
BIBLE TALK

This week the question is: **What do you need to know about poison?**

This may sound like a strange question for this program, but please listen for a moment. Imagine a small child taking the lid off a bottle of Drano. Drano, of course, is poisonous if ingested. Now imagine this small child drinking the entire bottle of Drano. Here are some questions for you to consider:

- 1) **Is the child protected from danger because he did not know what he was doing?** In other words, does his ignorance about poison protect him from the danger of drinking the poison? Obviously he is not protected. Ignorance does not protect anyone from danger in the physical world.
- 2) **Is the child going to suffer any bad effects from drinking the poison?** The answer is of course, yes. Just because he doesn't know what he did and just because he doesn't understand how poison works, he will still suffer dangerous effects from the poison.
- 3) **Will God allow this innocent child to die – even though he didn't know what he was doing?** The answer, unfortunately is, yes. The problem is not that God is unloving, but God has set in motion certain natural laws. It is up to us to recognize those natural laws and abide by them. If parents are not careful enough to protect their children, the natural laws regarding poison will take effect and the child will die.
- 4) **If the bottle of Drano was mis-labeled saying, "Soy Milk," will the child still suffer?** The answer again is, yes. The label does not change what is inside the bottle. Poison is poison even if the label says, "milk."
- 5) **If the parents really don't think the Drano will harm him, will the child be okay without medical attention?** The answer is, no. Just because parents think the child will be okay does not mean he *will be* okay.

APPLICATION

The point of all this is to illustrate to you the danger of false doctrine in religion. First, I want to point out that there is such a thing as "false doctrine."

2 Peter 2:1-2

1 But there were also **false prophets** among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in **destructive heresies**, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction.

2 And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed.

"*Destructive heresies*" is another way of saying "false doctrine." Notice the passage says these false teachers will "*bring on themselves swift destruction.*" There is danger in preaching and teaching false doctrine. But what about those who follow false teachers? Are they immune to the dangers and destruction that awaits false teachers? Here's what Jesus said:

Matthew 15:13-14

13 ... "Every plant which My heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted.

14 "Let them alone. They are blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind leads the blind, both will fall into a ditch."

Jesus said that men who blindly follow false teachers will end up in the same destruction that awaits the false teacher himself.

Think about the questions we asked about the child drinking poison. Apply those same questions to false doctrine and false teachers.

- 1) **Will a person be protected from danger because he did not know what he was being taught?** In other words, does his ignorance about false doctrine protect him from danger? Obviously he is not protected. Ignorance does not protect anyone from danger – neither in the physical world nor in the spiritual world. In Acts 3:17 we learn that the Jews ignorantly crucified the Lord. Their ignorance did not excuse them. Their ignorance did not clear them from guilt.
- 2) **Will people suffer any bad effects from false doctrine?** The answer is of course, yes. Just because a person isn't aware that what he's doing and believing is false, he will still suffer dangerous effects from his ignorance. According to Acts 17:30, the Gentiles were not aware of what they were doing, but God still regarded them as sinners because they broke His law. Ignorance is not bliss. Ignorance is no excuse.
- 3) **Will God allow an innocent person to be lost – even though he didn't know what he was doing?** The answer, unfortunately is, yes. Just as in the case with the child drinking poison, the problem is not that God is unloving. He has given us His written word which clearly outlines what we are suppose to believe and do. It is our own fault if we do not take the word seriously enough to read it and follow its directions. The major problem

today is not that men do not believe in God's existence. Most people do. Atheists are a minority. The major problem today is that most people do not believe God meant what He said. In this sense they are "unbelievers."

- 4) **If the false doctrine is mis-labeled and a preacher promises that it is the truth, will ignorant people still suffer?** The answer again is, yes. The label does not change what is inside the bottle – if you get my point. False doctrine is still false doctrine even if a preacher or priest promises that it's the truth. Only God's written word is truth (Jn. 17:17). We are responsible to investigate for ourselves and verify that we have been taught the truth (Acts 17:11).
- 5) **If a person really doesn't think false doctrine will harm him, will he be okay?** The answer is, no. Good intentions and ignorance will not erase the fact false doctrine carries with it an eternal death sentence.

The Lord taught there is only one church (Mt. 16:18). He taught that men and women must be in that church to be saved (Eph. 5:23). He taught that men and women must be baptized in water for the purpose of washing away sins (Acts 22:16). Baptism for any other purpose is invalid (Acts 19:1-5). He taught His disciples to have communion on the first day of each week without fail (Acts 20:7), that singing was to be unaccompanied by musical instruments (Eph. 5:19), that women were to remain silent in all assemblies of the church (1 Cor. 14:34-35), and that money was to be raised by the church only by collecting money on the first day of the week (1 Cor. 16:1-2). The Lord taught that homosexuality was wrong (Rom. 1:24-28). He taught that fornication was wrong (Gal. 5:19-21).

The list could go on and on. The point is, many churches today are teaching that it does not matter where you go to church. They teach it does not matter what you believe or how you worship. They teach that morality is a changing issue – that what was wrong yesterday does not mean it's wrong today. My friend, God warns us of false doctrine. He has not re-written His word since the days of the apostles. We close our thoughts with the words of the Lord Himself:

Mark 4:24

24 ... "Take heed what you hear. ...

ANNOUNCEMENTS

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