

earthly cares as follies, and earthly thoughts and feelings as vanity. Religion would be my first waking thought, and my last image before sleep sank me into unconsciousness. I should labor in its cause alone. I would take thought for the morrow of Eternity alone. I would esteem one soul gained for heaven worth a life of suffering. Earthly consequences should never stay my hand, nor seal my lips. Earth, its joys and its griefs, would occupy no moment of my thoughts. I would strive to look upon Eternity alone, and on the immortal souls around me, soon to be everlastingly happy or everlastingly miserable. I would go forth to the world and preach to it in season and out of season, and my text would be, 'What shall it profit a man if He gain the whole world and lose his soul?'—An Atheist.

### THE PASTOR'S MESSAGE

#### DOCTRINES OF DEVILS

Rev. B. C. Cochrane\*

The writer of the epistle to the Hebrews warns his readers: "Be not carried about with strange doctrines." To Timothy the apostle Paul wrote: "In the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils . . .

There is much dangerous doctrine in circulation today. Satan-inspired ideas are being propagated by evil and deluded men to their own destruction and the damnation of those who are willing to be deceived. With amazing zeal and persistency the human agents of the kingdom of darkness produce and distribute their false teachings. Many unwary and unstable souls are being turned aside, forsaking that which becometh sound doctrine.

There are certain characteristics which earmark a doctrine as belonging to Satan. Scriptural principles may be employed by the one who seeks to discriminate between truth and error, principles which will enable us to discard that which is dangerous and devilish.

Any teaching that questions or contradicts the deity of Christ is of Satan. "Every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God." Such a plain warning from God's Word will lead the sincere and cautious soul hastily to reject any doctrine which seeks to make Jesus a mere man, or less than God in the flesh. We do not need to endanger ourselves by giving further attention or thought to a teaching that presumes to deny that which Scripture so plainly and strongly affirms. The smooth and complimentary references which humanistic teachers of modern thought make to our Lord, are insulting and misleading when followed by a statement or suggestion which indicates that He was the son of Joseph rather than the son of God. "Beloved, believe not every spirit" and if one denies or questions the reality of Christ's deity, no matter who it is or what his position, label his teaching as a doctrine of devils.

Another fallacious teaching is that which denies the reality and danger of sin. The Christian Science error would lead you to the false conclusion that sin is unreal, non-existent. Mother Eddy would have us accept the strange notion that sin is thought into being and can likewise be thought into oblivion. All we need, she says, is to think right and we will be right. But the Word of God

locates sin in the heart and not in the head; makes it the product of Satan, and its presence in the soul the result of disobedience to the Creator; emphasizes that man can neither think, live or work it out of his life, but must be made whole from this moral disease by the efficacy of Calvary's atonement.

But there are those who readily and fervently oppose the idea of sin being unreal, who nevertheless teach unscriptural doctrines respecting this moral problem. Some of them make loud claims to being "fundamental," "evangelical," etc. They believe that man is a sinner, refer him to Calvary for mercy and pardon, only to give ground to the devil by denying the possibility of heart purity, and arguing for the necessity of evil being present and active in the soul throughout the earthly pilgrimage of the justified child of God. They would have us believe that while we still have sin in our hearts and may practise it somewhat in our lives, God does not see it because Christ stands between us and Him. One of this school of thought writing of Peter's denial says: "He backslid and actually denied Christ openly and with cursing, but he lied and he knew he lied when he did so. Inwardly he was a true believer." There is the broad margin for sin in the believer's life. A license to do evil issued by heaven and protected by the blood of Christ. Such gross error! We may lay it down as a guiding principle, that, any teaching which makes allowance for sin, is dangerous and Satan-inspired. "He that committeth sin is of the devil." "If we say we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie and do not the truth." Reader, beware of the doctrine which denies or excuses sin.

One more false doctrine we would mention—that which denies man's responsibility to God, the fact of judgment and eternal rewards. Pastor Russell, and his organization which seeks to hide its identity by adopting a new name every few years, would reassure the awakened sinner by making the White Throne Judgment a farce, and hell a myth. "Why worry about the judgment," they say. "All shall have opportunity to repent of sins, wrong choices, etc., the other side of the grave." Said the founder of this cult: "The sacrifice of Christ secured for all mankind, however vile, an awakening from death, and the privilege of thereafter coming to perfection, and if saved, of living forever." As for those who finally remain impenitent, they are to be annihilated. Some years ago much publicity was given to the fact that the Russellite organization had "voted Hell out of existence." But the Scriptural warning rings out: "It is appointed unto man once to die, but after this the judgment." There is no "second chance" teaching in the Bible, and eternal ruin is the fearful threat to all who in this life reject Christ. "And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened; and whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire."

With the surging floods of false teachings seeking to beat down the bulwarks of our faith, and sweep us into eternal ruin, let us "give attendance to reading, to exhortation to doctrine." "Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them; for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee." Above all, let us faithfully seek the will of God, for "if any man

## Temperance Column

Wins is a mocker, strong drink is raging. Whosoever is deceived thereby is not wise.—Prov. 1:20.

### THE CIGARETTE MIND

The cigarette mind is comfortable in the atmosphere of dirt. It litters restaurants, hospitals, stations, offices, railroad coaches, stores, sidewalks and homes, with ashes and stubs. It tolerates filthy ash trays, and then in contempt of them throws the remains everywhere. Also its breath is dirty—it stinks.

The cigarette mind is a servile mind. It will spend money for the smoke though there is not enough for food, though health is being impaired, though to smoke decreases efficiency, increases danger, interferes in the eating of the meal.

The cigarette mind thinks only of its own pleasure. It has no regard for the comfort or health of others. It will smoke in a room or railroad coach where there are small children and babies. In a mother it will cause the little one to live in an atmosphere of burning nicotine, thus blighting the child for life. It will give the smoke to non-smokers, even blowing the pollution into their faces.

The cigarette mind is indifferent to the property of others. It will smoke in the bed and burn the bed sheets in homes and hotels. It will burn the tablecloths and fine coverings and the upholstery of car seats and overstuffed furniture. It will burn annually publicly and privately-owned forests valued at tens of millions of dollars; and it will burn scores of millions of dollars worth of homes and other private property every year, causing not only the direct losses but indirect losses in higher insurance rates for everybody.

The cigarette mind is illiterate or else it is lawless. It cannot read or it will not heed "No Smoking" signs.

The cigarette mind is getting a dulled sense of right and wrong so that the victim can lie and fall into liquor and gambling and associated evils easier than would be possible if the cigarette had not prepared the way. This mind is becoming a seared thing so that the longer the servitude, the less the appreciation of moral values and the less the likelihood that the victim will ever grasp what is good and holy or ever seek or find salvation.

The cigarette is of the world, the flesh and the devil. It is an enemy of the men, the women, the children and of the home. It is an enemy of the body, the mind and the soul. It is a curse which will be felt in a degenerating America as the habit poisons the generations. It shuts the gate to heaven and opens the gate to hell.—Free Methodist.

J. Edgar Hoover reminds the public that young people in the U. S. A. have accounted for eighteen per cent more assaults, twenty-two per cent more gambling, and thirty per cent more drunkenness than during the same period last year. The F. B. I. chief says: "It is not too late to correct this situation—moral responsibility too often is non-existent in the training of youth. While watching for threats to our democracy from abroad, we must clean up democracy at home."—Selected.

will do His will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God."

\* Moncton, N. B.