

WALKING IN WISDOM (Colossians 4:5) Number #14

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All Scripture quotations from the Editor are from the New King James Version

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Are All Jesus-Believers To Be Fellowshiped?

By John T. Polk II

"For if he who comes preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or if you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted--you may well put up with it!" (**2 Corinthians 11:4**).

Paul has asked the Corinthians to "bear with me in a little folly" (**2 Corinthians 11:1**) so he can point out how easily true believers can be misled. He uses the example of Eve in the Garden of Eden being deceived by the serpent's craftiness (**2 Corinthians 11:3; Genesis 3:1-6**). The Devil's devices involved a slight change in exactly what God had said, but that slight change completely contradicted God's Word, however, and resulted in punishment as a consequence. **Consider his inspired warning. Christians could easily be persuaded to accept:**

1. "Another Jesus whom we have not preached"

Since Jesus had promised the Apostles that, "the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you" (**John 14:26**), and then prayed over the Apostles, "I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word" (**John 17:20**), then everything we need to know and believe about Jesus Christ must come through the Apostle's written Word! If not, why not? Certainty of faith is solidly based upon God's written Word: "But as God *is* faithful, our word to you was not Yes and No. For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who was preached among you by us--by me, Silvanus, and Timothy--was not Yes and No, but in Him was Yes" (**2 Corinthians 1:18-19**). There was no wavering in the doctrine of Jesus Christ, not anything needed left out of the written Word about Him. "Then He said to them, 'These *are* the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and *the* Prophets and *the* Psalms concerning Me.' And He opened their understanding, that they might comprehend the

Scriptures" (**Luke 24:44-45**). John could write: "And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name. (**John 20:30-31**). THERE IS NOTHING ABOUT JESUS CHRIST AS GOOD AS WHAT IS WHAT THE APOSTLES PREACHED OR WROTE IN THE NEW TESTAMENT!

The "another Jesus" means a Jesus that seems like the original. Just like the serpent led Eve to believe that God didn't really mean death to the partakers of the forbidden tree, and offered her an explanation that was just as good as God's Word!

2. "a different spirit which you have not received"

This would be any claim to be led by the Holy Spirit that contradicts what the Holy Spirit has already inspired men to write in the Scriptures. "For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty. For He received from God the Father honor and glory when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory: 'This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.' And we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain. And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts; knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke *as they were* moved by the Holy Spirit" (**2 Peter 1:16-21**). The Holy Spirit guided the prediction, identified the fulfillment, and closed the book on any future revelation! Millions of people have lost their souls by following pretenders who claim, "God has spoken to me." The Holy Spirit has said: "If anyone thinks himself to be a prophet or spiritual, let him acknowledge that the things which I write to you are the commandments of the Lord" (**1 Corinthians 14:37**). AND THERE ARE NO OTHER COMMANDMENTS GIVEN BY GOD THAN WHAT HAS BEEN WRITTEN IN THE WORD OF GOD!

3. "A different gospel which you have not accepted"

Jesus summarized, in simple terms, what "the gospel" requires: "And He said to them, 'Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will

be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned” (**Mark 16:15-16**). He then states that miracles would accompany the Gospel until it was “confirmed” to be from God (**Mark 16:17-20**). That claim was made: “how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard *Him*, God also bearing witness both with signs and wonders, with various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to His own will? (**Hebrews 2:3-4**). The Word of God “was confirmed” by miracles, God has given no promise the Holy Spirit would ever change a word. “I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel, which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ. But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed. As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed. For do I now persuade men, or God? Or do I seek to please men? For if I still pleased men, I would not be a bondservant of Christ” (**Galatians 1:6-10**). NO GOSPEL HAS COME FROM GOD THAT USES A SINNER’S PRAYER TO CLAIM SALVATION BEFORE BEING BAPTIZED INTO JESUS’ DEATH! “Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into His death? Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be *in the likeness of His resurrection*” (**Romans 6:3-5**). NO ONE HAS EVER BEEN SAVED OUTSIDE THE CONDITIONS STATED IN THE WRITTEN WORD!

Christians are forbidden to encourage, engage in spreading, or endorse anyone who preaches another Jesus, has a different Spirit, or preaches a Gospel variation. “Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son. If anyone comes to you and does not bring this doctrine, do not receive him into your house nor greet him; for he who greets him shares in his evil deeds” (**2 John 9-11**).

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Salted Speech Colossians 4:6

~“The way to secure liberty is to place it in the people’s hands, that it is, to give power at all times to defend it in the legislature and in the courts of justice.” ~**John Adams**
 ~Of all tyrannies, a tyranny sincerely exercised for the good of its victims may be the most oppressive.” ~**C. S. Lewis**
 ~The home is the chief school of human virtues.”

~**William Ellery Channing**

When Assassination Is Attempted

The first murder happened when the murderer ran out of words to defend his practice: “Now Cain talked with Abel his brother; and it came to pass, when they were in the field, that Cain rose up against Abel his brother and killed him” (**Genesis 4:8**). Jesus predicted the same would happen to Him: “From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day” (**Matthew 16:21**). Stephen’s sermon of God’s truth was met with murder (**Acts 7:52-54**). People who run out of truth for their cause are described by Solomon: “An angry man stirs up strife, And a furious man abounds in transgression” (**Proverbs 29:22**). Evil people resort to assassination who have no righteousness to defend!

~~~~~**John T. Polk II**

### THEOPHILUS

### A Word of Caution

