

Winning the Hard Ones

**How to Protect yourself from the
leaven of the Pharisees and
Sadducees**

“Never be afraid to try something new. Remember, amateurs built the ark; professionals built the Titanic.”

UNKNOWN

“Preach earnestly the love of God in Christ Jesus, and magnify the abounding mercy of the Lord; but always preach it in connection with His justice.”

CHARLES SPURGEON

“It comes down to a question of truth. Every false religious expression is a religion of darkness. That doesn’t mean there are no good things in that faith. It’s not an effort to fail to notice the value of these things. But if Jesus is to be taken seriously when he says, ‘No one comes to the Father but through me,’ every other proposal is one of darkness.”

PAIGE PATTERSON

In Review of the Doctrines:

The doctrine of the **Pharisees** may be summed up in 3 words... **they were formalist, tradition-worshippers, and self-righteous.**

The doctrine of the **Sadducees** can be summed up in 3 words as well: **Free-thinking, skepticism, and rationalism.**

How can we protect ourselves from the teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees?

First, we all need more and more of the Holy Spirit presence in our lives, to protect our hearts, to guide, to teach, and to keep us sound in our faith.

We all need to watch more, and to pray to be held up, and preserved from falling away.

Jude 1:24, 25 Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling and to present you blameless before the presence of His glory with great joy, to the only God, our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion, and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.

Eph 1:13, 14 In Him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in Him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

The First step in protecting ourselves from the leaven of the Pharisees and Sadducees

If we are to keep sound in faith, then we must take heed of our doctrine:

1. about the total corruption of the human nature.

Wrong views of the disease will always bring with them the wrong views of the remedy.

Wrong views of the corruption of human nature will always carry with them wrong views of the grand antidote and cure of that corruption.

Man is constituted a sinner by his relationship with Adam

Psa 51:5 Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me.

Psa 58:3 The wicked are estranged from the womb; they go astray from birth, speaking lies.

Rom 5:18, 19 Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men. For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.

He is therefore unable

A) To do anything good

Gen 6:5 The LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

Job 15:14-16 What is man, that he can be pure? Or he who is born of a woman, that he can be righteous? Behold, God puts no trust in his holy ones, and the heavens are not pure in his sight; how much less one who is abominable and corrupt, a man who drinks injustice like water!

Psa 130:3 If you, O LORD, should mark iniquities, O Lord, who could stand?

Psa 143:2 Enter not into judgment with your servant, for no one living is righteous before you.

Pro 20:9 Who can say, "I have made my heart pure; I am clean from my sin"?

Ecc 7:20 Surely there is not a righteous man on earth who does good and never sins.

Isa 64:6 We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away.

Jer 13:23 Can the Ethiopian change his skin or the leopard its spots? Then may you also do good who are accustomed to do evil.

Joh 3:19 And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

Rom 3:9-12 What then? are we better than they? No, in no wise: for we have before proved both Jews and Gentiles, that they are all under sin; As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.

Jam 3:8 But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.

1Jo 1:8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

B) To believe in God (or come to him)

Joh 6:44 No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day.

Joh 6:65 And he said, Therefore said I unto you, that no man can come unto me, except it were given unto him of my Father.

Joh 8:43-45 Why do ye not understand my speech? even because ye cannot hear my word. Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it. And because I tell you the truth, ye believe me not.

Joh 10:26 But ye believe not, because ye are not of my sheep, as I said unto you.

Joh 12:37-41 But though he had done so many miracles before them, yet they believed not on him: That the saying of Esaias the prophet might be fulfilled, which he spake, Lord, who hath believed our report? and to whom hath the arm of the Lord been revealed? Therefore they could not believe, because that Esaias said again, He hath blinded their eyes, and hardened their heart; that they should not see with their eyes, nor understand with their heart, and be converted, and I should heal them. These things said Esaias, when he saw his glory, and spake of him.

C) To understand the truth

Joh 14:17 "the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.

1Co 2:14 But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

D) To seek God

Rom 3:10-11 As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God.

He is dead in sins

Gen 2:16-17 And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

Joh 3:5-7 Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again.

Eph 2:1-3 And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins; Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.

Col 2:13 And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses;

He is blinded and corrupt in his heart

Gen 6:5 And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

Gen 8:21 And the LORD smelled a sweet savour; and the LORD said in his heart, I will not again curse the ground any more for man's sake; for the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth; neither will I again smite any more every thing living, as I have done.

Ecc 9:3 This is an evil among all things that are done under the sun, that there is one event unto all: yea, also the heart of the sons of men is full of evil, and madness is in their heart while they live, and after that they go to the dead.

Jer 17:9 The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?

Mar 7:21-23 For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: All these evil things come from within, and defile the man.

Joh 3:19-21 And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reprov'd. But he that doeth truth cometh to the light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in [by] God.

Rom 8:7-8 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.

Eph 4:17-19 This I say therefore, and testify in the Lord, that ye henceforth walk not as other Gentiles walk, in the vanity of their mind, Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart: Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.

Eph 5:8 For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light:

He is captive to sin and Satan

Joh 8:34 Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin.

Joh 8:44 Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.

Rom 6:20 For when ye were the servants of sin, ye were free from righteousness.

2Ti 2:25-26 In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will.

Tit 3:3 For we ourselves also were sometimes foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving divers lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful, and hating one another.

1Jo 5:19 And we know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness.

**He performs actions freely according to his nature,
but his nature is wholly evil**

Job 14:4 Who can bring a clean thing out of an
unclean? not one.

Mat 7:16-18 Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do
men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? Even
so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a
corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. A good tree
cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree
bring forth good fruit.

Mat 12:33 Either make the tree good, and his fruit
good; or else make the tree corrupt, and his fruit
corrupt: for the tree is known by his fruit.

Mar 7:21-23 "For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lewdness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness. "All these evil things come from within and defile a man."

Jam 1:13-14 Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.

If we are to keep sound in faith, then we must take heed of our doctrine: about the inspiration and authority of the Holy Scriptures.

Let us boldly maintain, in the face of gainsayers, that the whole of the Bible is given by inspiration of the Holy Spirit, - and that all is inspired completely, not one part more than another, - and that there is an entire gulf between the Word of God and any other book in the world.

2 Timothy 3:16, 17 All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work.

Rev 1:3 Blessed is the one who reads aloud the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear, and who keep what is written in it, for the time is near.

Rev 22:18 - 20 I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues described in this book, and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his share in the tree of life and in the holy city, which are described in this book. He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!

We must boldly maintain that this Word of God is the only rule of faith and practice, that whatsoever is not written in it cannot be required of any man as needful of Salvation, and that however plausibly new doctrines may be defended, if they be not in the Word of God they cannot be worth our attention.

Act 17:11 Now these Jews were more noble than those in Thessalonica; they received the word with all eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see if these things were so.

If we are to keep sound in faith, then we must take heed of our doctrine: respecting the atonement and priestly office of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We must boldly maintain that the death of our Lord upon the cross was no common death. It was not just the death of a martyr, to give us an example of self-sacrifice and self-denial. The death of Christ was an offering unto God of Christ's own body and blood, to make satisfaction for man's sin and transgression. It was a sacrifice and propitiation; a sacrifice typified in every offering of the Mosaic law, a sacrifice of the mightiest influence upon all mankind.

Heb 2:17 Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.

Heb 3:1, 2 Therefore, holy brothers, you who share in a heavenly calling, consider Jesus, the apostle and high priest of our confession, who was faithful to him who appointed him, just as Moses also was faithful in all God's house.

Heb 4:12 For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account. Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

Heb 5:5, 6 So also Christ did not exalt himself to be made a high priest, but was appointed by him who said to him, "You are my Son, today I have begotten you"; as he says also in another place, "You are a priest forever, after the order of Melchizedek."

Heb 5:9,10 And being made perfect, he became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him, being designated by God a high priest after the order of Melchizedek.

Heb 8:1,2 Now the point in what we are saying is this: we have such a high priest, one who is seated at the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in heaven, a minister in the holy places, in the true tent that the Lord set up, not man.

1 John 2:1, 6 My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. He is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world. And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments. Whoever says "I know him" but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected. By this we may know that we are in him: whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.

Furthermore, we must boldly maintain that the crucified Savior sits at the right hand of God, to make intercession for all that come to God by Him; that He there represents and pleads for them that put their trust in Him;

He has deputed His office to no man, or set of men upon the face of the earth. We need No Virgin Mary, No Angel, No saint, No person ordained or unordained, to stand between us and God, but one Mediator, Christ Jesus.

John Owen declared, long ago, that if there was any one point more than another that Satan wishes to overthrow, it is the Priestly office of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Satan knew well, he said, that it was the principle foundation of faith and consolation of the Church.

Right views upon that office are of essential importance in the present day, if men would not fall into error.

If we are to keep sound in faith, then we must take heed of our doctrine: Work of God the Holy Spirit

Some have wondered about the Holy Spirit's role in the salvation of sinners. The answer is clear from Scripture. We are drawn by, convicted by, born of, and kept by the Holy Spirit. Why then do we need to use the Law when witnessing? Why don't we just leave the salvation of sinners up to the Holy Spirit? Simply because, just as God has condescended to use the foolishness of preaching to save those who believe, so He has chosen the Moral Law to bring the knowledge of sin. And He has given us the privilege of being involved in the process.

Jesus Himself tells us how the Holy Spirit works in the salvation of the lost. He said that when the Holy Spirit comes, “he will reprove the world of sin [which is *transgression* of the Law—1 John 3:4], and of righteousness [which is *of* the Law—Romans 8:4], and of judgment [which is *by* the Law—Romans 2:12]. So when we use the Law to bring the knowledge of sin to the lost, we simply become instruments the Holy Spirit uses to lead sinners to the Savior.

Billy Graham stated, “The Holy Spirit convicts us...He shows us the Ten Commandments; the Law is the schoolmaster that leads us to Christ. We look in the mirror of the Ten Commandments, and we see ourselves in that mirror.”

The Holy Spirit is a Person: 35 Personal Attributes

- 1) *Helps*: John 14:16, 26; Romans 8:26
- 2) *Glorifies*: John 16:13, 14
- 3) *Can be known*: John 14:17
- 4) *Gives abilities*: Acts 2:4; 1 Corinthians 12:7–11
- 5) *Referred to as “He”*: John 15:26; 16:7, 8, 13
- 6) *Loves*: Romans 15:30
- 7) *Guides*: John 16:13
- 8) *Comforts*: John 14:26; Acts 9:31
- 9) *Teaches*: Luke 12:12; John 14:26
- 10) *Reminds*: John 14:26
- 11) *Bears witness*: John 15:26; Acts 5:32; Romans 8:16
- 12) *Hears*: John 16:13

- 13) *Leads*: Matthew 4:1; Acts 8:29; Romans 8:14
- 14) *Pleads*: Romans 8:26, 27
- 15) *Longs (yearns)*: James 4:5
- 16) *Wills*: 1 Corinthians 12:11
- 17) *Thinks*: Acts 15:28
- 18) *Sends*: Mark 1:12; Acts 10:20; 13:4
- 19) *Speaks*: John 16:13; Acts 10:19
- 20) *Forbids*: Acts 16:6, 7
- 21) *Appoints*: Acts 20:28
- 22) *Reveals*: Luke 2:26; 1 Corinthians 2:10
- 23) *Calls to ministry*: Acts 13:2
- 24) *Can be grieved*: Isaiah 63:10; Ephesians 4:30
- 25) *Can be insulted*: Hebrews 10:29

- 26) *Can be lied to:* Acts 5:3, 4
- 27) *Can be blasphemed:* Matthew 12:31, 32
- 28) *Strives:* Genesis 6:3
- 29) *Is knowledgeable:* Isaiah 40:13; Acts 10:19; 1 Corinthians 2:10–13
- 30) *Judges:* John 16:8
- 31) *Prophecies:* Acts 21:11; 28:25; 1 Timothy 4:1
- 32) *Has fellowship:* 2 Corinthians 13:14
- 33) *Gives grace:* Hebrews 10:29
- 34) *Offers life:* 2 Corinthians 3:6; Revelation 22:17
- 35) *Is the Creator:* Job 33:4

The Holy Spirit is God: Direct Biblical Evidence

- 1) Job 33:4: “The Spirit of God has made me, and the breath of the Almighty has given me life.” [only God is the Creator]
- 2) Matthew 12:31: “All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven to men: but the *blasphemy* against the Holy Spirit shall not be forgiven to men.” [only God can be blasphemed]
- 3) John 4:24: “God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.”

4) Acts 5:3, 4, 9: “But Peter said, Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to *lie to the Holy Spirit*, and to keep back part of the price of the land? While it remained, was it not your own? and after it was sold, was it not in your own power? why have you conceived this thing in your heart? *You have not lied to men, but to God.*” [the Holy Spirit is unquestionably called God]

5) Acts 13:2: “As they ministered to the Lord, and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, Separate me Barnabas and Saul for the work whereunto I have called them.” [only God calls]

Gal 5:18 - 23 But if you are led by the Spirit, you are not under the law. Now the works of the flesh are evident: sexual immorality, impurity, sensuality, idolatry, sorcery, enmity, strife, jealousy, fits of anger, rivalries, dissensions, divisions, envy, drunkenness, orgies, and things like these. I warn you, as I warned you before, that those who do such things will not inherit the kingdom of God. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.