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The Alpha Course . . . a fraudulent gospel



Tonight, I wish to issue a solemn warning against that system of instruction called The Alpha Course. I do so because I believe it to be a fraudulent gospel that can only deceive the unwary. I will ground my message on the two verses which form my text.

But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him , 2 Corinthians 11:3-4.

These words of Paul will form the basis of our warning to those involved in The Alpha Course.

First of all consider . . .

I. THE RELATIONSHIP WITH CHRIST THE TRUE CHRISTIAN ENJOYS

Paul says we are espoused to Christ, verse 2. It means joined to Christ. The Greek word is used of the joining of timbers together by a carpenter. The marriage bond is a frequently used illustration of the spiritual union that exists between Christ and the believer. *For thy Maker is thine husband; the LORD of hosts is his name; and thy Redeemer the Holy One of Israel; The God of the whole earth shall he be called , Isaiah 54:5. For as a young man marrieth a virgin, so shall thy sons marry thee: and as the bridegroom rejoiceth over the bride, so shall thy God rejoice over thee , Isaiah 62:5. Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God , Romans 7:4.* Please also read Ephesians 5:22-33 and Revelation 19:7. The union between Christ and the soul is most intimate, precious and sacred.

1. The means of bringing this union about. It is brought about by the ministry of the gospel. The minister is a gospel match-maker. Paul says *I have espoused you* . The minister is as Abraham's servant who went seeking a wife for Isaac. We seek to extol our Master and His Son, Jesus Christ, and urge upon you an acceptance of His invitation. Our question tonight to every one who is listening to the gospel is put to Rebekah, *Wilt thou go with this man?* And she said, *I will go*, Genesis 24:58. May that be your response to the gospel invitation.

2. The terms of this relationship. They are great but simple. They entail the yielding of all to Christ and the enjoyment of all in Christ. As Rebekah entered into all the riches and possessions of Isaac by yielding herself to him as his bride, so the soul that yields to Christ enters into all the riches of His incalculable glory. All that Christ has is made over to the soul that in Jesus believes. *For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that, though he was rich, yet for your sakes he became poor, that ye through his poverty might be rich , 2 Corinthians 8:9.*



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3. This relationship cannot be broken . Believers may have only *ONE HUSBAND* , verse 3. There is no divorce with God. As the Prodigal remained his father's son despite his evil rebellion, so the true child of God remains the spouse of Christ even when backsliding and unfaithfulness such as those of Peter on the night of the Saviour's betrayal, take place. *For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord* , Romans 8:3-39.

II. THE RISK THE TRUE BELIEVER FACES

I fear . . . verse 3. As a pastor, Paul had a fear regarding the flock in Corinth. The substance of Paul's fear for the Corinthian believers was

1. A corrupting of their minds. The receptacle of knowledge could become corrupted and defiled by the intrusion of that which was not of God. When Paul speaks of the *simplicity* of the gospel the word simplicity carries the meaning of *purity and sincerity* . It is so used in Ephesians 6:5. *Servants, be obedient to them that are your masters according to the flesh, with fear and trembling, in singleness of your heart, as unto Christ* , Ephesians 6:5. The word is translated *singleness* . Paul was urging those Christian servants in pagan households against "two-facedness." He issues a similar call in Colossians 3:22.

Servants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh; not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but in singleness of heart, fearing God . The simplicity of the gospel becomes corrupted by the inclusion of lies. Such a tactic is a favourite with the devil and Paul and the other apostles had to face many attacks of this nature. The seriousness of such corruption may be gauged by the language Paul employs when faced with just such an attempt within the churches in Galatia. *I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed* , Galatians 1:6-9. *O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you?* Galatians 3:1.

2. The source of such danger is the devil . As he robbed Adam and Eve of God's blessing and presence, so he would seek to repeat that experience for the believer and rob us of the joy of the Lord and that by leading us away from the simplicity of the gospel to another gospel, very similar in appearance but differing greatly in essence. It is for this reason we consider the Alpha Course as a ploy of the devil.

3. The methods the devil uses. As he disguised himself in the Garden, so he still uses disguises. *For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him* , 2 Corinthians 11:4. *For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, 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 min-*



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*isters also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works, 2 Corinthians 11:13-15. **Another Jesus, another spirit, false apostles, deceitful workers** -- you would think Paul was speaking of the Alpha Course! And, of course, he is. The devil's tactics never change. What he did in the past he seeks to repeat in each generation.*

III. THE REACTION OF GOD'S SERVANT TO SUCH A THREAT

For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy .

1. Paul passionately cared for the saints . He was ever on guard, watching out for their welfare. *For God is my record, how greatly I long after you all in the bowels of Jesus Christ ,* Philippians 1:8. In this chapter before us, his zeal was such some thought him a fool, verse 1. Our opponents label us as hate-mongers and bigots, but might not a better explanation for our apparently foolish protests and irritating warnings be rather that we have a love for the people of God, irrespective of their denominational links, and wish only to safeguard them from the consequences of being deceived by the devil and his agents?

2. Paul passionately warned them of danger and went to their aid . He was like David guarding his flock and the honour of God in the face of Goliath's defiance. *And David said unto Saul, Thy servant kept his father's sheep, and there came a lion, and a bear, and took a lamb out of the flock: And I went out after him, and smote him, and delivered it out of his mouth: and when he arose against me, I caught him by his beard, and smote him, and slew him. Thy servant slew both the lion and the bear: and this uncircumcised Philistine shall be as one of them, seeing he hath defied the armies of the living God ,* 1 Samuel 17:34-36. That is what moves God's servants to speak out against The Alpha Course.

Let me briefly outline my objections to the Alpha Course.

1. It is suspect in its origins.

It has come from the Church of England. There is no more apostate denomination than it. I do not believe that such could ever become the source of revival blessing. The Lord demands cleanness in his vessel bearers. *Depart ye, depart ye, go ye out from thence, touch no unclean thing; go ye out of the midst of her; be ye clean, that bear the vessels of the LORD ,* Isa 52:11. When David with the highest of sincerity, attempted to restore the ark to its rightful place but failed to convey it by the means God had ordained, carried on the shoulders of the Levites, God manifested His disapproval by the slaying of Uzzah, 2 Samuel 6:1-10. We must not think that God cares not about our associations or our methods of doing His work. He most certainly does.

2. It is shallow in its contents .

In its definition of a Christian, it is clear that all of Christendom is accepted as being in a true sense, Christian. Roman Catholicism and the various branches of the Orthodox churches are all included despite their idolatry. In its statements on man's sin there is nowhere to be found any adequate reference to the total depravity of the human heart. There is no clear defining of God's holiness and wrath toward sin and no references to the eternal



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damnation of the lost soul in hellfire. The absence of these doctrines leads the hearers of Alpha preachers to believe that conversion is a light thing.

3. It is a Sham in its conversions.

A perusal of the testimonies, that the Alpha Course website posts and its newspaper prints, is likely to both make you laugh and weep. They are both ludicrous and blasphemous. (Please read the extracts that we have printed in [Article 4](#) for adequate proof of what I say).

Rome has been endorsing the Alpha Course for quite some time now. The glowing praise of Roman Catholic clerics is given prominent space in Alpha literature. This is the latest indication of the satanic nature of this course.

Roman Catholicism was considered by all of God's chiefest servants in the past as the Synagogue of Satan. But now we find that Rome is using the Alpha Course as a potent means of renewal and growth. Can that which revives the Synagogue of Satan be God's instrument of blessing? The answer is plain. We therefore warn you all against it.

I challenge every minister who promotes it to refute the statement that the Alpha Course is incompatible with the teaching of the 39 Articles and the Westminster Confession of Faith and that those who have sworn to uphold these creeds and are engaged in promoting the Alpha Course, are in violation of their ordination oaths.

If you are not saved, do not be deceived into believing that some casual, shallow turning unto God with the saying of a prayer is all that is needed for the redeeming of your soul. Yes, God hears prayer. Of that there is no doubt. But listen to His own terms for hearing prayer. *But if from thence thou shalt seek the LORD thy God, thou shalt find him, if thou seek him with all thy heart and with all thy soul*, Deuteronomy 4:29. The producing of such whole-heartedness is not within the power of man. It is the outworking of God's power. For this reason we must earnestly seek God that we might rightly understand our sinfulness and the wrath that abides over every unbelieving sinner. Only when God has brought us to see His holiness and glory and our sin and depravity will we call upon Him with the earnestness that He demands.

The dying thief (Luke 23:39-43) turned in the last moments of his life to Christ in repentance and was saved. But his turning was the result of the working of the grace of God in his heart. He saw himself for what he was. He saw Christ for Who He was. He publicly confessed his sins and owned Christ when all others had forsaken Him. This was the outworking of grace. This was true and real conversion.