

# Regarding Discernment

Either Way, You Judge

Why Not Do It Wisely?

by Doug Roy

Those in church buildings and seminaries with Christian symbols and names attached should not be automatically considered as "the church of the Lord Jesus Christ." In fact, there is much evidence that many such places are bases of deception and a huge stumbling block to all people. The people in charge of these religious facilities may not only not be members of the body of Christ (the church), but they may be enemies of the cross of Christ helping a pseudo church with the goal to win and train as many proselytes to their religious denomination as possible.

Many of these places confuse God's true people and lead them away from their Savior. They confuse the people of the world into believing lies about God and his Son by their hypocritical lifestyles. They present an alternative gospel, which is not the gospel at all, so that those who believe it might become their proselytes and support their false Christianity and institutions.

And to make this matter even more confusing and troubling, those doing these things are convinced that they are right and servants of God. "But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived." 2 Tim 3:13 (KJV) And in their deceived state, they attempt to serve God in their flesh and to be Christians without being born again. The end result are disciples of Satan's religious army, the tares. They are false Christians with false gospels, false conversions and false testimonies.

Among them we find immature Christians attempting to serve God in their ranks. They are unwittingly serving false churches and helping the cause of their enemy to draw in more immature Christians who will then be weakened and worked and wooed by the leaders till they break and are converted into proselytes of these

churches. By the grace of God some young Christians will wake up to the deception and leave or be thrown out, left to fend for the right and Christ in an increasingly barren landscape of spiritual drought. Proving this is not the goal of this article, but urging you to look more closely is.

"No! That's not possible! These denominations have been serving God for hundreds of years. Who are you to judge them and their sincere efforts for God?" And I would ask you, who are you to judge them good and righteous servants of God? We are both judging, but those that ask that question are also judging me. We all judge good and bad everyday, but do we realize when we are deceived? Do we know there are those trying to persuade us they are good everyday? We see advertisers trying to persuade us their product is better than the other guys and it may very well be much worse. They may sell millions of dollars worth by their huge advertising campaigns and you hear very little of the complaints and all the disgruntled customers. And so are the mega churches and the large denominations. They "advertise" their success to people every day by their beautiful, large buildings and well kept property. They have their own advertising campaigns directed toward their "customers." Only they are selling religion, that is, their brand of Christianity.

"Wait! They are preaching the gospel and helping hundreds to find Christ!" Yes, that's what they want you to believe and they believe it, too. But shouldn't you look deeper? Sure, they no doubt have many, many converts by the huge numbers we see and the multimillion dollar buildings. Large numbers mean large offerings. But are they converts to Christ?

This you can find out two ways: first, by listening to their message; second, by looking at the people's lives, or the fruit. "Oh, were not supposed to judge people, 'Judge not that you be not judged!'" Is that what Jesus meant? He was talking about an evil condemning and unforgiving attitude, where one cuts off people. But Jesus also taught, "Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment." John 7:24 (KJV) He said, "Yes, the way to identify a tree or a person is by the kind of fruit produced. Not all who sound religious are really godly people. They may refer to me as 'Lord,' but still won't get to heaven." Matt

7:20-21 (TLB) Jesus warns his disciples about false converts and false prophets who come in his name. Shouldn't we pay heed to what he said?

But how can we really know the truth about these religious ministries unless we know the Bible ourselves and the Spirit of God? We cannot. Without proper training, a fruit inspector does not know what to look for and may throw away good fruit and save bad fruit. We must be humble to God and teachable and recognize our limitations and lack of knowledge. Search the Scriptures prayerfully to understand the truth in this matter. Listen to those that warn you of such things and be aware. Stop judging books by their cover or churches and people by their outward appearance. "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you." Matt 7:7 (KJV) Stop being afraid to look and judge righteously. We will judge one way or the other. Why not let God help you to see the truth, pointing out the evidence and helping you to know wisdom (James 1:5). Let us not condemn people, but with "bowels of mercy" (Col. 3:12) discern right, wrong, good, bad, or indifferent according to their works and deeds. Let the Scripture be the standard for them and you. Don't let the outward appearance of large numbers of people, political clout, large buildings and property, financial resources, or advertising campaigns persuade you. Look deeper. Love the truth and embrace it, whether it is pleasant or not.