

The Church – Part 18 **Purpose Driven or Purposely Deceived** **The Book of Acts**

The study that we've been going through these past few weeks is about the local church, and the last section that we've been looking at is Purpose Driven or Purposely Deceived, that is, the purpose driven or purposely deceived local church. Last time, we started talking about the five fundamentals of the faith.

Dr. Rick Warren stated on May 23, 2005, at the Pew Forum on Religion and Public Life, and I quote once again, "The word 'fundamentalist' actually comes from a document in the 1920s called 'The Five Fundamentals of the Faith,' and it is a very legalistic narrow view of Christianity."

Those five fundamentals as we looked at, the first one is the Bible. He evidently thinks that's legalistic and a narrow view of Christianity. The second fundamental that he's speaking of here is Jesus Christ. He evidently thinks Jesus Christ is legalistic and is a narrow view of Christianity. The third is the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. He evidently thinks the Resurrection is legalistic. The fourth is the payment for sin, that is, Christ's atonement and His payment for sin, for the sin of those people who would call upon Him and ask Him to come into their heart and be saved to go to Heaven. He thinks that's legalistic. And then fifth, he believes the Second Coming of Jesus Christ evidently is legalistic. The Second Coming is literal. Jesus Christ is coming back literally, and, of course, we know that we who name the name of Jesus Christ will be going to be with Him before He comes back the second time. We'll be caught up in the clouds to be with Him forever.

And as we looked the last time, Jesus Christ is coming back and we're coming with Him. Revelation 19:14 says, *And the armies which were in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean.* Well, how do you get that fine linen, white and clean? How do you get the right clothing? You ask Jesus Christ to come into your heart. He clothes you with a robe of righteousness so that you can be with Him. And you need to do that so you can come back with me and others who have trusted Him. You need to ask Him to come into your heart and save you. You need to be sorry for the sin that's in your life. You need to ask Him to save you so that you can come back with us who have already trusted Him as Savior. We'll be coming back in a literal coming back of Jesus Christ. We'll be coming back with Him.

Dr. Warren also talks about the old pillars, and we left off here last time. Dr. Warren, author of *The Purpose Driven Church* and *The Purpose Driven Life*, has stated this: "When you reveal the vision of the purpose-driven church to a church, the old pillars are going to leave, but let them leave. They only hold things up."

Well, he's right. The old pillars hold the local church up. These are senior members of a local church. It seems that many local churches today don't pay attention to the older people. They simply say, "Let them go. They're just holding back the young people." Well, I believe that the old pillars are also keeping the churches from falling into apostasy. When we get rid of the old pillars, I believe there are problems.

In Titus 2:3-4, the Bible says, *³The aged women likewise, that they be in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things; ⁴That they may teach the young women to be sober... that means to be realistic... to love their husbands, to love their children.* To be sober, to be serious about the things of God, according to that verse. Old pillars? Well, the old pillars hold the church and leaders up in prayer.

Leviticus 19:32 says, *Thou shalt rise up before the hoary head, and honour the face of the old man, and fear thy God: I am the LORD.*

I Timothy 2:8 says, *I will therefore that men pray every where, lifting up holy hands, without wrath and doubting.*

I thank God for the pillars of the faith who have helped me through these years, who have given me instruction in the Word of God, who have helped me study the Word of God. Old pillars? Yes, they're holding the church up, but once they're gone, who's going to hold the church up? Instead of tearing down the old pillars, churches should do as the Lord says, honor the face of the old man, Leviticus 19:32. It is the senior members of a church who do indeed hold a church up and keep it from falling into apostasy. Younger members, too, can hold to the basic principles of faith, joining with the older pillars, and become pillars in their own right.

I believe there are warning signs that need to be heeded, and some of those warning signs are this. I've talked about this in one of our earlier studies on the purpose driven or purposely deceived local church. I'm talking about the contemporary or the rock-style music. Once again, let me remind you that there is no such thing as Christian rock. Just as there's no such thing as Christian

homosexuality, Christian adultery, Christian sin. There's no such thing.

I wrote a booklet on contemporary music and so-called Christian rock music. Did you ever hear the saying, "sex, drugs, and rock and roll"? Well, that's exactly where the Christian rock music is coming from. So many of these rock musicians... and it's proven... behind the scenes do nothing less than the so-called secular rockers. So-called secular musicians when they are behind the scenes, not all of them but many of them, have a drug problem and have a drinking problem of alcohol, and this is something that should not be. We should not be sending our children to see these ungodly performances, ungodly entertainers who name the name of Jesus as the one who is leading them when they look like the world, act like the world, and do the things of the world. We should protect our young people from this.

Well, something else is name-changing, such as "sanctuary" to "auditorium," dressing down to casual attire. I Timothy 2:9 talks about this. It says, *In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array.* That means not to go in to show off but to look decent. We don't have to dress in a tuxedo, but we need to dress modestly, respectfully, for our Lord.

And I believe there's another warning sign—new perversion Bibles being used or only use verses flashed on a screen and referenced during regular services. These are warning signs I'm talking about. The word "church" may be called a "campus." Elimination of altar calls or salvation invitations at the close of services. The marginalizing or ostracizing of all who are not avid promoters of the purpose deceiving program. These people are

ostracized. If you don't go along with it, you'll soon find yourself on the outside looking in.

And let me say this, that there are still Bible-believing, Bible-preaching local churches who stand on the Word of God. If you're going to one of these churches who have become this purpose-driven, purposely deceiving local church, then you need to get out and you need to get into a Bible-believing local church. They're there. They're here. You say, "Well, there's none close to my home." Well, you need to get away from your home. You need to drive a little bit, and you need to find a good Bible-believing local church.

Well, what's the answer? I just gave you one of them. Get into a good Bible-believing local church. Well, another thing is to stay alert. Ezekiel 33:6 says: *But if the watchman see the sword come, and blow not the trumpet, and the people be not warned; if the sword come, and take any person from among them, he is taken away in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at the watchman's hand.*

And that's what I'm doing right now; I'm warning as a watchman, a watchman on the wall, and that's what every Christian is supposed to be doing is warning others about the dangers of Hell, of going there. Nobody should go there; they should go to Heaven by trusting Jesus Christ, and we should be warning each other about the apostasy that's being brought into the local church, deceiving people into believing that what is happening there in these purpose-driven, purposely deceived churches is right when it's wrong.

Be alert. Isaiah 21:6 says, *For thus hath the Lord said unto me, Go, set a watchman, let him declare what he seeth.* In other words, tell the truth. Isaiah 58:1: *Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and*

shew my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sons.

Now, if you don't agree with what I've been saying, you need to write me a letter. You need to go to the Website and send me an email: www.LRWM.org. Send me an email or write me a letter and you'll hear these addresses at the end of the program. You need to write me, but let me caution you. When you write me, don't tell me what you think; tell me what you see in the Word of God if you believe I'm wrong in what I've been saying to you.

Another answer is not only to be alert but to let the Lord build the church. He said in Matthew 16:18, *And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock... that's Him, that's Jesus Christ... I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.*

Psalm 127:1 says, *Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the LORD keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain.*

The first part of that verse says "Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it." If you depend upon programs, if you depend upon music, if you depend upon anything in the local church other than Jesus Christ... I'm not saying don't go out and invite people and ask people to be saved. I'm not telling you not to do that. I'm telling you don't depend upon it. Depend upon the Lord Jesus Christ to build, not upon programs.

Be careful. There are many wolves in sheep's clothing. I Timothy 4:1 says, *Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils.*

Stay in the Word of God. Stay true to the Lord and let God lead you. II John 1:10 says, *If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed.* I told you some of the doctrines that Dr. Warren said are not important, those five fundamentals of the faith. Purpose driven or purposely deceived. Stay alert. Do what the Lord has for you. Do not forsake your part in the battle.

Father, thank You for this time we've had together. I pray for that person who's never trusted You. May that person trust You today by saying, "Jesus, come into my heart. I receive You as my Savior right now. Thank you, Lord."

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Until next time, this is Doug Anderson reminding you it's a good life living for the Lord. May the Lord bless you richly is our prayer.