

did occur. If you will recall however, we saw in the “History” section of Part Two of this series that “historical facts are becoming meaningless” in the wake of Post Modernism — *even* those historical events recorded in the Bible. Eye witness accounts are now viewed as nothing more than a “construction” of *biased* opinions — and who would be *more* biased than Jesus’ disciples? So this recording of that event is rendered completely meaningless by Post Modernists. They would *not* consider it to be a *reliable source* for Truth.

Christianity is under attack. Post Modernism is an *especially* serious threat *because* it is so easily influencing those who call themselves “Christians.” Courageous, steadfast Christians *must stay alert* to dangerous philosophies gaining traction in our society and in the Church. They can do this through *committing* themselves to study of the Word. Biblically *illiterate* Christians will fail to even *recognize* Post Modernism as an enemy so they therefore *unknowingly assist* in advancing its spread. Movements like the “Emerging Church” and the “Christian vs. Christ Follower/No Longer Christians” movements are *rapidly* gaining in popularity because of Post Modern relativism coupled with Bible illiteracy. If Christians continue down the Post Modern path, the damage they will do to the New Testament Church will be far greater than the damage done by the increasing number of voices that are now speaking out against *all religion* in general — and there are more and more of those voices. High profile members of the media and academia are condemning the Bible and religion as a whole louder than ever before. Why? Since *all* religions are now considered by many to be of equal validity, it is consistent with that reasoning that they view beliefs like radical Islam and Bible believing fundamental Christianity as *similar radical sects* of more mainstream religions. While that couldn’t be further from the truth, *many* see no difference between those two beliefs since *both* teach there is only *one path* to God. (We will be discussing this in more depth in the November 1st issue of *Diligence*). So when Christians quote Jesus as being “...*the way, the truth, and the light*...” (the *only* path to God), it is perceived to be a radical statement that is hate filled and intolerant. In this Post Modern Age, that statement, by its very nature is considered to be “judgmental” and those who believe such a thing are considered to be radical extremists.

For Christians to spread the Gospel today, it is absolutely necessary to have an understanding of the field in which we are planting the seed (Mark 4:3-20) — and much of that field today is filled with those who hold a Post Modern mindset. It is our hope that this series has been useful to those who have found themselves confounded in recent years in their efforts to discern the complex problems they are facing in their homes, in schools, in the Church and in society.

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DILIGENCE

“We want each of you to show this same diligence to the very end, in order to make your hope sure.” — Hebrews 6:11

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Post Modernism — A Slippery Slope — Part Eight

In the previous issues of *Diligence*, we have examined how the foundation of Truth is being eroded, challenged, questioned and dismissed in this Post Modern Age. Truth is no longer objective and absolute *because* it is what *God* has decreed. Truth is now subjective and relative. The Post Modern mindset is convinced that one can never objectively know that *any* foundation is correct since all foundations have been “constructed” in the minds of those who have been influenced by their own times, culture and biases. Since there *is* no absolute truth concerning *anything*, there are no *moral* absolutes — only moral relativism — no standards can be set other than those set by *each* individual’s *own* construction based on his or her own biases.

With this philosophy taking root in America today, is it any wonder that the view of religion, faith, Christianity, the Bible and the Church is far different than it has ever been before? While it has become quite fashionable nowadays to speak of God and of “spirituality,” the god now spoken of has become a spiritual smorgasbord of choices. Everyone assembles his or her own religion and/or beliefs in much the same way he or she would put together a sandwich from the items on a buffet table. Since spiritual relativism is the norm, spiritual lines are blurred. Individuals can claim any belief they wish to claim without having to show any evidence of it in their lives. Contradictions abound in every aspect of life. It’s not at all unusual to hear a rap artist who has just performed a song that promotes violence, sexual promiscuity, incest, rape, etc. step to a microphone to accept an award and say; “First, I want to thank God for giving me this talent” or hold up the award and shout: “Thank you Jesus.” The new god is not the God of the Bible. The new god is a god that is pieced together from an assortment of world religions and personal beliefs that are “constructed” by each individual. That’s why we shouldn’t be surprised when we hear people like Madonna proclaim that “...all paths lead to God.” Unfortunately, many so called Christians are now agreeing with her kind of religion.

“After that whole generation had been gathered to their fathers, another generation grew up, who knew neither the Lord nor what He had done for Israel. Then the Israelites did evil in the eyes of the Lord and served the Baals. They forsook the Lord, the God of their fathers, who had brought them out of Egypt. They followed and worshiped various gods of the peoples around them. They provoked the Lord to anger.” (Judges 2:10-12 NIV)

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In a previous issue of *Diligence* we discussed how Bible illiteracy has removed the barrier that would hold back Post Modernism in the Lord's Church. Many Christians today have an extremely limited knowledge of the Bible and of the God of the Bible. That lack of knowledge coupled with society's steady diet of Post Modern relativism, has allowed these Christians to have a "diverse" view of morals, the Word, the Church, etc. When there *is no reference point* for Truth in our society, anything goes — gay, living together, pre-marital sex, pornography, rock bands for worship assemblies, unity through diversity movements, etc. — it's *all* just a matter of *preference*. The accompanying attitude??? — how dare anyone say it's wrong!! That's judgmental!!

According to a recent poll, nearly 90% of Americans claim to believe in God while 40% claim to be "born again" children of God. Yet far too few of *either* of those groups live lives that are any *different* from the percentages that remain. In his book *Culturally Incorrect*, Rod Parsley states: "It's not the atheist shaking his fist toward the heavens that is a threat to Christianity; but far more dangerous is the so-called Christian, who despite his outward appearance, is a verifiable stranger to the character of the Christ he claims to serve." (pg. 4)

In the book of Jude, we are told that we "...*should contend earnestly for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.*" (1:3) If 90% of all Americans *claim* that they believe in God, why do we not hear a deafening outcry from that 90% when wrong is upheld as right — when the institution of marriage is being turned into nothing more than a meaningless outdated ritual — when efforts to speak out for what is right are denounced as *intolerant* or *judgmental*? Why??? Three reasons. **First** — many of that 90% are already consumed by Post Modernism and do not believe the Bible *is* the Absolute Truth and the very Word of God (they're assembling their *own* religion from a spiritual smorgasbord and see nothing wrong with moral relativism). **Second** — too many of that 90% are Biblically illiterate. They have no idea what the Word of God has to say about the moral issues of our day or even the practice of their own faith. **Third** — those who *DO* know the Word and *DO* believe it is indeed Absolute Truth are unwilling (or afraid) to contend for the faith. Satan has convinced them that it is "not loving" to do *anything* other than just tell others that we love them. *Somehow* — Christians seem to think that Satan will just *go away* if we only show our sweet and loving side to everyone all of the time and never take a *stand* for God and His Word. Brethren, think again! It's *not* going to happen that way. Satan is winning souls away from God at an alarming rate. God expects us to show our love for Him and lost souls by "suiting up" in the armor listed in Ephesians 6 and "going to war" against the evil of these days. (For a study of the Bible teachings on this, please visit www.gorfsystems.com/diligence. See Volume 1, Issues 6-10 — *A Study of Love* and Volume 2, Issue 22 and Volume 3 Issues 1-4 — *The Devil, His Tricks And ...*)

Abraham Lincoln once said; "No one has the right to choose to do what is wrong." We have learned through this series however, that there *is nothing* that is wrong
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in a Post Modern society. Individuals can do *whatever* they *choose* to do and it's intolerant and judgmental to point out to them that *anything* they are doing is *wrong*. This is one reason we're seeing so much division within the Lord's Church. The Post Modern influence means that — even if an individual is behaving in a manner not in accordance with the Word of God or attempting to introduce unscriptural practices or beliefs into the Church or any other transgression that would have in the past been worthy of discipline or at least discussion — it is now considered *disrespectful*, *intolerant* and *unloving* to correct that individual. It's quickly condemned as "judgmental." The fact is however, *agape* love *requires constructive* judgment and discipline. (See the earlier issues of *Diligence* previously mentioned).

While we have not quoted very many Scriptures throughout this series, we feel quite certain that those of you who are ardent students of the Word have been reminded of *numerous* verses that have applied to many of the concepts we have discussed. We realized early on that if we had quoted *all* of the Scriptures that have been applicable at various points throughout the study, it would have become so lengthy that we might have lost the thrust of the points we were trying to make. But if we were to select one Scripture that might encompass the very *reason* we embarked on this series in the first place, it would be Galatians 1:8-9.

"But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let him be eternally condemned! As we have already said, so now I say again: If anybody is preaching to you a gospel other than what you accepted, let him be eternally condemned!" (NIV)

The Gospel is being threatened today in a way it has never been threatened before. We stated at the conclusion of Part Two that *nothing* — not even Christianity is on stable ground as Post Modernism advances in our society. *One* example we could point to that would demonstrate this is John 20:29-31.

"²⁹Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen Me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed.

³⁰And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: ³¹But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through His name." (KJV)

In conjunction with Hebrews 11:1, we generally take these verses to mean that faith *without evidence* is superior to faith *with* evidence. But let's look at these verses in the context of how one who is immersed in a Post Modern mindset might view them differently. Taken in context (particularly with verse 31) we could say that this entire conversation between Thomas and Jesus is for the purpose of solidifying the resurrection of Jesus *as a historical event*. In *that* context, we would say that later generations would have faith in the reality of that event (Jesus' resurrection from the dead) *by means of* — and *because of* — the *eyewitness accounts* of that *first* generation. Therefore, *reliable* eyewitnesses to that event become an integral part of *proving* to later generations that it actually
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RESEARCH MATERIALS

As we stated several times throughout this series of articles, Post Modernism is a vast and complex subject. Even though this *Diligence* series was lengthy, we have barely scratched the surface of the topic. If you would like to do additional reading on this subject, we are including this extra page listing the books and websites that we used in our research. Please be aware however, that our research also included books that endorsed Post Modernism.

We ***highly recommend*** this particular book
The Truth War — Fighting For Certainty In An Age Of Deception
by John MacArthur (Nelson Books, 2007)

The Death of Truth
by Dennis McACallum (Bethany House Publishers, 1996)

Becoming Conversant With The Emerging Church
by D.A. Carson (Zondervan, 2005)

Adrift — Postmodernism In The Church
by Phil Sanders (Gospel Advocate, 2000)

The Cultural Church
by F. LaGard Smith (21st Century Christian, 1992)

Denying The Holocaust: The Growing Assault on Truth and Memory
by Deborah Lipstadt (Free Press, 1993)

Redeeming The Times
edited by Russell L. Dyer, Tommy F. Haynes and Jeff A. Jenkins
(Clarity Publications, 2004)

Culturally Incorrect
by Rod Parsley (Thomas Nelson, 2007)

The Emerging Church
by Dan Kimball (Zondervan, 2003)

True For You, But Not For Me
by Paul Copan (Bethany House Publishers, 1998)

Postmodern Youth Ministry
by Tony Jones (Zondervan, 2001)

Emerging Worship
by Dan Kimball, (Zondervan, 2004)

Tampering With Truth
by David W. Hester (Publishing Designs, 2007)

<http://www.barna.org?FlexPage.aspx?Page=Topic&TopicID=8>

http://www.religioustolerance.org/abs_true.htm

http://www.ci.txstate.edu/dev.ed/pln/pln_text.html#anchor131950

<http://www.prolifealliance.com/Parental%20Notification%20and%20Intervention.htm>