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"Preaching The Same Truth We Preached Before Kentucky Was A State"

STREAMLINING CHRISTIANITY

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"Nevertheless among the chief rulers also many believed on him; but because of the Pharisees they did not confess him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue: For they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God," John 12:42, 43.

INTRODUCTION: We are living in a day of streamlining. We have streamlined furniture, trains, automobiles, ships, clothes, etc. Streamlining is in the interest of three things: speed, comfort, and beauty. In the transportation world it is primarily for the sake of speed--it is a scheme to escape opposition from the wind to cut down resistance.

Streamlining in religion, here too, it is for the sake of speed, comfort and beauty. It is to escape opposition from the world, provide ease and pleasure for Christians and make religion attractive to the natural man.

Streamline is a relatively new word in our dictionaries, but the fact of streamlining in religion is as old as Christianity itself. It goes back to the days of our Lord upon earth. Chief rulers were convinced by His miracles that he was the Messiah, but they did not confess Him because they were afraid they would be put out of the synagogue. They preferred human praise to God's approval of their actions. So they streamlined their faith to escape opposition and persecution.

**TRUE CHRISTIANITY WILL ALWAYS
MEET WITH OPPOSITION.**

Our Lord made it clear that His word and His people would face the winds of the

world's hatred and opposition. "To be forewarned is to be forearmed." "In the world ye shall have tribulation..." "If the world hate you remember that it hated me before it hated you." "I came not to bring peace on earth but a sword..."

Our Lord did not teach that the gospel would be a leavening influence permeating and converting the whole world. He made it plain that the last days would be the worst. He compares the last days to the days of Noah and Lot.

Paul's testimony was to the same effect. "All who will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution." "In last days, perilous times shall come."

One of the biggest pieces of propaganda ever circulated by the devil is the falsehood that the world loves a consistent Christian. And the Christians themselves have listened to the rumor and passed it on. It is contrary to fact and to scripture. Tell me of a consistent Christian that the world loved. Did it love the apostle Paul? Bunyan? Spurgeon? Did it love the founder and head of the church? The cross is the world's reply to a good Christian. To be sure, the world appreciates the man who feeds and clothes it--the man who is philanthropic--the man who pays his debts--but this is not appreciation of Christianity, for it will appreciate the lost man who does these things as much as the Christian. Does the world love a man because he loves the Bible and tries to live by it? Does the world love the Christian because he loves Christ and keeps himself unspotted from the world? Because he gives his money to preach the gospel? Does the world love

the Christian woman who regulates her dress and her speech and her conduct by the word of God? If you think so, it is because you have not tried it.

WHY IS THERE SO LITTLE OPPOSITION TO CHRISTIANITY TODAY?

How do we account for it? It is a fact that there is little opposition as compared to that of the first century and even later. How can we explain it? Is it because human nature has improved? Is it because the world is better? Has the carnal mind ceased to be enmity against God? Have the things of the Spirit ceased to be foolishness to the natural man? Are the doctrines of the Bible more palatable to natural man? Is God becoming popular with the world? Has the devil been converted? Have the demons joined in the crusade for holiness? To ask these questions is to answer them. Both the Bible and observation, as well as experience, teach us that the world is no better today than when its Creator and Lord walked upon the earth. So we come back to our question: Why is there so little persecution of Christian religion today? The only possible answer is that Christianity itself has changed. It has resorted to streamlining methods to escape opposition from the world.

HOW DO WE STREAMLINE OUR RELIGION?

I. By shunning to declare all counsel of God. Many preachers have streamlined their sermons by cutting out scripture that offend human nature--by toning down doctrines of human depravity and divine sovereignty. What are the most hated doctrines of the Bible? Why it is those doctrines that describe God and man. What does the Bible say about man--apart from grace of God? Why it pictures him as bad and only bad--totally and inherently depraved. The Bible says not one good word about human nature--mind, heart, or will.

What is the explanation of world conditions--a world engaged in wholesale murder of its inhabitants? Why is there this thirst for human blood? The only explanation of strife and war and bloodshed of human history is human sinfulness. Human nature is bad--insanely bad.

II. Professing Christians streamline their religion by compromising the Christian life. The world has always despised good men.

III. We streamline our religion by shunning Christ's persecuted people. A

man is always known by the company he keeps. One way to identify oneself with the truth of Christ is to succor those who are suffering for the truth's sake. Matthew 25:31, "When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory." Matthew 12:50, "For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother."

Chief rulers were streamliners. They knew Jesus was the Messiah but they did not want to confess him--did not identify themselves with him because it meant persecution. To them it was a terrible thing to be turned out of the synagogue--they preferred the synagogue to Christ. They could not stand to hear men speak ill of them; preferred human praise to God's praise.

IV. We streamline our religion by refusing to support Christ's cause financially. Many refuse to tithe because they want to escape sacrifice. A cheap religion is the curse of Christianity. The covetous Christian is a mighty sorry representative of the bleeding redeemer.

CONCLUSION: Streamlining may be all-right in material things, but it is bad in religion. It is the refusal to take up the cross and follow Jesus; it is an effort to be popular in a world that hated and crucified Christ; a scheme to be comfortable in a world where our Lord had not where to lay his head.

The streamliner forgets that the servant is not above his Lord. The streamliner does not agree with Christ when he said, "It is enough for the disciple that he be as his master, and the servant as his lord," Matthew 10:25.

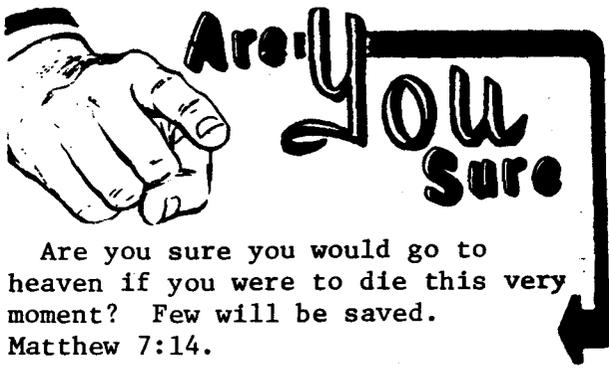
May God save us from streamlining our holy faith!



R FOR A 

HAPPY HOME

All The Family In Church And
SUNDAY SCHOOL



Are you sure you would go to heaven if you were to die this very moment? Few will be saved. Matthew 7:14.

Most people when asked if they are saved, will say, I hope so, I think so, I am not sure, I try, no one can know. These are all the sounds of an uncertain heart. Today many are religious, but only a few even among church members have Bible Salvation.

The Bible warns people about the danger of not being sure. Proverbs 14:12 says, "There is a way which seems right unto a man but the end thereof are the ways of death."

Oh! Church members take heed to this scripture in Matthew 7:21-23. "Not everyone that saith unto me Lord, Lord shall enter into the Kingdom of Heaven, but he that doeth the will of my father which is in Heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord have we not prophesied in thy name? And in thy name have cast out devils? And in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you, depart from me, ye that work iniquity."

The Apostle Paul warns people in II Corinthians 13:5, examine your selves whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?

God's Word is very plain to tell us that we can know we are saved above all things make sure!!

The following will tell you how you can know:

1. By The Holy Spirit (Romans 8:16) The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the

children of God. The Spirit of God lives in the heart of every saved person. Saved people have an inner witness or testimony that we are a child of God. They that have the Spirit have an appetite for Spiritual things. They that have not the Spirit are not of Christ. Romans 8:9.

2. By Loving The Brethern

I John 3:14

We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethern. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death. This scripture teaches us that many members who dislike others do so because they are not saved.

3. By Victory

God's people have victory over sin. Are you a slave to sin? I John 4:4 says, Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world! Saved people are to be overcomers! I John 5:4 says, "For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world and this is the victory that overcometh the world even our faith."

4. By What The Bible Says (I John 5:13)

These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God that ye may know that ye have eternal life and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God. You Can Know if you are saved!!!!

JESUS said except ye repent you shall all likewise perish in Luke 13:3. The man who stands out in the hall and refuses to get on the elevator can never experience the ride. It's the same with you, you can believe the Bible, go to Church and be very religious. But no matter how religious or good you are, you must be born again, (John 3:3) or you will be lost in Hell forever.

Be honest with yourself, realize you are a lost sinner and cannot help yourself. Ask the Lord to forgive you of your sins and receive Jesus as your Lord.

Read Romans 10:9 and do what it says. Jesus will give you a new heart and change your life!