

Who will you Serve?

2Tim 3:1-4 “This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous: money lovers, boosters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers: slanderers, incontinent: no self-control, fierce-brutal, despisers of those that are good, traitors, reckless, haughty, lovers of pleasure not God.

v-5 Having a form of godliness (religion) but denying the power (of God) thereof:

from such turn away.

Paul’s example of God’s way: v-10 “But you have fully known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, long-suffering, love, patience,” **Promise:** 2Tim 4:8 “So there is laid up for me **a crown of righteousness**, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also who love His appearing.”

Troubles — Religion — God’s Way

Troubles: Isa 1:4-5,7 “Ah sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, a seed of evildoers, children that are corrupters: they have forsaken the LORD, they have provoked the Holy One of Israel unto anger, they are gone away backward...the whole head is sick & the whole heart faint. Your country is desolate, your cities are burned with fire: your land, strangers devour it in your presence..”

Isa 59:14 “And justice is turned away backward, and righteousness stands afar off: for truth is fallen in the street & uprightness cannot enter.”

(Religion) v-13,16 “**Bring no more** futile sacrifices; incense is an abomination unto Me; the new moons and sabbaths, the calling of assemblies, I cannot endure with; it is iniquity even the solemn meeting.”

v-17-19 “Learn to do well; seek judgment, relieve the oppressed, judge the fatherless, plead for the widow.

God’s way; Come now, & let us reason together, said the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet they shall be white as snow; Though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.

Promise: v-19 “If you be willing and obedient, you shall eat the good of the land.”

Troubles: David Ps 40:12 “For innumerable evils have surrounded me: my iniquities have taken hold upon me, so that I am not able to look up; they are more than the hairs of my head: so my heart fails me.”

(Religion) v-6 “Sacrifice and offering **you did not desire..”** **Promise:** v-4 “Blessed is the man that makes the LORD his trust & respects not the proud nor such that turns aside to lies.”

God’s way: (Recognize His goodness & praise Him.) v-5 “Many, O LORD my God, are your wonderful works which you have done & your thoughts which are to us-ward; they cannot be reckoned up in order unto you. If I would declare & speak of them, they are more than can be numbered.”

(Make good confession of faith) v-8 “I delight to do your will, O my God; yes, your law is within my heart.”

Two Kingdoms

Col 1:13 speaks of two kingdoms or dominions that oppose each other: There is the dominion of Satan (a fallen angel) as Master; and the Kingdom of the Son of God, Jesus Christ. “Who has delivered us from the power of darkness and has translated us into **the Kingdom of His dear Son**. V-14 In whom we have redemption through His blood, even the forgiveness of sins:” What about this power of darkness?

Eph 2:1-3 “**And you has He (Almighty God) made alive** who were dead in trespasses & sins; In time past you walked according to the course of this world; according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now works in the children of disobedience.. In whom we all had our conduct..”

Jn 12:31 “Now is the judgment of this world; now shall the prince of this world be cast out.”

Jn 14:30 “hereafter I will not talk much with you for the prince of this world comes & has nothing in Me.”

Acts 26:18 Paul was sent “To open their eyes & to turn them from darkness to light, from the power of Satan unto **God** that they may receive **forgiveness of sins & inheritance among sanctified** by faith in **Me**”

The Power and The Victory

Jn 16:8,11 “**When He (the Holy Spirit) is come, He will reprove** the world... of judgment. Of judgment because the prince of this world is judged. (**The power of Christ to judge Satan** and to **overthrow his kingdom is at the cross and the resurrection.**)

Eph 6:11-12 “**Put on the whole armor of God** to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood but against principalities, powers, against the rulers of darkness in this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.” Vs 14-19 “**Stand therefore having your waist girded with truth & having on the breastplate of righteousness: And your feet shod with the preparation of the Gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith so you shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one. And take the helmet of salvation & the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God: Praying always.. watching.. for all saints; and for me.. that I boldly.. make known the Gospel.**”

James 4:6-10 “**God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble. Submit yourselves to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you. Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. Cleanse your hands, you sinners; and purify your hearts. Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord; He shall lift you up.**”

1Jn 3:8,10-12 “He that commits sin is of the devil; for the devil sins from the beginning: For this purpose **The Son of God was revealed, that He might destroy the works of the devil.** In this **the children of God are revealed, and the children of the devil: whoever does not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loves not his brother.** His message from the beginning: **that we should love one another.** Not as Cain who was of the wicked one & slew his brother. Why? Because his works were evil & **his brother’s righteous.**”

Jn 13:27 “And after the sop Satan entered into him (Judas) (who betrayed Christ)..”

1Jn 4:3,4, “And every spirit that confesses not that **Jesus Christ is come in the flesh** is not of God: This is the spirit of antichrist. **You are of God little children & have overcome them: Because greater is He who is in you than he that is in the world. We are of God; He that knows God hears us: he that is not of God hears us not.** Hereby we know **the Spirit of Truth** and the spirit of error.”

1Jn 5:1,4-5 “**Whoever believes that Jesus is the Christ is born of God.. (he) overcomes the world; and this is the victory that overcomes the world, even our faith. Who is he that overcomes the world but he that believes that Jesus is the Son of God? v-18-19 Whoever is born of God sins not; but he that is begotten of God keeps himself and the wicked one touches him not. And we know we are of God and the whole world lies in wickedness.**

Who Will You Serve?

Rom 6:14, 16-18 “For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under the law, but under grace. Know you not, to whom you yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants you are to whom you obey; whether of sin unto death or of **obedience unto righteousness. But God be thanked, that you**

were the servants of sin, but you have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being made free from sin, you became the servants of righteousness (unto holiness).

You can be sure of one thing that **true freedom lies in Jesus Christ alone.** Jn 8:34, 31-32,36 Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. **If you continue in My Word then are you My disciples indeed; and you shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free. If the Son therefore shall make you free, you shall be free indeed.**"

Gal 5:1 "**Standfast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ has made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.**" V-13-15 **For brethren, you have been called unto liberty, only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another.** For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; **You shall love your neighbor as yourself.** But if you bite & devour one another, take heed that you be not consumed one of another.

What about Voodoo in Haiti?

Notes from "*Understanding Haitian Voodoo*" by Mr. Emmanuel Felix Jr.: Lawyer, Judge, Professor:

Voodoo has established itself in all of the Haitian territory & the entire country has been dedicated to loa.

Voodoo Beliefs

- a. Belief in one supreme being that created all things & belief in lesser deities, spirits & powers to watch over & control the universe. Isa 44:6; 1Pet 1:5
- b. Faith that ancestors watch over & protect their descendants; living communicate with dead Heb 9:27
- c. Faith in the effectiveness of sacrifice & in power of good & evil magic 1Cor 10:21; Deut 18:10-11
Voodoo is used to conquer, dominate & oppress. Voodoo is a satanic cult with sacrifices, priests, crude dances of diabolical spirits, drunken orgies & secret acts.
- d. Faith in the fullness of life on earth. They do not believe in eternal life by faith in Jesus Christ. They worship creation rather than the Creator. Tit 3:3-6; Mat 25:41; 28:18-20; Ps 28:7.

In *Haiti Observateur*, Sept 2004, quoting André Breton 1945, admirer of Haiti, "It seems obvious that the fate of this country can not be separated from its beliefs & secular ideals, since they are still alive."

Causes of Voodoo

Its African heritage was what first gave it the strength to cope, then to cast off the shackles of slavery. It was the soul of the resistance (in a country not right with the one true living God).

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| a. The colonial heritage | b. Haitian nationalism |
| c. Lack of knowledge in search for answers | d. Innate need for worship |
| e. Natural sin, pride & rebellion against God | f. Poverty & suffering |
| g. Trust in forces of evil, witchcraft | h. Fear of evil spirits |

Why Voodoo will survive unless there is a National Awakening:

- a. It survived 300 years of persecution by French colonialism.
- b. It is deeply rooted in uneducated masses & Haiti's corrupt elite.
- c. It is said to bring consolation to the afflicted but its promises are deceptive.
- d. It allows for greed or search for easy success.
- e. It facilitates resentment or hatred & envy (spirit of revenge).
- f. It is very flexible & can adapt to most difficult situations.
- g. Its allies are strong & it advances blindly even in evangelical churches.
- h. Apostasy of end times is seen in churches that become more worldly & pagan.

- i. Voodoo followers say, “our freedom & independence come from the African loa & we should be grateful for them & depend on the spiritually.” Yes, emancipation came & was led by voodoo priests & the whole country remains under spiritual influence of the African gods & spirits.

1Pet 1:18-22 “Forasmuch as you know that you were not redeemed with corruptible things as silver & gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers: **But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without spot: who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world but was revealed in these last times for you. Who by Him do believe in God, that raised Him up from the dead, and gave Him glory that your faith and hope might be in God.** Seeing you purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, love one another with a pure heart fervently” Will you risk eternal life by relying on a system that contradicts the Bible or turn & trust God’s way?

Consequences of Voodoo Worship in Haiti

- a. 200 years of underdevelopment & lack of vision for the future hold Haiti back.
- b. Bad national & international reputation; corruption at every level of national life
- c. Fulfillment of curses in Deut 28:15-68 for not loving & obeying the one true living God, our Creator: sickness, disregard of values, misery, alleged natural death, or natural disasters.

Solution: Bring Haitians to Christ

1. Repent and Convert

Acts 3:19 “Repent you therefore & be converted that your sins may be blotted out..”

1Pet 3:18 “For Christ also has once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit.”

1Thes 1:9-10 “..how you turned to God from idols to serve the living & true God And to wait for His Son from heaven, whom He raised from the dead even Jesus who delivered us from the wrath to come.”

2. They come to Understand What God wants to do for them:

- a. He wants to forgive them of their sin.
- b. He will deliver them from the bondage of Satan.

Col 1:12-14 “Giving thanks unto the Father, which has qualified us to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in the light: Who has delivered us from the power of darkness, and has translated us into the kingdom of His dear son. In whom we have redemption through His blood even the forgiveness of sins:”

- c. The Lord will cast out their fear & replace it with His love & hope through the Holy Spirit.

Rom 8:14-17 “For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. For you have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear: you have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba Father. The Spirit itself bears witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: if children, heirs; heirs of God, & joint heirs with Christ: if so be that we suffer with Him, we be also glorified together.”

1. Have confidence in your Faith in God and His Son the Lord Jesus Christ

2Cor 5:17 “For He has made Him to be sin for us Who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.”

2Pet 3:18 Grow in grace & in knowledge of our Lord & Savior Jesus Christ To Him be glory now & forever

Mk 9:15 Jesus said to the man delivered from demons, “Go home to your friends & tell them how great things the Lord has done for you & has compassion on you.”

2. Prayer & Fasting

3. Undertake Social Reform.

4. Remember who the enemy is & have compassion for voodoo believer so they come to true God.

God did not ask the Church to take the reins of the country's political power. No! He asked us to change the hearts & lives of the people through sharing the Gospel.

Mt 16:18 Jesus says "On this rock I will build My Church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it."

Acts 1:8 "You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you & you will be My witnesses."

We will overcome. The victory has been won. We have God's promises in the Bible.

Victory was on the cross, Jesus triumph over the grave, His rise in glory & descent of His Holy Spirit.

The Christian army raises the shining shield of faith that Jesus is the Son of God come in the flesh. We hold the Sword of the Spirit: the Word of God, prayers of faith, multitude of conversions & testimonies of God's blessings including enrollment in Christian schools: **"Christ in us the Hope of Glory" Col 1:27. God is the only one who is capable of saving Haiti from the abyss, to make it a model, an example to the whole world to follow.**

Haiti can be a renewed nation: a missionary people who will spread the light of the saving Gospel to the ends of the earth.

If you want to save souls from the eternal flames of hell;

If you want to wrench Haiti from the claws of the enemy, from ignorance, from misery & poverty: brothers and sisters, missionaries and natives, city and country dwellers, pastors and laymen;

First reform and change your ways: Only then will the Wind of Revival blow. Who will you serve?

22c24-VooDoo-Article-Who-will-you-Serve.wpd