

Artificial or The Real One

Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian Church

1 John 4:1, "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world."

Have you ever seen artificial flowers that were hard to tell from real flowers? I have seen some that I had to look at closely before I could tell the difference. They can be made of plastic, or silk, but they can look really good. I heard of a new secretary in an office once that watered the plants for a few weeks before someone told her that they were fake ones. Some religions, denominations, churches, and even some people can be that way as well.

Looking good to people goes a long way in deceiving them. As with the flowers, if something, or someone, looks like the real thing then we usually take it for granted that they are. In dealing with doctrines, or people, if they sound right then most folks will figure that all is well.

Like the secretary who watered the artificial plants, people will "water" the fake doctrines and churches by supporting them. They look alright, make

the person feel good and they go on not knowing the difference. We need to know what we "water", or support, especially in the matter of salvation.

Many churches talk about going to heaven. That sounds good and I hope that we all want to be there for eternity with the Lord. Yet, for all the talk and preaching about heaven and being with God, so many don't tell what God has said about getting there. If we just took at face value what is preached on TV, radio, and from many pulpits, it would seem that almost everybody is going without having to change their way of living, or doing anything. I find it sad each time that I hear that someone who never came to church, never made a confession of the Lord Jesus, never was baptized for the remission of sins, and never seemed to have any thought of obeying the commands of God went straight to heaven when they died. Really? The bible doesn't teach that, no, not at all.

A lot of churches have large congregations and the preacher will make the people feel good about themselves by telling them about the love of God and his grace to man. That sounds good doesn't it? Yes it does, but what they often don't tell them is that to receive this grace and to have your name in the Lord's Book of Life, a person has to believe, repent, confess, be baptized, and to live for the Lord for the rest of his life. While the love and grace is good

and is true, the repentance, self denial and resisting sin doesn't appeal to a lot of people.

Some years ago I called the number of one of the popular TV ministers one Sunday morning. The person who answered the phone started off trying to find out which gift offer that I wanted to buy. I finally convinced him that I didn't want any of them. I asked if the minister ever talked about the Lord Jesus, repentance, baptism, and living for the Lord. He said something like, "I think so." I said, "When, I have listened several times and all I hear him talk about is health, wealth, being a success in business. He is rich and has a large congregation, but I've not heard him preach the gospel. Many ministers may sound good and pleasing to the ears, but if they don't tell you how to get to heaven then it is not the real gospel.

Some look and sound religious, but have an arrogant attitude. If you are not just like them they will say that you can't go to heaven. They judge everything and everyone, not by the bible, but by themselves. **2 Corinthians 10:12**, "For we dare not make ourselves of the number, or compare ourselves with some that commend themselves: but they measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise."

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This is a dramatized version of facts taken from the Book of Exodus intending to show some of the customs of these ancient and traditional times.

MOSES AND PLAGUES OF EGYPT

IN ORDER TO REMOVE THE PLAGUES FROM EGYPT, PHARAOH HAS AGREED TO LET THE ISRAELITES GO INTO THE WILDERNESS TO WORSHIP GOD - BUT NO SOONER THAN THE PLAGUES END, PHARAOH, REFUSES TO LET THE PEOPLE GO.



AND MOSES STANDS BEFORE PHARAOH, ONCE AGAIN...

BEHOLD, THE LORD HATH SAID: ALL THE CATTLE OF EGYPT SHALL BE DESTROYED!



BUT OF THE CATTLE OF THE ISRAELITES, NONE SHALL DIE!



AND ON THE MORROW ALL OF THE EGYPTIAN CATTLE DIE - BUT THE ISRAELITES' CATTLE ARE UNHARMED!

BEHOLD! IT IS THE WORK OF THE ISRAELITES' GOD! OUR CATTLE ARE DEAD AND THEIRS LIVE!

JOHN LEHTI

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