

Avoid The Paralyzing Analysis Of The Scribes (Part 2)

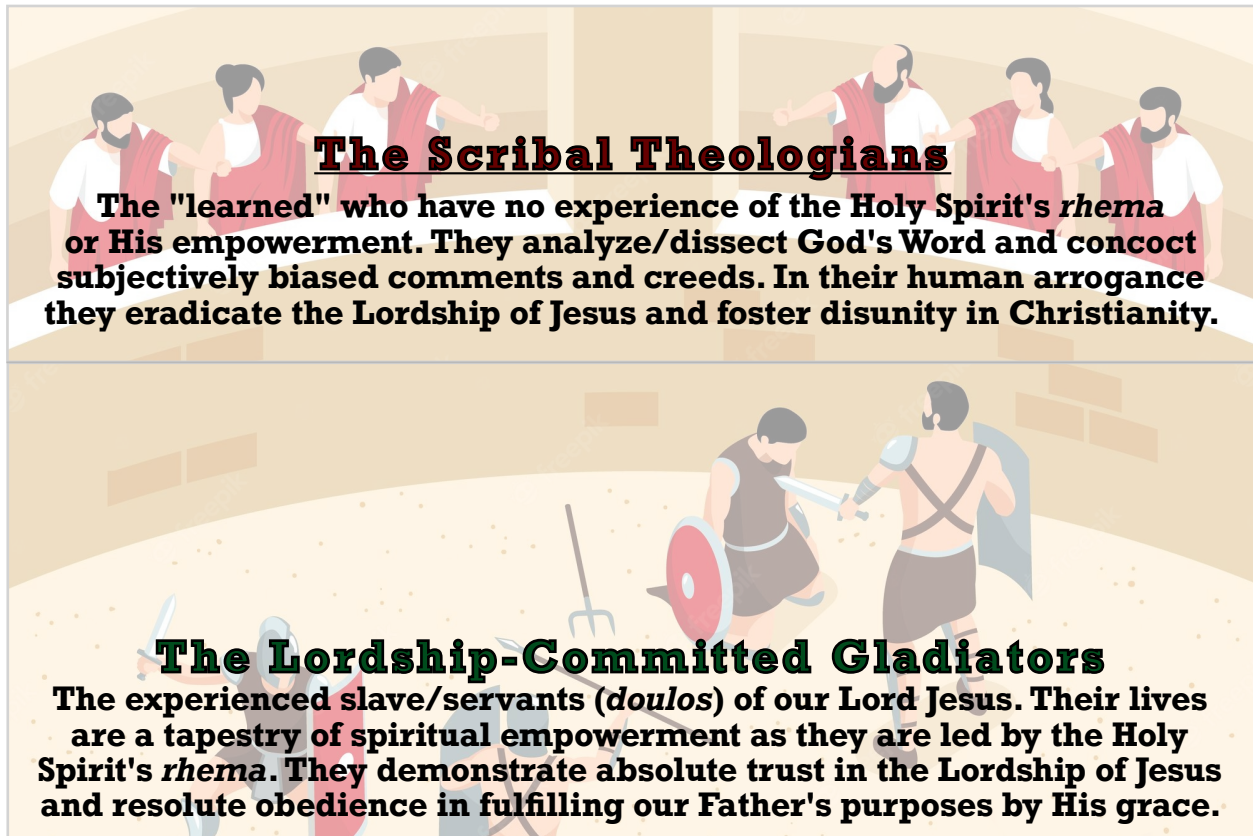
Dear Friends in Christ Jesus our Lord,

Attached is Saga 4, ***If The Holy Spirit Hadn't Been With Us, We Would Have Bellyflopped.*** In this Saga we continue to fill you in on how the Holy Spirit specifically showed us ways of living Lordship-committed during our 10+ years at a retreat center. (Remember, our anecdotes are just personal examples of the Holy Spirit's intervention in our lives. Spend some time recalling and writing down "specific footprints" He has left in your own life!) Many of the people we met during those years were recipients of different ways the Spirit used us. **But** only a few of these folks had any idea of the depth of our commitment to our Lord. We connected with followers of Jesus in a variety of ways. Most had come on a retreat. Others were people Mike interacted with as part of his counseling clergy and religious leaders. Some were individuals and families involved in Sue's ministry to international students. Or they were part of our mutual ministry to singles and then later, to college students.

Even when we did discuss our Lordship-committed way of life with people, it was foreign to most. In their own faith communities, few if any of their religious leaders even brought up the *rhema* and empowerment of our Lord's Spirit. We were disheartened to see so many well-meaning individuals imprisoned in **centuries of scribal theology**. We wrote previously that a religious leader in a major denomination told us,

"We can't have our people trusting Jesus as you call for. If we let them trust Jesus, we'll have mayhem. We need to control and direct our people."

The retired superintendent of this same denomination was a friend. He confessed to Mike,



"In what others would see as 35 years of a successful career, I found in retirement that I had never known Jesus Christ." He recognized this because he didn't even know how to talk with Jesus. The saddest comment he made was, "You don't get to the top of my denomination by knowing and following Jesus. You get there by directing and controlling people."

During our years of ministry we've heard so many other sad confessions. It hurts our hearts even as we recall not only people who were ensnared in scribal theology but also those who kept scribal theology going even when they themselves doubted. On the other hand, we were blessed to have known pastors who were defrocked from their denominations because they not only refused to believe the creedal/denominational lies they were taught, but also led their flocks out of being religiously-mired. Maybe you are among the ones led out of the mire by gladiators who trained you to be a Lordship-committed gladiator too.

Don't Insult Our God By Minimizing Who He Really Is

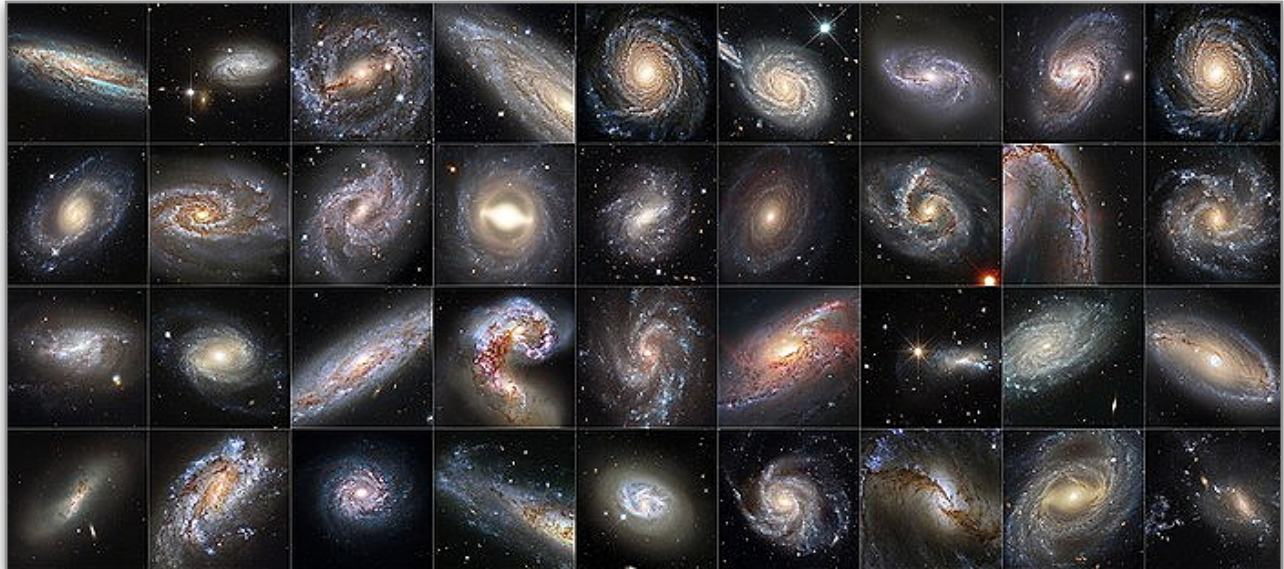
For many centuries scribal theology has minimized the view which many Christians have of God. Part of the reason for understating the astonishing nature of God and the absolute honor and obedience due Him is the Nicolaitan spirit which exalts the self-importance of clergy. In diminishing God's awesomeness and His power, scribal theologians have deceived Christians that nothing more is demanded of them than to just **believe that God exists.** As the religious leader we cited earlier exclaimed, "**We can't have our people trusting Jesus.**" But **absolute trust in Jesus as Lord** is what the Bible commands. "Jumping off the cliff" trust, *emunah*, is stipulated because our God knows Who He is and what He is capable of!

"[Jesus] is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him" (Colossians 1:15,16).

Consider this: God is far greater than the self-serving minds of scribal theologians and the minimized "god" they concocted in their own image. Because of the huge advancement in telescopes, it was estimated in 2020 that there are around 2 trillion galaxies in the observable Universe. And our indescribably amazing God created each and every one of them!

Spiritual reality existed before the physical world was created, and the spiritual will exist after the physical world is consumed in fire (2Peter 3:7-14). What a wonder when you realize, if you are *genuinely* born again, that your sometimes undependable physical body is actually indwelled by the invisible presence of God, the Holy Spirit. That's the eternal reality that's being described by our Lord Jesus for the born again:

"...Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God. Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the



kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit" (John 3:3,5,6).

When you're *genuinely* born again, the spiritual in the Person of the Holy *Spirit* begins His rule of your mind, will and emotions (your soul). Before you were born again you listened only to your brain telling you what to do. Now with the Holy Spirit's presence in you, His voice and empowerment are what you must learn to discern and live by: "Since we live by the Spirit, let us keep in step with the Spirit" (Galatians 5:25). Even though the Holy Spirit is mentioned often throughout the Bible, too many Nicolaitan clergy refuse to instruct their congregations to listen to the voice of the Spirit and follow through with resolute trust in what He reveals. If you're *genuinely* born again you need to free yourself from living religiously-mired.

The divine support you'll need to truly live free in Christ is already within you *if* you will quit relying on the rationale of your brain and instead listen to the guidance of our Lord's Spirit first. Will your mind, will and emotions resist the Holy Spirit's rule of you? You betcha! "For the old nature wants what is contrary to the Spirit, and the Spirit wants what is contrary to the old nature. These oppose each other, so that you may find yourselves unable to carry out your good intentions" (Galatians 5:17). Seize this biblical connection: The Spirit of our Lord provides you the grace to obey our Father's will, but it's you who must resist your old nature and submit your will in obedience to Him.

“For out of the overflow of the heart the mouth speaks” (Matthew 12:34).

Here's a personal testimony of having a minimized view of our spectacular God. In Saga 2 we mentioned our friend Karl whom we had asked to give us a spiritual review at the retreat center. We knew Karl before we followed our Lord Jesus, and his excitement about loving and obeying our Lord Jesus had annoyed Mike so much that he scoffed, "Karl doesn't stir his coffee without talking about Jesus." But one day after we became followers of our Lord Jesus, Mike was sitting with Karl and burst into tears.

He confessed that he wished he had Karl's devotion to Jesus. As the words came out of his mouth Mike was changed with a fervor for Jesus that has only grown!

We share this for a very good reason. Recently a Christian woman criticized us for our devotion to Jesus. It saddened us, not because of her criticism, but because we knew her marriage has been under a cloud of bitterness for many years and her husband wants nothing to do with Jesus. She was letting us know she didn't want to hear from us since she felt her husband was hopeless. **FYI:** She is symptomatic of the minimized view of God which we've seen among many of the religiously-mired:

1. The deceived whose view of our Lord is that their problem is too big for Him to solve.
2. The deceived who are convinced that their sins are so awful that our Lord would never forgive them.

What most often comes out of your mouth says a lot about you.

Whatever comes out of your mouth first or you talk about most will often indicate where your values and priorities lie. It's human nature that the things that matter most to you are what you talk about. So, do you speak most often about the transitory things of this world which will ultimately be meaningless? Or, do you build up your loved ones with testimonies of divine encounters— opportunities in which you were the loving agent of Jesus in someone's life? Do you engage people in conversations in which they experience His Spirit in you as you minister to them? Remember, whatever comes out of your mouth first or most often is what you value most. What does your mouth reveal?

Our Lord tells us just how precious He as the King of the Kingdom needs to be in the hearts of those for whom He really is cherished beyond measure: "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field. Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it" (Matthew 13:44-46). The value of our Lord Jesus is of incomprehensible worth. And think of this: when the Holy Spirit indwells you, your life becomes a personal interaction with the Divine and Awesome. When you begin to hear the voice and/or promptings of the Holy Spirit within you, your entire life is transformed. Being *genuinely* born again will no longer be a point of time in your past, but a way of life leading to eternity.

Mike & Sue

The following two resources will help you see more clearly just how BIG our God is and what that means in you living with a Big God understanding:

- Please read our 11/7/2019, Prophetic Insight: ***The Cost Of Having A BIG GOD***
- For more insight into the unseen world around us, see our video series: ***Certain Of What We Do Not See***