Some Perils Of The Soul

Intro: If you have ever been in a life-threatening situation, you understand the meaning of peril. No right-thinking person is so foolish as to intentionally subject himself to such. Few today ever consider that spiritual perils are far more consequential than physical ones. Jesus put this in perspective as recorded in Matthew 10:28 “28 And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.” Thus, let us consider some perils of the soul.

I. DOCTRINES OF MEN

A. Only the Truth saves man.
   1. John 8:32 “32 And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”
   2. God’s Word is truth; John 17:17 “17 Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.”

B. Man’s doctrine will not save.
   1. It produces vain, unacceptable worship; Mat. 15:9 “9 But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.”
   2. It produces a plant that God does not plant.
      a. Seed produces after its kind.
      b. Christ’s seed produces Christians; man’s seed produces a product that will be rooted up.
      c. Mat. 15:13 “13 But he answered and said, Every plant, which my heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up.”
      d. They are blind leaders of the blind; Mat. 15:14 “14 Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch.”
   3. It brings the anathema of God; Gal. 1:6-9 “6 I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: 7 Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. 8 But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. 9 As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.”

II. BIBLICAL IGNORANCE

A. Israel of old:
   1. Isa. 5:13 “13 Therefore my people are gone into captivity, because they have no knowledge: and their honourable men are famished, and their multitude dried up with thirst.”
   2. Hos. 4:6 “6 My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.”

B. We are to grow in knowledge.
   1. 2 Pet. 3:18 “18 But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.”
   2. When we fail to grow, that ignorance prevents the ability to discern good and evil; Heb. 5:12-14 “12 For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. 13 For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. 14 But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.”

C. Ignorance:
   1. Keeps one enslaved to error; John 8:32 “32 And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”
2. Partly to blame for the death of Christ; Acts 3:17 “And now, brethren, I wot that through ignorance ye did it, as did also your rulers.”

III. PREJUDICE

A. Prejudice is:
1. Pre-judging matters and reaching conclusions before giving consideration to all the evidence.
2. It is the enemy of fair, unbiased, rational analysis.

B. Illustrations:
1. Biased Jewish court determined Jesus must die before His trials.
   a. John 11:49-51 “And one of them, named Caiaphas, being the high priest that same year, said unto them, Ye know nothing at all, Nor consider that it is expedient for us, that one man should die for the people, and that the whole nation perish not. And this spake he not of himself: but being high priest that year, he prophesied that Jesus should die for that nation;”
   b. John 18:14 “Now Caiaphas was he, which gave counsel to the Jews, that it was expedient that one man should die for the people.”

2. In Athens, Paul preached about the resurrection.
   a. The Athenian philosophers ridiculed him having already decided it was impossible.
   b. Acts 17:32 “And when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked: and others said, We will hear thee again of this matter.”

3. Prevents one from seeing false doctrines today.
   a. Salvation by faith only.
   b. Impossibility of apostasy.
   c. Mechanical instrumental music in worship.
   d. Denominational concept of the church.
   e. The essentiality of baptism for the remission of sins.
   f. That all we do must be by the authority of Christ; Col. 3:17 “And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.”

IV. PROCRASTINATION

A. Spiritual intentions, good though they may be, leave the soul imperiled as long as they are unfulfilled.

1. Felix; Acts 24:25 “And as he reasoned of righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come, Felix trembled, and answered, Go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee.”

2. Agrippa; Acts 26:28 “Then Agrippa said unto Paul, Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian.”

C. We will not give an account of our intentions but of our deeds.
1. 2 Cor. 5:10 “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.”

2. Thus, now is that time to act on one’s intentions; 2 Cor. 6:2 “(For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.)”

Conclusion: The great preventive or remedy for all spiritual perils is the good and honest heart that obeys God’s Word.