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Outward appearance – Pt 1 the heathen

This week we began a new topic “outward appearance”. In this study we establish that (1) man looks on the outward appearance of man, (2) the ungodly look on the appearance of man and see good as evil, and (3) the ungodly man can be transformed by Satan into the ministers of righteousness.

Scriptures upon which this teaching is founded

1. Man looks on the outward appearance of man.

“But the Lord said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the Lord seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart” (1Sam.16: 7).

Man looks at the countenance and stature “but the Lord looketh on the heart”.

2. The ungodly look on the appearance and see good as evil.

“But when the Pharisees heard it, they said, This fellow doth not cast out devils, but by Beelzebub the prince of the devils” (Matt.12: 24). See also Mk.3: 22

But Jesus knew their thoughts” (Mt 12:25). “Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil” (Is.5: 20).

3. Satan transforms his ministers into ministers of righteousness

“For such are false apostles...transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. 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.” (2Cor 11: 13–15).

Illustration to help apply our teaching to our life

A Botanist, whether saved or unsaved will, by their degree know their plants.

A metrologist, whether Christian or heathen will, by their degree know the sky.

Question to think about.

How does a professor in theology, like Professor Murray Rae (no relation, but I knew him from school) not see the Roman Catholic church as a counterfeit religion?

Our answer from the scriptures.

Because he is blinded by the enemy or he is a minister of Satan transformed into a minister of God, he is either deceived or a deceiver.

We are warned to – “Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves.” (Mt 7:15).

If the theology professor can call evil – good, then he is blind to the fruit that Rome bear, and would not have discerned the Pharisees as Jesus Christ did when he was on earth, when He knew they were tempting him – “O ye hypocrites, ye can discern the face of the sky; but can ye not discern the signs of the times?” (Matt.16: 3).

Remember, man looks at the appearance of man, the ungodly will see good as evil, and evil as good, and we are to beware of those whom Satan has transformed into ministers of righteousness, yet are inwardly ravaging wolves.

How do we discern the wolves from the sheep? That will be answered next week!