

FALSE PHILOSOPHIES VS. TRUE PHILOSOPHY

Int.

1. Aim: To show the error of some religious philosophies and the true philosophy.
2. Col. 2:8 **"Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ."**
3. I Jn. 4:1 **"Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world."** -- II Tim.4:1-4 We are to expose false doctrine.
 - a. There are all kinds of false doctrines being taught in the world today
 - b. We must know the truth so we can resist them.
 - c. It becomes necessary to know the basis for these false systems so that we can resist them and stand firmly for what is right.

Discussion

I. WHAT IS PHILOSOPHY

A. Definition

1. It is the pursuit of wisdom - "Love of wisdom" --- it is a way of looking a life.
2. Religious philosophy is concerned with such questions as:
 - a. Who am I?
 - b. What Can I Believe?
 - c. What is real?
 - d. What is right and wrong?
 - e. Are there things which are always right or wrong?
 - f. What is truth and how do I find it?
 - g. Does God exist and how can I know He exists?

h. How has God revealed Himself to man?

i. Is there really any meaning to my life?

3. Pro. 23:7 "**For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he:**"

B. Everyone is a philosopher

1. Foolish to deny - we have a philosophy or way of life

2. Everyone makes an effort:

a. To reason in a proper way.

b. Is concerned about truth and knowledge

c. Is concerned about right and wrong conduct.

3. It is not basically wrong to be a philosopher.

4. But the thing that is wrong is to try to learn God's will by any means other than the use of scriptures.

a. I Cor. 1:18-25

b. Jer. 10:23 "**O Lord, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps.**"

c. Col. 2:8-9

d. II Tim. 3:16-17

5. That philosophy which conflicts with Christianity is not real philosophy but bad or false philosophy.

6. In studying the Bible we must use sound reasoning -

a. I Thes. 5:21 "**Prove all things; hold fast that which is good.**"

b. I Pet. 3:15 "**But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:**"

II. PHILOSOPHY IS VERY INFLUENTIAL

A. In the world

1. In the history of the world we learn that philosophers have had a very great influence in the lives of men.
2. At times the influence of one philosopher or even one book has changed the course of human history.
3. Karl Marx - books on socialism, communism - certainly changed the course of history and effected the lives of many people for many years.

B. In Religion - philosophy plays an important role

1. Religious leaders are not often willing to go against the religious philosophy that is prominent at that time.
2. Acts 17:16-21 philosophers at Athens
3. Many Christians have lost faith in God because of some philosophy which conflicted with God's Word.
 - a. They did not know the answer
 - b. Therefore they concluded it could not be answered
 - c. So they became skeptics and doubters and lost their faith in God and His Word!!!!

III. FOUR BASIC TYPES OF RELIGIOUS PHILOSOPHY

A. EMPIRICAL

1. The only way we can learn religious truth is through our own 5 senses = sight, hearing, touch, smell, taste
2. We learn all truth by experience in the physical world.
3. This view rejects the authority of the Bible in religion.
4. The idea that man ought to obey God would be silly to these people because it cannot be proved by our senses. They of course reject the Bible as something with authority.

B. IDEALISTIC

1. This view says we learn only by our own intellectual ability.
2. Logic - thinking. Thoughts of men are the authority for all that one does.
3. This view also rejects the Bible as the authority in religion for they believe that all answers come through their own reasoning or intelligence.

C. ROMANTIC

1. This philosophy says that "The heart of man has reasons which his mind know not of in making decisions about religion.
2. They do not believe that truth is the same for all but is changed by our mental state.
3. This view holds the individual as authority, for whatever seems to be true to the individual is true for him in religion.

4. This Romantic approach that there is not any absolute or final truth about anything in religion is the basis of the Pentecostal movement.
5. They do not believe the Bible is to guide us in all areas of religion.
6. But they regard their own feelings as the final authority and they substitute feelings for scripture.
7. **Implications of this philosophy:**
 - a. No one has any obligation to study the Bible for they are guided by their feelings.
 - b. There is no guide for morality and no one can say murder, adultery or any work of the flesh is sinful - Gal. 5:19-21
 - c. This view would reject any obligation to be baptized into Christ as the Bible teaches - Gal. 3:27 Mk. 16:16
 - d. No one would have to worship God in Spirit and Truth, as the Bible directs in Jn. 4:24, if he is guided by feelings rather than scriptures.
 - e. This view does not believe there is one true religion.
8. Those who believe in this romantic philosophy reject the authority of the scriptures and substitute their feelings:
 - a. They boast "I would not trade the way I feel right here in my heart for all the Bibles in the World."
 - b. They claim some sort of emotional experience, such as hearing a still small voice, or speaking in tongues.
 - c. Many religious groups have people today who claim to "speak in tongues"

- d. Even some who are members of the Lord's church have claimed to be able to speak in tongues.
 - e. Some members of the church claim that the Holy Spirit is moving marvelously and wonderfully among a number of religious groups. They are mistaken.
9. This romantic philosophy:
- a. Is widespread in its influence.
 - b. We can be led to reject the true God, His son and His word the Bible, if we follow it!

D. SUPERNATURAL AUTHORITY

1. This is the true and proper philosophy as taught in the Bible.
2. It holds that God is real and has all authority -
 - a. Mt. 28:18 **"And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth."**
 - b. Heb. 1:1-2 **"God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, 2. Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;"**
3. Truth is the same for all people and we can learn it - Jn. 8:32
4. Jesus Christ is the son of God and is the one and only savior - Jn. 20:30-31 **"And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: 31. But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name."**
5. The Bible is the inspired authority from God.- II Tim. 3:16-17

6. The church is the body of saved men - Acts 2:47
7. To reject the word of God is to reject God himself -- I Jn. 9 **"Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son."**

Conclusion

1. These false philosophies reject the Bible as the final authority in religion.
2. As a result we have many false religions in existence in our world today.
 - a. Empirical = atheist
 - b. Idealistic = agnostics
 - c. Romantics = denominationalism
3. These must be rejected - Mt. 15:10-20
4. Jn. 14:6 **"Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."**

Sources

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