

THE ARROGANCE OF HYPOCRISY

Compiled and Edited

by

Dr. Lewis R. Woodard

Please Note: All Scripture Used Is Taken From The King James Bible

“THE GREAT HUNGER”

The Irish had suffered so much during the famine years when their potato crops, their only available staple, failed. Though millions died, others looked to the horizon with hope in their hearts. Distant lands in far-away countries, lands where there was no famine, seemed promising.

Great famine overtook Ireland in the mid 1700's. The Irish fled to Australia, to the United States and to Canada, and their migration lasted over a hundred years.

At the height of the Hunger Migration, the boat trips that lasted from five to eight weeks were particularly unsafe. Those who were the most desperate of them were willing to cross to North America during the winter months. The ships carrying the refugees soon earned the label of “coffin ships”. Typhus and fever became unwelcome passengers that claimed many lives, both on the boats and in the quarantine stations set up for them once they arrived in the “Land of Promise”.

Even though this “Land of Promise” didn't turn out to be quite as promising as originally thought, the Irish continued their migration, even many years after the Great Hunger. They were tired of the domination by the British, but unfortunately, those who finally landed in North America soon discovered they were not overly welcomed there either!

All of these poor Irish came from rural, agricultural backgrounds. Now they were facing a completely different horizon, one ruled by the urban industrial world, and it wasn't long before this “Land of Promise” turned into a nightmare. They were soon labeled as those who “knew nothing”, because they were not used to making a living in the industrialized land. When searching for employment, they more often than not encountered signs that read, "No Irish Need to Apply." It was clear they were not welcome, that they were a complete mismatch to this new culture!

“THE LAND OF PROMISE”

The “The Land of Promise” that some churches offer is no better than the world faced by those Irish. These churches promise the “moon, great enjoyment, fun and games”, but instead, within the whited sepulcher walls of many a church the worldliness that the wanderer has tried to escape from is prevalent. Jesus would say about these churches: *“Ye hypocrites, well did Esaias prophesy of you, saying, This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with their lips; but their heart is far from me. But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.”* (Matthew 15:7-9).

Still, these churches are quite popular, for people seem to find a feeling of safety, and comfort, because there is a lack of the teaching of the great doctrines found in the Word of God. God's commands found in the Bible are shunned and are said to be out of date in these “*promise land* churches”. Those who still teach the great instructions of God concerning the Christian life are maligned and ridiculed by those who fit the description given by Christ in Matthew 15:7-9.

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Christ said of the people who are operating the “*promise land churches*”: “*Wherefore the Lord said, Forasmuch as this people draw near me with their mouth, and with their lips do honour me, but have removed their heart far from me, and their fear toward me is taught by the precept of men:*” (Isaiah 29:13).

They have some kind of logic defending their doctrines, but their Bible texts are often taken out of context and history is twisted and turned into their own advantage. They are living in hypocrisy.

If we take time to examine those churches that promise “*the world*” [as they do with their actions and words] we will find Pastors, Teachers, Deacons, and other leaders who are arrogant in their hypocrisy. They dare anyone to challenge their authority or to expose their hypocrisy. Their arrogance is akin to that of Lucifer when he said “*I will be like the Most High*”. (Isaiah 14:14b).

When leaders who exhibit the arrogance of hypocrisy and people accept their hypocrisy as being true, the people in essence are saying “*we accept what the leadership [man] says over the Word of God*”.

“GOD'S PROMISES”

The Irish had fled their catastrophic land to come to a land that wasn't all that promising after all. Why are God's people so tempted to do the same? Why do we put ourselves in a situation where we will experience spiritual wreckage? Aren't our Heavenly Father's promises always fulfilled? Why turn to man-made religions, and programs, just because they have a Biblical twist? They are not the fulfillment of God's promises, and just like those poor Irish farmers arriving in North America, they will leave us wanting.

God's promise is simple: “*For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.*” (Ephesians 2:8-9)

When we turn to the Lord and to Him alone, then and only then will we find rest in the arms Of Jesus Himself (Matthew 11:28 “*Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.*”). Peace for us, our souls, comes from Jesus, not from man (John 14:27 “*Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.*”). Our Great Guide is none other than God's own Holy Spirit. Jesus said: John 14:18 “*And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever;*” John 16:13 “*Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.*”

Jesus true to His Word did send the Holy Spirit, the Comforter, on the day of Pentecost (Acts 1:8). The Holy Spirit not only comforted those who had been with Jesus and those who had seen Him taken up from them, the Holy Spirit also empowered those early believers to preach the Gospel of Jesus Christ (Acts 2:4a “*And they were all filled with the Holy ghost...*”). The Word of God was so miraculous that when it was preached on the day of Pentecost about three thousand souls got saved (Acts 2:41). The people who got saved that day were not saved because of men and women pretending to be something they were not. People got saved by the preaching of the Word of God, by people who were real. The ones who preached “*Jesus Saves*” were not hypocrites, but they were true believers in the Lord Jesus Christ and His way of salvation. There was no need of programs and activities to bring people to Jesus. There was no need of programs and activities for people who were saved to be satisfied and entertained on the Day of Pentecost. The time we live in may be a different time, but the same Lord is still saving people the same way He did on the day of Pentecost.

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“THE CHANGELESS GOD”

God never changes. When we think we have to do some man made thing to attract the unsaved and to keep the saved happy, then we have been deceived by the ***“arrogance of hypocrisy”***. Man's arrogance is evidenced when he thinks he has to do something to be saved and to stay saved. The saved person's arrogance is evidenced when he or she looks up at God and says in essence *“You need my help; I'm going to help you God save people by doing something you can't do: bring people to Jesus with planned activities and events”*.

If the ***“arrogance of hypocrisy”*** is allowed to go unchecked in the leadership of a local church, the result will be apostasy. People will start looking for and expecting “fun and games” instead of looking to the One who saves. Apostasy means turning away from the Truth. There can be no blessing upon a church membership if they allow themselves to be led by the leadership into the ***“arrogance of hypocrisy”***. Those who allow themselves to be lead by ***“arrogance and hypocrisy”*** will soon themselves lead others into the error of ***“arrogance and hypocrisy”***.

“If what is being taught as Biblical truth does not make ‘Biblical Sense’ then it is nonsense” L.W.