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Do You Want Safety?

by Ian Hufton

YES!!!!!!!, is the answer if you are like most of the people on this planet. Some earnestly desire and yearn for a **PLACE OF SAFETY** which by itself may place them in great danger. Jesus Christ said:

For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it. (Mark 8:35)

Obviously there are different kinds of safety and we normally desire large helpings of each and every kind. For this commentary, let's just focus on the one most important kind of safety that is nearest and dearest to our hearts, i.e., **SPIRITUAL SAFETY**.

Our Lord Jesus Christ lovingly warns us that before His return we would live in the most perilous times imaginable..

For many shall come in my name, saying, I am Christ; and shall deceive many. (Matt 24:5)

Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake. (Matt 24:9)

And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another. And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. (Matt 24:10-11)

For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. (Matt 24:21)

For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect. (Matt 24:24)

This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. (2 Tim 3:1)

And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ. (Rev 12:17)

Spiritual safety would seem to be at the top of the priority list for circumstances such as these. Do **YOU** have it? Are **YOU** spiritually safe??

SPIRITUAL SAFETY

Is total spiritual safety possible??? What do you think? Is the answer yes or is it no?? If it is yes, is it "easy as pie" or is it something we must treasure and struggle for, above all other desires in life? I believe the answer is yes. Total spiritual safety is possible but only under certain circumstances.... let me explain.

Christ said that those who endure to the end "*shall be saved*" (Matt 24:13). So total spiritual safety must involve you "*enduring to the end.*"

Paul was inspired to write:

Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness. (2 Thess 2:9-12)

Notice verse eleven: "*strong delusion*", "*believe a lie*"; does this not indicate that wrong belief, deception, is the greatest danger to spiritual safety? Notice also the element of "*pleasure*" in verse twelve. Do people reject truth and fail to endure to the end, because of unrighteous pleasure? From the verses above, it would seem so.

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DECEPTION AND FALSE DOCTRINE RAMPANT TODAY

That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; (Eph 4:14)

Can you sense the winds of false doctrine blowing all over this planet? Many have already accepted false doctrine in recent years. It is high time that all true believers go on **FULL ALERT** against Satan's deceiving ways. Satan's greatest tool is deception, but his ministers "appear" as "ministers of righteousness".

And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works. (2 Cor 11:14-15)

Are we, you and I, experienced enough with God's word to be impregnable against the assaults of Satan's ministers? Obviously, "loving the truth" is a critical element of being impregnable. But what if we love something we think is truth, but in reality is a falsehood? What then??

Would our loving Father in heaven and Christ, our Saviour, be highly concerned that Their Sons and daughters and future bride be protected from deceit and false doctrine. **Yes!!!** Obviously they care, and have kept on warning us throughout the Bible. What is their advice for spiritual safety???

A PRESCRIPTION FOR SAFETY

Four elements are of critical importance for guiding you into truth and spiritual safety.

1) Your mind! Without clear thinking, you may misunderstand or misread portions of Scripture and follow a deceptive path. So, let us all think clearly.

2) The Scriptures. Your whole belief system is based on what your mind does with the Scriptures you have studied. Don't believe what mankind says about the Scriptures - study them yourself - and only believe what you have proved to yourself. If you allow others to do your studying and thinking for you, you will run a high risk of being deceived.

3) The Holy Spirit. Millions of people have studied their Bibles endlessly and have not been able to come to true conclusions about what the Bibles says. Why? Because they did not obey God and receive His Holy Spirit (Acts 5:32). The Holy Spirit leads us into all truth (John 16:13). So using your mind and the Scriptures and obeying their

teachings will help you and I follow the guiding of the Holy Spirit.

For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. (Romans 8:14)

THE FOURTH ELEMENT?

I mentioned three elements above. What would you guess to be the fourth element?

Where no counsel is, the people fall: but in the multitude of counsellors there is safety. (Prov 11:14)

The horse is prepared against the day of battle: but safety is of the LORD. (Prov 21:31)

For by wise counsel thou shalt make thy war: and in multitude of counsellors there is safety. (Prov 24:6)

Yes, safety, spiritual safety, is a combination of God's Spirit working through the Scriptures, your mind, and, the fourth element, a multitude of (wise) counsel. Our world is a free-spirited place where most people enjoy being free to do whatever they choose. Hence, we have a world of evil and wickedness. Most people do not want wise counsel—they prefer to avoid possible restraint and....many are deceived!! Will **WE** be? Not if we apply the four elements above. For maximum spiritual safety, we should all choose five or six people that we consider to be wise (preferably true believers) and involve them in our major life decisions. Many are deceived and many lives are wrecked because of poor decisions made with little or no wise counsel.

He that walketh with wise men shall be wise: but a companion of fools shall be destroyed. (Prov 13:20)

A CLASSIC EXAMPLE

Would you have felt spiritually safe in the **ACTS CHAPTER 15** meeting? Peter was there; Paul was there; Barnabas was there, as well as James and many others. Wow! What would it have been like to have been there and to have seen the writers of the New Testament in action? I think you would have felt spiritually safe! But why? Because of a multitude of wise counsellors.

When therefore Paul and Barnabas had no small dissension and disputation with them, they determined that Paul and Barnabas, and certain other of them, should go up to Jerusalem unto the apostles and elders about this question. (Acts 15:2)

And the apostles and elders came together for to consider of this matter. And when there had been much disputing, Peter rose up, and said unto them, "Men and brethren, ye

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know how that a good while ago God made choice among us, that the Gentiles by my mouth should hear the word of the gospel, and believe.” (Acts 15:6-7)

Then pleased it the apostles and elders, with the whole church, to send chosen men of their own company to Antioch with Paul and Barnabas; namely, Judas surnamed Barnabas, and Silas, chief men among the brethren: And they wrote letters by them after this manner; The apostles and elders and brethren send greeting unto the brethren which are of the Gentiles in Antioch and Syria and Cilicia: (Acts 15:22-23)

It seemed good unto us, being assembled with one accord, to send chosen men unto you with our beloved Barnabas and Paul, (Acts 15:25)

Notice ... they began with “*much disputing*” and ended with “*being pleased*” and of “*one accord*”.

So the minds of these men, plus the Scriptures, plus the Holy Spirit and a multitude of wise counsellors, produced the most beautiful end result. That’s spiritual safety.

And Jesus answered and said unto them, “Take heed that no man deceive you.” (Matt 24:4)

Christ has commanded us to let no man deceive us. We must be alert and have our strategies in place, to avoid being deceived. Now is the time to have on the whole armour of God.

(All Scripture references are KJV unless otherwise noted)

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