

## **CAUSES FOR SPIRITUAL BLINDNESS**

### **II Cor. 4:4**

#### **INTRODUCTION:**

1. It is tragic for one to be born blind or for one to lose his or her eyesight.
  - (1) Jesus healed blind Bartimaeus -- Mark 10: 46 - 52
2. One without eyesight cannot see the wonders of nature, or the features of loved ones, or the pitfalls and dangers along life's way.
3. Yet, there is a blindness that is worse than physical blindness -- that is spiritual blindness.
4. Satan, the god of this world, blinds the minds of unbelievers.
5. Satan does this by his false teachers, men's lusts, prejudices, men's love for darkness, false doctrine -- Satan uses all of this to blind the minds of men.
6. Let us study the causes that the god of this world uses to blind the minds of men.

#### **I. SOME ARE BLIND TO THE GOSPEL BY PREJUDICE**

1. Prejudice is a judgment formed before the facts are known; an opinion held in disregard of facts; unreasonable bias.
2. This spiritual disease can keep one from seeing plain, simple statements in the word of God.
  - (1) Mk. 16:16; James 2:24; Matt. 16:18
3. It keeps one from honestly and open-mindedly seeking the truth -- John 7:17
4. It causes one to remove scripture from its proper context to hold up one's doctrine -- James 1:27; Rev. 20:4
5. Jesus dealt with the prejudice of the Jews--Matt. 13: 14 - 15
6. Prejudice keeps people today from seeing:
  - (1) Essentiality of Baptism -- Mk. 16: 15 - 16; Acts 2:38; I Pet. 3:21
  - (2) That there is but ONE church -- Matt. 16:18; Eph. 4:4
  - (3) That human organizations supported by the church are wrong.
  - (4) That there is one reason for divorce and remarriage -- Matt. 19:9
  - (5) That the work of the church is not social -- I Cor. 11:22

#### **II. SOME ARE BLINDED BY PRIDE AND HIGH POSITION**

1. Chief rulers would not confess Christ lest they should be put out of the synagogue -- "*They loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.*" John 12: 42 - 43

2. King Agrippa believed but did not obey -- Acts 26: 25 - 30
3. Paul said, "*Not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble are called*"--I Cor. 1:26
4. Many today are blinded by pride and position:
  - (1) Many won't leave denominationalism.
  - (2) Many won't leave institutionalism.
  - (3) Many won't stand up for the truth on Romans 14.

### III. MANY ARE BLINDED BY TRADITION

1. The scribes and Pharisees were -- Matt. 15: 1 - 2
2. Some say, "We have always done it this way"
3. But, "tradition" may only go back a few years.
4. No religious practice can be right unless it is authorized by the word of God -- Matt. 15: 3 - 9
5. Paul gave up the traditions of his fathers when he learned the truth -- Gal. 1: 14 - 15

### IV. SOME ARE BLINDED BY LOYALTY TO A PARTY

1. Many say "All of my family are Methodist and I will always be a Methodist -- don't try to change me."
2. Paul had an illustrious heritage, but he gave it all up for the Truth -- Phil. 3: 4 - 8
3. Many today have done the same.

### V. SOME ARE BLINDED BY ADMIRATION FOR A MAN

1. Paul warned about thinking of men above that which is written -- I Cor. 4:6
2. A preacher becomes well known and trusted for his soundness in the faith.
3. Many are charmed by him.
4. With the passing of time, he becomes involved with false and divisive doctrines.
5. Because of his popularity, people under his influence follow him in his apostasy.
6. Some who knew him in the days of his loyalty to the truth have this attitude --"He is a good man. How could he ever do harm to the cause of Christ?"
  - (1) He does harm by not abiding in the doctrine of Christ -- II John 9 -11

### CONCLUSION

1. May we ever be on guard for the causes of spiritual blindness.

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