

For of Him and through Him and to Him are all things, to whom be glory forever. Amen.

October 12, 2025

All things should be done as we are doing them unto the Lord our God, giving all the glory to Him. We looked at morals last week. What is our moral condition? How many times is the word Moral or Morals used in the Scripture? Are we exercising strong morals? Do we reflect a moral nation? When did deism first appear?

There is a doctrine that places morals under a negative foundation instead of the positive one that the Bible teaches. As we saw last Sunday, although the word "moral" or "morals" only appears once in many Bible versions and not at all in others, the Bible is not absent from teaching sound morals.

However, there is a doctrine out there termed "Moralistic Therapeutic Deism." As the article I studied says, you will most likely never meet anyone who identifies as such. Still, lies and deception, and distractions are strong in our society today, especially among many in the younger generation. The use of deism should raise concern in every believer.

Got Questions.org – "Moralistic Therapeutic Deism is not an official religion. Probably no one would ever identify himself as a "Moralistic Therapeutic Deist." The real problem is that moralism is not Christianity, and most people who hold these beliefs are likely to identify themselves as Christians when in fact they are living to glorify themselves!"

<https://www.gotquestions.org/Moralistic-Therapeutic-Deism.html>

Many subjects in our Bibles have been corrupted or intentionally misinterpreted over the years to focus man's attention on himself rather than where the glory actually belongs. We have watched as the name-it, claim-it, preachers have extorted money from innocent people, fooled into believing miracles and fortune will come to you if you send more money.

Others whose interpretation of the Bible resembles twisted and sensational myths made up to demonstrate to others their closeness to God is stronger than yours or mine, as if they have an inside on wisdom that exceeds everyone else. Why do people need to teach a false gospel when He, who inspired the Scripture, gives us the greatest words everyone should long for? 'Well done, good and faithful servant! Matthew 25:21. Our Salvation was achieved through our Lord Jesus' death on the cross; no words could ever be more important than these.

I would truly be frightened if I ran around teaching a gospel other than that of the Bible. Lazy and self-centered are those who do such, and I feel they may not even realize the danger they place upon themselves. We will all, from time to time, misunderstand certain parts of the Scripture. Yes, we get it wrong, but it is not intentional, and if we are still and wait on the Lord, He will guide us in truth.

Let's take the title of this false and dangerous doctrine and dissect it in reverse order. Deism - belief in a God who created the world but has since remained indifferent to it. In other words, God created and then left us alone to fend for ourselves. This stands in solid opposition to what the Scripture teaches. Take just a few verses,

Psalm 27:14: Wait on the LORD; Be of good courage, And He shall strengthen your heart; Wait, I say, on the LORD! NKJV

Isaiah 40:31: But those who wait on the LORD, shall renew their strength; They shall mount up with wings like eagles, They shall run and not be weary, They shall walk and not faint. NKJV

These are just two quick and simple verses, but there are many more that address God's hand in the believer's life, in both the Old Testament and New Testament. Jesus says, **John 14:16-17: NKJV "And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever—"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.** Where will God be? Not only with us, but in us, that is impossible for us to imagine, but it's true. He has not left us.

Helper, comforter- (*paraklētos*) summoned, called to one's side, esp. called to one's aid one who pleads another's cause before a judge, a pleader, counsel for defense, legal assistant, an advocate

one who pleads another's cause with one, an intercessor

of Christ in his exaltation at God's right hand, pleading with God the Father for the pardon of our sins,

in the widest sense, a helper, succourer, aider, assistant,

of the Holy Spirit destined to take the place of Christ with the apostles (after his ascension to the Father), to lead them to a deeper knowledge of the gospel, and give them divine strength needed to enable them to undergo trials and persecutions on behalf of the divine kingdom.

As we read and study our Bibles, it is challenging to accept above all the evidence that God created our world and man, and then said, "See ya."

Deism has taken on different views over the centuries, so we must study the history of its use to better understand how it was and is applied today.

Reading George Washington's prayer for our new nation. He calls on our Holy Father and does not demonstrate any sign of being detached or too far away or disconcerted about His creation. Yet numerous books would have us believe that our founding fathers were overwhelmingly deists. In his book, "Faith of the Founding Fathers," Tim LaHaye demonstrates how strong faith was in the presence of our founders, which stands in opposition to many today.

In my own life, I cannot begin to understand why anyone would believe that our God is not ever-present in our daily lives. Seeing how God has changed my life and the lives of so many others I have pastored and worked with over the years. The thought that Deism exists but is not commonly discussed, I believe, shows the greater threat that it imposes in a secular world, turning off many who are searching for a deeper understanding. We may think simple words and beliefs, such as Moralistic therapeutic Deism, are not a threat, but it offers man the means to question God's relationship with His creation, and denounce the gospel message as folklore. It represents a step up in addressing disbelief by justifying one's own opinions over what the Scripture clearly teaches.

“I do not believe in the creed professed by the Jewish Church, by the Roman Church, by the Greek Church, by the Turkish Church, by the Protestant Church, nor by any Church that I know of. My own mind is my own Church.” [The Age of Reason] Thomas Paine,

“Paine had little time for traditional faith as a religious principle. He placed his trust in the powers of human reason alone, making him a champion for modern humanists.”

It is the stealth of evil that produces discourse amongst a doubtful world. What is missing in regard to deism in the quote? Paine denies corporate religion, and the ways of the Christian Church but he is not saying anything about God being a far away God and one who left us alone, as an abandoned child on the streets of some city.

<https://www.learnreligions.com/top-thomas-paine-quotes-on-religion-4072775>

Let's look at the interpretation of Therapeutic - of or relating to the treating or curing of disease; curative.

Is it one's goal to rid the threatening disease of Christianity? Is Christianity something to be feared? So deism would be the justification for the therapy a fence sitter would be searching for. It makes the denial of God much simpler, and the rules established are one's own rules based on opinion and emotions. The teaching to follow your heart is a dangerous path one might take. Our emotions are an up-and-down path that cannot discern right from wrong or good from wicked.

Jeremiah 17:9-11: “The heart is deceitful above all things, And desperately wicked; Who can know it? 10. I, the LORD, search the heart, I test the mind, Even to give every man according to his ways, According to the fruit of his doings. 11 “As a partridge that broods but does not hatch, So is he who gets riches, but not by right; It will leave him in the midst of his days, And at his end he will be a fool.”

This chapter of the Bible addresses the theme of following one's heart, a concept widely repeated among friends in the sixties and seventies. But is it a good message? I would say if you have believed in the Lord and have received a new heart, as seen in Ezekiel 36:26, then following the heart would be a good suggestion. When God gives man a new heart, he no longer seeks for riches in empty places. His heart is determined to serve instead of waiting to be served; the richness of the Scripture binds his thoughts, and he is eager to humbly walk in the path of righteousness.

Moralistic – the problem with this is that each man establishes his own morals, which are set against the morals taught in the Bible, but instead are based on emotions and past experience. This has been the outcome of this teaching. When we all unite under the rule of our Mighty Father and follow the moral instructions in the Bible, there is never an issue with inconsistency. However, when each becomes a kingdom unto its own, what one does often tramples on another's beliefs and practices.

Almighty God,

“We make our earnest prayer that Thou wilt keep the United States in Thy Holy protection; and Thou wilt incline the hearts of the Citizens to cultivate a spirit of

subordination and obedience to Government; and entertain a brotherly affection and love for one another and for their fellow Citizens of the United States at large, and particularly for their brethren who have served in the Field.

And finally that Thou wilt most graciously be pleased to dispose us all to do justice, to love mercy, and to demean ourselves with that Charity, humility, and pacific temper of mind which were the Characteristics of the Divine Author of our blessed Religion, and without a humble imitation of whose example in these things we can never hope to be a happy nation. Grant our supplication, we beseech Thee, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.”

--George Washington

Compare this to Paine - Written during 1793 and 1794, partially in a French jail and partially at Monroe's home, Paine's

“The Age of Reason (published in 1794-95) helped to popularize Deism in the United States. Paine wrote the second part (which deals with the Bible) using a King James Version borrowed from the Monroes. Because it mercilessly assaulted and lampooned Judeo-Christian beliefs—Paine viewed Christianity as a negative influence on world history—the book alienated many of his previous supporters. “I have now to inform you, why I wrote it and published it at the time I did, Paine later wrote to the disapproving Samuel Adams,

For readers who had encountered trouble believing some of the biblical narratives—such as the story of Adam, Eve, and the talking snake—Paine offered a simple explanation: they were simply not true.” The Faith of the Founding Fathers.”

Why do I bring these issues up? They are a threat to new believers and those who are not sure about their faith. We find apostasy all around, but now with the death of Charlie Kurt, a revival is taking place. As children of a mighty Father, we need to be wise as serpents and as harmless as doves, Matthew 10:16. Most of all, we need to be watchful of false teachings.

When a subject like morals comes up, it sounds good. We are supposed to have good morals. How do we gauge our conduct if not against others, a Higher Being? **Galatians 6:4-5: Each one should test their own actions. Then they can take pride in themselves alone, without comparing themselves to someone else, 5 for each one should carry their own load.** Who then do we look to for moral guidance, if there needs be, a level we are expected to achieve, if not our Christ? The test of myself needs a bar to rise above my simple understanding, that bar is achieved by looking to the writings of our Christ Jesus. Can the two be separated, or do we judge our conduct based on what we would describe as good morals? With man, there is no consensus as to whose moral base we use, but with God, His plan never changes.

What is the fear if we have such a mighty Father? God will not allow this weakness to enter into the eternal promise. He will provide man with understanding and wisdom to overcome, but He will not force it on anyone. We find this sediment throughout the Scripture.

For most who study the Scripture, they can usually notice false teachings. Paul made this clear in First Corinthians 3:11. **“For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.”**

Galatians 1:8: But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed.

Galatians 1:9: As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed.

Paul laid the groundwork for understanding who Jesus was and is, and what was preached was inspired by the Spirit inside of him. Paul saw in Jesus all that He did was to bring glory to God the Father.

Look at what John has to say, **John 14:10: “Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own authority; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works.”** This denies the theory of Deism. My prayer for this lesson is that you will feel confident if someone tries to teach you a false or even more dangerous, a sensational gospel. There are no greater writings throughout history that have stood up to all the challenges and all the proof findings than that of the Holy Bible. When Jesus said on the cross, “it is finished,” He closed the book from further opinions and change, and warned against such things. Yet people, denominations, and cults, have and still continue to change not just the writings of the Scripture but the theme itself. Let this not be you.