

temple, perhaps desiring to draw closer to God, but in fact, the end result was the opposite.

In the same way, much of the philosophy of the seeker-sensitive movement is deceitful. Churches are telling people to come just as they are, and stay as they are! They play the world's music, tell the world's jokes, encourage people to continue the way they want to live, and generally, tell people that there is no need for outward change in the Christian life.

The deceitfulness of this is found in the scriptural admonition from Romans 12:2, which says, "*And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.*" Furthermore, in 2 Corinthians 5:17, the apostle says, "*Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.*"

To attract a crowd to church by encouraging them to come just as they are and leave without any change is to practice a kind of Christianity foreign to the teaching of the Bible.

Second, the Apostle Paul stated that he was not unclean in his ministry. Paul was a morally pure man. Paul stated that his ministry was not in guile. The word *guile* means "to bait or to snare." It speaks of using trickery or deceit.

When the term "new evangelicalism" was coined at Fuller Seminary by Harold Ockenga, his desire was to bring the modernists (deniers of the truth) together with the fundamentalists (believers of the truth) by encouraging them to compromise doctrinally. It was a movement of guile intended to bait or snare people together for the purpose of drawing a

crowd. The seeds of this type of compromise are evident in many ecumenical gatherings today.

Essentially, the apostle is saying that the church at Thessalonica had integrity, as opposed to duplicity. It was evident that the Thessalonican believers assembled for the purpose of preaching the Gospel and giving Christ pre-eminence. In 2 Timothy 3:10, Paul said, “*But thou hast fully known my doctrine, manner of life, purpose, faith, longsuffering, charity, patience,*”

Years ago, the Lord called my dear friend, Dr. Curtis Hutson, home after a long battle with cancer. Dr. Hutson wrote me many letters in the final days of his life. One letter stated:

I don't know how much longer I have for this world. The doctor does not hold out much hope for me; however, life and death are in the hands of the Lord, not medical science.

I challenge you to take your place in the long line of independent, fundamental Baptists, who have stood for separation and soulwinning. I speak, now, especially of ecclesiastical separation. Hold that banner high until Jesus comes.

Dr. Hutson was admonishing and encouraging me to beware of deceitful gatherings that drop doctrinal distinctives for the purpose of gathering a crowd.

As Paul speaks of the motives of his ministry, we notice, also, that they were not man-centered.

*But as we were allowed of God to be put in trust with the gospel, even so we speak; not as pleasing men, but*