

“Confronting Counterfeit Christianity”

I John 2:18-29

After a young African Christian was martyred for his faith, a writing was found in his room. The first paragraph read, “I am part of the fellowship of the unashamed, the die has been cast, I have stepped over the line, the decision has been made, I am a disciple of Jesus Christ. I won’t look back, let up, slow down, back away or be still.” His conversion and convictions cost him his life.

Many Christians believe that the Christian life is non-convicting, non-confrontive, and casual in its nature. Nothing could be further from the truth. Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a German theologian (1906-1945), was right when he said, “When God saves a man, He bids him come and die.”

The Bible paints a realistic (not counterfeit) picture of the Christian life. This passage (I John 2:18-29) pin-points some of that picture. Counterfeit Christianity will never do.

- I. If we would confront counterfeit Christianity it will require THE SINCERITY OF EACH BELIEVER (vv. 18-19)
 - A. We must be sincere because of the URGENCY OF THE HOUR (v.18)
 - B. We must be sincere because of the HYPOCRISY OF THE CHURCH (v.19)
- II. If we would confront counterfeit Christianity it will require THE SECURITY OF EACH BELIEVER (vv. 20-29, esp v. 20)
 - A. We know because of GOD’S SPIRIT ANOINTING US (v. 20a, 27c)
 - B. We know because of GOD’S SCRIPTURES ABOUNDING IN US (vv. 24-26)
 - C. We know because of GOD’S SON ABIDING IN US (vv. 27-29, esp v.27)
 1. Abiding in Christ means SPIRITUAL FRUIT (c.f. John 15:5b)
 2. Abiding in Christ means ANSWERED PRAYER (c.f. John 15:7)
 3. Abiding in Christ means GODLY LIFESTYLE (c.f. John 2:6)

In reality, the church is in spiritual warfare. Casual faith and casual commitment will never result in victory. Nothing short of genuine sincerity and absolute surrender will bring about victory. The battle is severe, but the believer is secure. And we know we win in the end.

The note left by the young African martyr concluded: “I must go till He comes, give till I drop, preach till everyone knows, work till He stops me, and when He comes for His own, He will have no trouble recognizing me because my banner will have been clear, I am a disciple of Jesus Christ!”