

The Deadly Triad of Error

by Jim Sayles

How important is the *rhema* truth of God? Our reception and obedient faith responses to the absolute, immutable, didactic, revelatory word of God is the only way in which we will individually or corporately overcome the assaults of the beast kingdom against us and ultimately prevail against it as we manifest the presence and glory of Christ through our obedient faith responses to His truth, promises, and commands.

For that reason, we need to be aware of the deadly triad of error assaulted against the body of Christ to divide us and weaken us by preventing us from receiving and responding to the absolute, immutable, *rhema* truth of God.

Then it will be through our understanding of this truth intended by the Author and Authority for all truth, that we will individually and corporately be empowered to overcome the enemy's assaults against the kingdom of God in the earth as well as the enemy's assaults against us individually.

Deception:

Deception is the deliberate act of perverting the truth of God in order to prevent us from receiving the truth. The origin of all deception is Satan, the father of lies, but he employs men, including many born-again, regenerated believers, to unknowingly accomplish his purposes.

For such men are false apostles [spurious, counterfeits], deceitful workmen, masquerading as apostles (special messengers) of Christ (the Messiah). And it is no wonder, for Satan himself masquerades as an angel of light; So it is not surprising if his servants also masquerade as ministers of righteousness. [But] their end will correspond with their deeds.

2 Corinthians 11:13-15 Amplified

We need to be aware that deception results in false presumption by those who receive it, and false presumption, when it is assumed (received as authoritative truth) results in the individual deception of those who receive it.

A little leaven (a slight inclination to error, or a few false teachers) leavens the whole lump [it perverts the whole conception of faith or misleads the whole church]. Galatians 5:9 Amplified

Deception, based on false presumption and the assumption of the dragon's lies as truth, was the cause of the downfall of mankind, and it continues to be so in the body of Christ today.

Deception, false presumption, and the assumption of false doctrine, and deception, are powerful strongholds in our souls, and in our group-think associations, assaulted against the absolute, immutable *rhema* truth of God.

We are, therefore, instructed by Paul in 1 Corinthians 10:3-6 to **WAR** against these strongholds (fortresses) of error and deception in our souls. Yet this is not a war against the denominations or individuals who differ from us in their beliefs. It is a war against the lies themselves regardless of the human manifestation of these lies.

For though we walk in the flesh [as mortal men], we are not carrying on our [spiritual] warfare according to the flesh and using the weapons of man. The weapons of our warfare are not physical [weapons of flesh and blood]...(intellect alone).... Our weapons are divinely...(spiritually)... powerful for the destruction of fortresses.....(described as)... We are destroying sophisticated arguments...(false presumption)... and every exalted and proud thing...(erroneous and ungodly denominational doctrine and practice)... that sets itself up against the [true]...(rhema)... knowledge of God, and we are taking every thought and purpose captive to the...(true)... obedience of Christ...(through the rhema word of God resulting in our genuine faith responses)....2 Corinthians 10:3-6 Amplified (inserts and emphasis are the author's)

This has never changed in the warfare against the enemy's assault, and the Lord's instructions through Paul to WAR against everything that opposes the absolute, immutable, revelatory truth, promises, and commands of our Lord.

This warfare is also to be engaged in by us individually for our own instruction and benefit, and corporately for the benefit of the body of Christ entire. Yet, this warfare is to be carried out through the spirit of *agape* love, and not, in any way, by personal motive (i.e. spiritual pride and denominational "group-think" identity). Nor are we required to leave the denomination or fellowship we find that we are in disagreement with, but, at the same time we should not value the denomination or the fellowship over the truth of God, the Father.

False Presumption:

Presumption is the personal conclusion we have reached concerning any area of belief, whether correct or incorrect. Thus, any presumption we have made

concerning the truth, promises, and commands of God in Christ that does not align with the absolute, immutable, revelatory (*rhema*) truth of God hinders our ability to receive the absolute, immutable, revelatory (*rhema*) truth of God in its stead.

In my walk with the Lord I have frequently arrived at false presumptions. But as I have matured in the Lord, I have gained more and more spiritual discernment, and I no longer receive anything, even from trusted sources, without examining and confirming it in the written word as the Spirit of truth supernaturally guides me in my understanding.

The Pharisees in the Lord's own day were the intellectual giants of Israel who constantly examined the scriptures, but without revelatory guidance from the Spirit of truth.

These, like modern Pharisees, were divided in their opinions, and because they were sold out to their various intellectual opinions, and their standing with certain denominations of belief, they did not recognize the Messiah when He walked amongst them even though He fulfilled all of the prophecies with which they were familiar.

At that time Jesus began to say, I thank You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth [and I acknowledge openly and joyfully to Your honor], that You have hidden these things from the wise and clever and learned, and revealed them to babies [to the childish, untaught, and unskilled]. Matthew 11:25 Amplified (emphasis is the author's)

It is entirely correct to take a scholarly approach in examining scripture, but it is entirely, and dangerously, incorrect to have confidence in our ability to intellectually discern the truth apart from the supernatural guidance of the Spirit of truth.

Thus, those who "hear" and "see" by the Spirit, even those who are intellectually untrained, are more likely to arrive at the truth as they manifest genuine faith and obedience because they are dependent on responding to the Spirit-revealed truth, promises, and commands of the Lord.

Man's nature apart from the indwelling Spirit is to be in control, and we have a tendency to trust and believe that education, methodologies, and various keys to scriptural interpretation, including our individual opinions concerning the correct translation of the Bible, will result in the truth.

Yet, intellectualism without supernatural guidance by the Spirit frequently results in false presumption just as the intellectual giants of Israel continually demonstrated. The proof of this is observable by our division into numerous denominations and schools of doctrine and practice led by highly esteemed doctors of theology opposed to other highly esteemed doctors of theology.

This is particularly important when it comes to the interpretation of biblical prophecy. Most schools of theological thought, the “isms” of doctrine and practice, including various doctrines related to “things to come,” were declared to be doctrinal “truth” prior to the opening or unsealing of those same prophecies by the Spirit of truth. (Daniel 12:9)

Therefore, many of the schools of prophetic doctrine about which we spend an inordinate amount of time debating were developed without guidance from the Spirit of truth.

Likewise, many of these doctrines were influenced over a lengthy period of time through a Satanically induced Jezebellian spirit of deception. Therefore, man’s intellect without the supernatural guidance of the Spirit opposes the truth and divides us, while man’s intellect guided by the Spirit reveals the truth and unites us with all others who have the truth regardless of language, denominational affiliation, or even which translation of the Bible we are using.

The Assumption of Deceptions and False Presumptions, and that have become traditions of belief and practice

We love traditions. Traditions provide us with a sense of identity and purpose. Traditions literally provide us with a framework for our lives, both individually and in larger corporate groups. Traditions are the billboards upon which we post the memories of family, friends, and relationships with a continuing expectation of refreshing those billboards with new memories.

These traditions also provide us with a psychologically comfortable “group-think” anchor of authority and identity for our beliefs and actions, whether personal, institutional, political, or spiritual.

For this reason the assault of the beast kingdom ruled by the father of lies against the kingdom of God in the world, is primarily carried out through his demonically empowered strongholds of false presumption, deception, and the unknowing assumption of false presumption and deception by the body of Christ, which ultimately become literal beast kingdom ***strongholds*** (fortresses) of TRADITION opposed to the truth of God.

Thus, both doctrine and practice become an institutional tradition assaulted against the absolute, immutable, revelatory truth of God in some regard, hindering us individually and corporately from manifesting the fullness of our Lord’s truth, promises, commands, and love in a dying world.

As the Lord demonstrated, when the Pharisees and scribes confronted Him because his disciples did not perform all the ritual washing that was their tradition under the Law, tradition had become a stronghold (fortress) opposed to

the absolute, immutable, *rhema* truth of God, which is the word that proceeds from the very mouth of God and is interpreted to us by the Spirit of truth.

The Pharisees and the scribes asked Him, “Why do Your disciples not walk according to the tradition of the elders, but eat their bread with impure hands?” And He said to them, “Rightly did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written:

“This people honors Me with their lips,

But their heart is far away from Me.

But in vain do they worship Me,

Teaching as doctrines the... (non-revelatory)... precepts of men.’

Neglecting the commandment of God, you hold to the tradition of men.”

He was also saying to them, “You are experts at setting aside the ... (revelatory, rhema)... commandment of God in order to keep your ... (man-made or Satanically inspired)... tradition; and you do many things such as that.” Mark 7: 5-9 NASB (insert is the author’s)

The traditions of the Pharisees and Scribes had become a false tradition opposed to the absolute, immutable *rhema* truth of God, hindering their ability to receive Christ when He came to them. And many such things do we also do, because it is so much easier just to conform to whatever “group-think” denominational or leader-oriented tradition we are associated with. (i.e. We are “comfortable” with our group-think doctrine and practice, and we deliberately avoid and reject anything that disturbs the comfort of our group-think doctrine and practice).

Paul was aware of the power of tradition, whether religious tradition, or societal tradition, inhibiting men from receiving and responding to the truth of God spoken into our hearts by the Spirit of truth, and he warned Colossian believers in this regard.

See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ. Col. 2:8 NASB (emphasis is the author’s)

The vast majority of institutional and denominational Christianity, divided by varying “winds of doctrine,” having become Pharisaical slaves to whatever denominational traditions, whatever ministry leader’s opinions, or whatever intellectually discerned opinions they have individually adopted and believe to be the absolute, immutable, didactic word of God, are literally in bondage where certain areas of the truth of God are concerned.

And we protect these traditions with personal vengeance as though the challenge to what we believe is a personal action against us.

These have also become deaf and blind in part to the absolute, immutable, revelatory truth of God if and when that truth contradicts the emotively powerful group-think traditions they have adopted and continually reinforce in order to maintain unity with the group.

Thus, the traditions of belief and practice, whatever these may be, have become strongholds (fortresses) opposed to traditions of faith based on the revelatory truth of God.

Yet, we are instructed (**commanded**) to continuously **WAR** against those traditions that weaken the body of Christ by opposing and denying the *rhema* truth of God.

Paul also addressed this phenomenon in his letter to the church at Ephesus in what we identify as the “armor of God” passage (Ephesians 6:11-18). In this passage the very first essential of our spiritual armor is identified as the belt of truth.

Thus the *rhema* truth of God empowers the helmet of salvation (the renewing of our minds); the breastplate of righteousness (obedience to the revelatory commands of the Lord); the shield of faith (overcoming all of the assaults of the enemy through our obedient faith responses); our shoes (our equipping and empowering to “go” in His name and His authority, rather than going only in the name of various forms of institutional Christianity); and, ultimately, the sword of the Spirit (the absolute, immutable, revelatory *rhema* Word of God spoken into our hearts by the Spirit of truth who is the voice of our Lord empowering our obedient faith responses as we manifest His truth, power, and love).

Conversely, the armor of God is NOT empowered by traditions of belief or religious acts that are not genuine acts of faith but are “religious” things we believe and do in order to be aligned with and conform to whatever tradition we are desperately attempting to maintain unity with.

Denominations and the multitude of conflicting theological beliefs themselves do not separate us from receiving the truth of God in Christ, but our unyielding conformance to denominational truth and actions in what we think, say, and do will definitely hinder our obedient faith responses to the truth, promises, and commands of the Lord in various ways.

Why? Because it is so much easier just to conform and receive the “group-think” comfort of conforming to institutional Christianity in its multitudinous forms rather than seeking and responding to the unifying, absolute, immutable, revelatory truth, promises, and commands of the Lord.

And, like the Pharisees who rejected Christ, we work really hard at defending our doctrinal positions and traditions, rather than working hard at receiving the truth and rejecting the lies and deceptions that cause us to be separated from others in the body of Christ in the same way Christ was separated from the Pharisees, scribes, priests, and elders of religious Israel.

This is the POWER of denominational, “group-think” tradition that hinders our individual ability to receive the *rhema* truth, promises, and commands of our Lord that result in a life of genuine faith responses manifesting the presence, power, love and glory of our Lord as intended by the Father.

I will present only one example, though a library of books could be written about the strongholds of religious, but profane, doctrines and practices that have become literal strongholds assaulted against the absolute, immutable, *rhema* truth, commands, and promises of our Lord.

In the Lord’s final commands given to His disciples, and conveyed to us both in scripture and through the Spirit of truth, He identified the primary actions they would be engaged in to “*the end of the age*,” which is identified as the “last day” resurrection of all the saints of all time, living and dead, on 1 Tishri, the first day of the “Feast of Trumpets.”

And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

Matthew 28:18-29 KJV

Some absolutes we can discern in this passage, even without guidance from the Spirit of truth include:

1. We are commanded to go into all nations, bringing them to faith, and teaching them to observe everything He commanded His original disciples to do in His name;
2. He will be with us to the end of the age in all the same ways He was with His original disciples after His resurrection.

What is revealed in His **COMMAND** recorded in Matthew 28:18-29 (the “great commission”) is our requirement to teach new believers to obey everything He commanded His original disciples to obey both before and after His resurrection.

This includes teaching new believers to recognize and respond to the administrative leadership of apostles, prophets, evangelists, pastors and teachers.

There is, then, no scriptural explanation for the absence of any of the administrative offices in the body of Christ except that which is discerned in the parable of the ten virgins (Matthew 25:1-12) in which He prophesied that the body of Christ would become spiritually drowsy and fall asleep when He tarried, a subject I have written extensively about, because it also prophetically reveals the time of our awakening in the immediate future.

The same is true about both the “operational” or “manifestation” ministry gifts. These have not “passed away” as many have falsely taught and believed. They simply are not present among those in the somnolent body of Christ who do not believe and have established comfortable, but erroneous, denominational traditions of unbelief.

Yet, all these administrative and operational, ministry gifts are intended for the body of Christ until the ***end of the age*** just as the Lord instructed us.

We are told, “***the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal...***” These manifestations include the word of wisdom, the word of knowledge, (special or unique) faith, the gifts of healing, the working of miracles, prophecy, discerning of spirits, diverse kinds of tongues, and the interpretation of tongues.

This also includes our individual instruction through spiritual dreams and visions. (Acts 2:17)

To deny this truth because the comfort of our group-think denominational TRADITION, or our individual or group experience, is to deny the truth, promise, and intent of God in Christ as revealed and confirmed in scripture.

In this regard, religious, denominational TRADITION becomes the profane lie of Satan replacing the absolute, immutable, didactic Word of God spoken into our hearts and minds by the Spirit of truth, and confirmed to us in scripture as He has intended for each of us until the end of the age.

This paragraph, then, is the likely place where the reader in bondage to denominational tradition will reject what is being revealed herein in order to remain in the psychological group-think comfort of conforming to whatever group or denomination of Christianity he or she is aligned with.

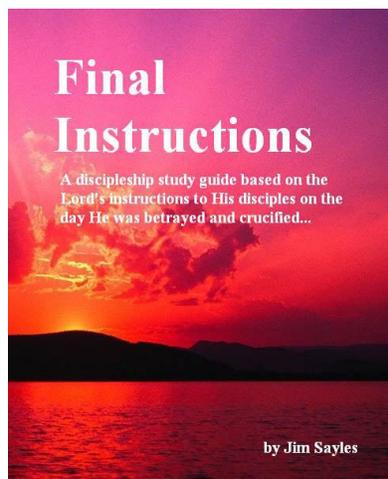
Yet, who can deny that traditions of unbelief give Satan a powerful advantage in the warfare that the beast kingdom is waging against the kingdom of God in Christ (i.e. the spiritual body of Christ)?

Still, we comfort ourselves with the belief that it is the “other” denominations and “other” teachers and leaders who are guilty of error.

It is my hope that the reader, becoming aware of the influences that hinder our reception of unifying and faith-empowering truth from the Spirit of truth, will be increasingly equipped to examine what he/she believes, and, therefore, resist those sources of unbelief that hinder us in our desire to manifest the truth, love, and power of our Lord to a dying world.

May He, therefore, grant you a spirit of wisdom and revelatory understanding as you examine His written *logos* word and hear His spoken *rhema* word so that you may walk by faith in all that you think, say, and do, glorifying Him as you manifest His truth, His love, His power and His presence in a dark and deceived world.

The author's group or individual spiral bound Bible Study Guide, "**Final Instructions**," is an examination of the Lord's final instructions to His disciples on the night He was betrayed and crucified concerning how they would continue to receive His truth, promises, and commands after His resurrection (John 13-17). These are still OUR instructions today. Available from Amazon. Also available FREE, in PDF, print it yourself format from www.theendtimeschurch.org.



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