Daily Devotional, September 9, 2020

'The Dangers of Woke Christianity', (Romans 16:17)

"Now I urge you, brethren, note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you have learned, and avoid them." (Romans 16:17, NKJV)

There is a movement afoot in some of our evangelical churches to attempt to change, replace, or overshadow the old Christian gospel, which sets forth the promise of eternal life based on faith alone in Christ alone. This devotional is a warning of that which may detract from your focus upon God. The woke believer (in the Bible sense) says with the Psalmist, "My eyes are awake through the night watches, That I may meditate on Your word. Hear my voice according to your lovingkindness; O LORD, revive me according to your justice" (Psalm 119:148-149). It is the Word of God that awakens us in all things, not the philosophies of men. The Christian mission is none other than the preaching of the gospel and the Great Commission (Romans 10:8-17; Matthew 28:18-20). Every other purpose falls in line behind it. The new brand of woke Christianity is a social justice movement first and foremost, and is a product of the experiences of certain individuals and culture groups. Any movement based on human subjective experience is doomed to failure, insofar as it inevitably comes into conflict with God's objective truth. It will lead to liberalism, apostasy, and departure from soul winning focus. Further, it is a movement that tends to divide people and look at them according to skin color or origin. We have enough of that already. We already have what folks call "white churches, black churches, and Spanish churches." The Bible does not make such distinctions. We are all "one blood" (Acts 17:26). "For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus" (Galatians 3:27-28). Whoever you are, whatever your background, Christ died for you. There is one human race, a human race of sinners, in need of reconciliation with God. If folks got saved, became Christian disciples, and saw other folks the way that God sees them, loving others without thought to differences (Did Jesus not make that point in the Parable of the Good Samaritan?), divisions would disappear, not intensify and be maintained at the front and center, as woke Christianity seeks to do. Unity, I say, and not division, in the Body of Christ. Christian friend, don't get caught up in the new fad, Do not lose sight of the gospel. And look upon each and every individual as a person of dignity and great value in the sight of God, as one who needs Jesus, just as you and I do.