

View

“...Having the eyes of your heart enlightened...” Ephesians 1:18

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Four Flaws in the Four Spiritual Laws

BY MARK ROBERTS

Have you read the tract “The Four Spiritual Laws”? It was written by Dr. Bill Bright, the president of Campus Crusade for Christ. Approximately 1.5 billion copies of this tract have been printed and distributed all over the world. It was written to quickly and efficiently teach people how to be saved.

Unfortunately, “The Four Spiritual Laws” tract is badly flawed. A simple comparison between its teaching and the teaching of scripture reveals that “The Four Spiritual Laws” simply does not teach God’s plan of salvation.

Here are the Four Spiritual Laws:

Law 1: God loves you and offers a wonderful Plan for your life.

Law 2: Man is sinful and separated from God. Therefore, he cannot know and experience God’s love and plan for his life.

Law 3: Jesus Christ is God’s only provision for man’s sin. Through Him you can know and experience God’s love and plan for your life.

Law 4: We must individually receive Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord; then we can know and experience God’s love and plan for our lives.

What exactly does the tract mean “receive Jesus Christ?” How do you do that? We are not left to wonder:

1. We Must Receive Christ — Jn 1:12
2. We Receive Christ Through Faith — Eph. 2:8-9
3. When We Receive Christ, We Experience a New Birth — Jn 3:1-8
4. We Receive Christ by Personal Invitation — Rev. 3:20

The tract goes on to say “You Can Receive Christ Right Now By Faith Through Prayer” and even includes a suggested prayer to ask Jesus to be the Lord of your life and receive Him by faith alone.

What could be wrong with this? A study of the Bible shows these laws are terribly flawed.

Flaw 1: “The Four Laws” forgets that faith works.

Read **Genesis 6:13-14**. Did Noah have faith? Yes! But did his faith alone save him? Could he have been saved by merely believing God without building the ark? Of course not. Noah’s faith led him to obey God (**Gen. 6:22; 7:5, 16**).

“A SIMPLE COMPARISON BETWEEN [THE] TEACHING [OF ‘THE FOUR SPIRITUAL LAWS’] AND THE TEACHING OF SCRIPTURE REVEALS THAT “THE FOUR SPIRITUAL LAWS” SIMPLY DOES NOT TEACH GOD’S PLAN OF SALVATION.”

Romans 1:5 speaks of our “obedience to the faith.” Obedience and true faith in God always go together. You can’t have one without the other (read **James 2:14-26**).

Where is this concept in the “Four Laws” pamphlet? The “Four Laws” says nothing about obedience, only faith!

Flaw 2: The pamphlet forgets baptism.

The New Testament teaches that water baptism is very important. It...

1. Puts you into Jesus Christ - **Gal. 3:27**
2. Saves you - **1 Peter 3:21**
3. Forgives your sins - **Acts 22:16; 2:38**

Baptism is so crucial because it is linked to Jesus’ death, burial and resurrection (see **Romans 6:3-6**).

The “Four Laws” teaches you can be saved without baptism, advocating a prayer and faith alone approach. This simply is not the teaching of the scriptures.

No passage of scripture promises the non-Christian that he can pray and receive forgiveness of sin. No passage of scripture says that you can pray “into Jesus Christ.” No passage says prayer

can save you. All of these vital functions are ascribed to baptism, not prayer!

Flaw 3: The tract forgets that the N.T. specifically teaches that faith alone cannot save.

The "Four Laws" says that to be saved you need only believe in Jesus Christ. What does the Bible say? "You see then that a man is justified by works, and not by faith only" **James 2:24**

Once again we see how scripture puts faith and obedience together, while "The Four Laws" artificially and arbitrarily divorces them.

Who should we believe — a booklet written by a mere man, or the inspired word of God?

Flaw 4: The tract forgets that God's grace doesn't exclude man's obedience

Many seem to think that there are only two choices: be saved by your actions and doing, or be saved completely by God's grace.

This is why so many oppose baptism. They believe that baptism is an attempt to earn or merit salvation. This is false. The Bible never sees obedience and grace opposing each other.

Read **Hebrews 11** and notice how these men and women of faith responded to God's grace by obeying the Lord. Their obedience didn't earn salvation but was absolutely necessary to being saved.

Likewise, you cannot earn salvation today by doing good works. But you must do what God has said if you want to be saved. These works of obedience demonstrate our faith and love for God. Won't you do what God says so you can be saved today?

What must I do to be saved?

- Believe in Jesus Christ - **John 3:16**
- Repent of past sins - **Luke 13:3**
- Confess Jesus as the Son of God - **Acts 8:37; Rom. 10:10**
- Be baptized in water for the forgiveness of your sins - **Acts 2:38; 22:16; Mark 16:16**

Don't be fooled by the ideas of men. Read your Bible. Study these things carefully. Then obey God's simple plan for salvation today and become a New Testament Christian!

VIA AUBURN BEACON

Effects of No Church Discipline

BY IRVEN LEE

Failure to carry out any command of God is a serious failure. The New Testament emphasizes the duties of the individual, but there are certain responsibilities assigned to groups of Christians (churches) because we are to work together as a family or body under Christ, our Chief Shepherd (**Rom 16:16; Titus 1:5; 1 Tim 5:17; 1 Pet 5:1-5**).

1) No Discipline Causes Men To Be Lost: God does not want any to perish because every soul is precious to Him (**Matt 16:26; 2 Pet 3:9**). If a brother sins, he endangers his own soul. Any Christian near him should seek to convert or restore him to God (**James 5:19,20; Gal 6:1**). If efforts of this type fail, the important task of rescuing this one form perishing falls upon the church (**1 Cor 5**). Let every member be aware of the fact that the effort is to save the sinner as well as to protect the reputation of the church (**1 Cor 5:4-8**). We must admonish the sinner as a brother because we are interested in his spiritual welfare. We want him to be ashamed of his sinful way, so we withdraw from him (**2 Thess. 3:6,14,15**).

2) No Discipline Allows Leaven's Wickedness To Enter The Lump: The church at Corinth was "*puffed up*" with its own wisdom rather than depending on the counsel of God concerning the member who was a fornicator. Allowing one couple to live in violation of the law was a way of letting the leaven of wickedness to enter the "*lump*." It was true then as it is now that "*a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump*" (**1 Cor 5:6-8**). If the church closes its eyes to one case, there will likely soon be another and then others.

3) No Discipline Will Keep Men From Enduring Sound Doctrine: Timothy was charged to "*preach, reprove, rebuke and exhort*" in an urgent way, if he would push off the day when they would not endure sound doctrine (**2 Tim 4:1-5**). The mouths of those who speak unsound doctrine should be stopped but who will do this, if the people like the perverted pattern? (**Titus 1:10-14; 2 Pet 2:1-3**). Timothy was urged to be forceful and faithful in his preaching, and the churches were taught to mark, avoid and reject false teachers. They were to purge out the leaven of wickedness and disorder to avoid the evil day when they would not endure sound doctrine (**Rom 16:17,18; Acts 20:29-31; Gal 1:6-10**).

4) No Discipline Encourages The Worldly: If a church looks the other way and refuses to notice when more and more members become ungodly, that church will become a gathering place for the worldly. It will also lose the respect of the community. Its zeal for Christ will vanish, so it will fall into the same condition that had come to Israel when Isaiah and Jeremiah lived. God was displeased with a church that tolerated doctrine and practices that were contrary to His Will (**Rev 1:14,15**).