

THE DEVIL'S COUNTERFEITS

In Second Corinthians 11: 4 the apostle Paul speaks of what he calls, "*another Jesus, whom we have not preached...another spirit, which ye have not received...and, another gospel, which ye have not accepted.*" In every good thing the Lord provides for His people, the devil presents them with a counterfeit version, and exerts every effort he can to deceive them into embracing it. For reasons we may never know, the Lord has suffered Satan to be very successful in these things. Yet in every age God has "reserved to Himself" a faithful remnant that is able to detect the evil devices of "the wicked one" and to escape many of his cunning snares. The masses today have embraced "another gospel" that does not give God all the glory for the salvation of His people. In Galatians 1:7 Paul refers to this "other gospel" and shows that it is not actually another, but is a product of those who would trouble God's people and would pervert the gospel of Christ. These perverters are still very active in the world, and vast multitudes have been led away from the truth. As a result those who have been thus misled are troubled about many things that would not bother them if they knew the truth. The Jesus they hear preached is so limited in what He can do that He is not much help to them. He is one that they can either accept or reject, and therefore does not possess sovereign power over them. Hence they cannot render unto Him the reverence and respect that the real Jesus is due. This "other Jesus" is the one that vast multitudes of children are being taught in Sunday Schools across the land, and many of them grow up to engage in all manner of corruption because they have no fear of, or reverence for, such a weak Jesus. I believe many of them have concluded that a Jesus who cannot *save* them unless they

let Him, is also a Jesus that cannot **condemn** them unless they consent to it.

This "other Jesus" and the "other spirit" that Paul spoke of, is the center of the "other gospel" that he mentioned. The "other spirit" causes people to do all manner of undignified things, such as engaging as a group in some kind of gibberish that no one understands, wallowing on the floor, screaming and yelling to the top of their lungs, running around the sanctuary, etc., etc. Such things are in stark contrast to that "meek and quiet spirit" that is such an ornament to the sisters in the church and which is "in the sight of God of great price" (See I Peter 3:4). It does not in any way fit in with the Lord's church which is described as "the city of our solemnities," and "a quiet habitation" (Isaiah 33:20). It bears no resemblance to the solemn and sacred assembly of those who have been blessed to feel and know that they are not worthy of the least of the Lord's mercies and who sincerely desire to emulate His meek and lowly nature and disposition.

Let us beware of Satan's counterfeits and seek to worship our Lord "in spirit and in truth," for this is the only kind of worship that pleases Him (See John 4:23). Our Lord always behaved Himself in a dignified and reverent manner, and we should seek to do likewise. Satan tries to convince people that the worship of God is characterized by levity, mirth and a trifling atmosphere, but the true worship of God is conducted in just the opposite manner. Paul told Festus, "I am not mad, must noble Festus; but speak forth the words of truth and *soberness*" (Acts 26:25). Let us mark those who take the service of God lightly, and avoid their habits and customs.

—Elder Ralph Harris