him, yet we will live with Him because of the power of God directed toward you.

Christ showed anyone who is willing to look, just how to use the Word of God. Which brings us to our last point...

17 3) How should we use it

Luke 22:41-42

18

41 And He withdrew from them about a stone's throw, and He knelt down and began to pray, 42 saying, "Father, if You are willing, remove this cup from Me; yet not My will, but Yours be done."

The Word of God, His authority, His power, the manifestation of His love. Therein is the key that Jesus showed us how to use. He used God's Word by obeying it, by bending His will to God's. When man places his trust and faith in God's Word, he is following the example of Jesus Christ. That is the key. Note what Paul says in...

1 Cor 2:3-5

19

3 I was with you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling, 4 and my message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, 5 so that your faith would not rest on the wisdom of men, but on the power of God.

There are so many things in this world that entice man to put their trust in them. There are so many different perversions of religion that are calling to man to come to them because only they can provide the answer to the question of what man is to do with his life so that there might be a reward after this life. This is an important point. How often do you hear someone say, my church, or maybe more often, what does your church teach. Friends, this is not "OUR" church. This is the Church of Christ, it is the Lord's Church, and there is only one...

Eph 4:4

20

4 There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling;

We don't originate any teaching, it is not our interpretation that governs what we do. It is God's Word and only God's Word. How important is this?

Gal 1:8-9

21

8 But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to what we have preached to you, he is to be accursed! 9 As we have said before, so I say again now, if any man is preaching to you a gospel contrary to what you received, he is to be accursed!

God's Word is the only authority, the only power that can bring us to salvation. Our faith comes from hearing it, truly hearing it. It is God's will that causes us to, like Christ, make His will be done and not our own. It reveals that Jesus is the Son of God, is our savior, it tells us what to tell others about Him and how we are to live our lives, and it tells us that if we want to be a part of His true Church, we must be saved from our sins through baptism, 1 Pet. 3. It tells us we must walk in the fellowship of His teaching, Acts 2. Or, we can just allow ourselves to be deceived and follow after man and his teaching.