

FRIENDS OF THE BIBLE

Text: Psalm 41:9

INTRO: Our text foretells the betrayal of Jesus by one who was reputed to be His friend, Judas Iscariot. In this lesson, we want to consider how even today the words of Jesus are betrayed by those who claim to be His friends.

I. MODERNISTS & ADHERENTS OF HIGH CRITICISM CLAIM TO BE FRIENDS OF THE BIBLE, BUT THEY DENY & DENOUNCE MUCH OF WHAT IT TEACHES.

A. The Genesis account of creation is endorsed by Jesus & the N.T. writers as well as by the O.T. prophets.
Matt. 19:4; 1 Tim. 2:13-14

B. Jesus & the N.T. writers accepted Moses' account of the flood. Matt. 24:38;
1 Peter 3:20-21.

C. Jesus endorsed the book of Jonah, Matt. 12:40-41.

D. Jesus, on many occasions, attributed the 1st 5 books of the Bible to Moses, then clearly stated that those who rejected Moses' writings are rejecting the Lord who inspired him.

John 5:46, 47, For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me; for

he wrote about Me. But if you do not believe his writings, how will you believe My words?

E. Modernists who reject the inspiration, authority & historicity of the Scriptures are the kind of "friends" the Bible doesn't need.

II. KLANS & LODGES CLAIM TO BE FRIENDS OF THE BIBLE WHILE IN MANY CASES THEY HAVE DONE HARM TO ITS CAUSE.

A. The KKK professes to honor the Bible with their cowardly despicable deeds, many of which are in direct conflict with the principles of the Bible. Matt. 7:2.

B. Lodges & fraternal orders claim to be great friends of the Bible. They adopt much of their ritual from Biblical descriptions of Solomon's temple. They talk much about Solomon, Hiram, John B. & other Bible characters, but their worship rituals are not in accordance with N.T. teachings.

1. Their prayers are not in Jesus' name lest they offend their Jewish & Moslem members.

2. They use & wear religious titles such as "Most Worshipful Master." Matthew 23:8-10.

III. MANY WHO CLAIM TO BE FRIENDS OF THE BIBLE HAVE PERVERTED ITS TEACHINGS IN SUCH A WAY AS TO CAUSE GOD & HIS WORD TO BE DISCREDITED BY MANY.

- A. Many have turned away from God in disgust because they have been led to believe that God holds innocent infants guilty because of sins of their ancestors. EZEK 18:20; Matt. 18:3

- B. The commonly held concept of "once saved, always saved" has encouraged many professing Christians to give in to temptation & live like the devil & dishonor Christ & His teachings in the mistaken notion that their souls are not at stake. Young man in Calif. Ezek 18:20; James 5:19-20

- C. The R.C. Church claims to have given the Bible to the world. If she did, she did it against her will. Catholic copies were made available to scholars only at the cost of many lives.

- D. Those who teach that the kingdom of Jesus has not yet been established have led many to think the promises of John & Jesus were unreliable.
 - 1. John, Matt. 3:2 (26 A.D.)
 - 2. Jesus, Matt. 4:17 (27 A.D.)
 - 3. The apostles, Matt. 10:7 (28 A.D.)

4. The 70 disciples, LK 10:9 (29 A.D.)
5. Jesus, MK 9:1 (30 A.D.)

E. Numerous errors have been put into the text itself by modern "translators" whose doctrine was not in the Bible properly translated. J.W. Cult, etc.

IV. MANY WHO ARE MEMBERS OF SCRIPTURAL CONGREGATIONS HAVE DONE UNTOLD HARM TO THE CAUSE OF CHRIST BY HYPOCRISY & INDIFFERENCE.

A. Indifference, lukewarmness, Rev. 3:15.

B. Failure to study the Bible. Individual who does not study is no better than the one who does not believe. How know what to believe or what to do to please God? Acts 17:11.

C. Neglect to faithfully attend worship services. Those who know that we teach the importance of church attendance cannot help but be influenced in a negative way by church members who stay home to watch TV on Sunday evenings, or who get into their cars on Sunday morning to go to some place of recreation or entertainment. No matter what we say, what we do tells the world how important Christ's church really is to us.

CONCLUSION: The Bible has many avowed enemies: atheists, agnostics, infidels, pagans, etc. But far more harm is done by those who claim to

be its friends, but who have not learned to properly respect & honor its Divine message by faithful obedience to its precepts. What kind of friend are you to the Bible?

La Porte, TX, July 1, 1979

Exton, PA, February 18, 1990

Shiloh, Mexia, TX, November 14, 1993

Susquehanna, Marietta, PA, October 30, 2005