

Ecumenical Wave Watching Instructor's Resources & Script

The Video - Ecumenical Wave Watching - about 8 minutes.

Purpose: To help individuals and small study groups to be more attentive to Satan's workings and devices, especially as he employs them in his grand ecumenical scheme to bring us all under the headship of Antichrist and himself.

Suitability: This presentation is geared to believers in the spirit of Ephesians 4:1-16. While it is not geared to unbelievers, the Holy Spirit can surely use it in their context.

How to use this video.

The Video:

The video can be shown completely or in segments - see red slide divisions on script. The instructor can also use the PowerPoint slide presentation with the same name or show the video and then use the presentation when discussing the content. The *slide show* best lends itself to group interaction. Keep in mind that most slides include multiple animations, so the instructor should review the slide set before using.

The Script:

While the entire script is presented, it is intended to be used for its talking points. The goal of the presentation is to stimulate thought and move students into the scriptures in order to discover what the Bible says for themselves. While this presentation is suitable for spoon feeding, its value will be greatly enhanced when discussion is encouraged.

Steps:

When discussion is encouraged the following steps are ideal:

- Pass out a copy of the script.
- Play through the video.
- Return to the script and discuss it slide by slide, making sure to look up the scriptures.
- Encourage students to ask questions and to make practical applications. So called life application questions are not supplied in favor of encouraging the students to interrogate the passage personally. An alternate possibility would be to encourage the student to create a list of five questions which they think would best teach and apply the material.

Note, recommended scripture passages are minimal and on point. However, a few of them require the student to think a little in order to connect them to the intent of the script.

Technical stuff:

All of the material in this presentation - video, slides (if used), and script are provided freely and may be altered at will so long as they do not violate the overall purpose of the presentation. It is more important to the author to have both instructors and students interact with the material than it is to have them agree with him. The scriptures are our final authority. This material may be distributed without attribution but not sold. Enjoy!

Ecumenical Wave Watching

Never stand with your back to the waves!

TITLE

SLIDE 1

Errors rise and fall like waves. Some are larger and even tsunami-like while others are as subtle as the rising tide. Some may disappear after a few years, only to roll back on the beach a few decades later in an altered form. We've all seen these typical waves and fads on our "beaches", though we may not have understood their ecumenical overtones. For example, "spiritual warfare" notions are constantly rising and falling, perceived visits to and from heaven and hell ripple along our beaches, under-tides of British Israelism wash in just when we think it is dead, new legalistic cult-like movements arise to save us from the intrusion of cheap grace, while those pesky antinomians parade our liberties so called by showcasing some new abominable excess. And, of course, there will always be the next prophetic riptide of fresh speculation over the latest promised astronomical event looming only one full moon away. Each fresh wave comes with its own complement of jellyfish and iridescent and translucent luminaries, whose fetching charisma belies their portending sting.

So how do we avoid these waves and why do we suggest that they have ecumenical overtones?

SLIDE 2

Our first line of defense is to always take God's Word literally in a prayerful spirit which is submitted to God while being on guard against our own natures. We must learn to interpret God's Word using the Bible's own self-interpreting principles. We remember that we are all capable of being seduced. In fact, the smarter we are, the more vulnerable we are. (John 10:35, 2 Peter 1:16-21)

SLIDE 3

Additionally, wise men will learn to read the waves. They will learn to foresee the evil and hide themselves from it (Proverbs 22:3). These waves can be identified. They all have something unique which sets them apart, and, without exception, they all have something in common. Wave watchers everywhere! Keep your eyes out for these ecumenical techniques:

SLIDE 4

1. The Redefinition Game. These waves will always be about blurring definitions. In my ecumenical tirades, I call them bridge words. The words themselves are good words, but the new uses and nuances which accompany these waves carry entirely new meaning. This may range from the use of a dusty Old Testament word (often nuanced so as to be understood only by the wise), to the redefining of everyday words such as faith, and grace. Satan has always begun with redefinition, his "Hath God said?" (Genesis 3:1)

2. The Restoration Game. Watch for the "new and old" shell game. New waves are commonly about reviving old truths, so called. They are always allegedly grounded in some fact of history which has long been forgotten or obscured. The implications will always be that the ancients (especially Jewish ancients) were far wiser (Matthew 15:2ff).

3. The Authority Game. A new wave is always heralded by a respected authority. He may be academic or he may be charismatic, but he will be trusted. This is what we call embedding. Ten percent lie is embedded into ninety percent truth and it is always done by good people who have many good things to say (Gal. 2:6).

SLIDE 5

4. The Re-weighting Game. New waves are most always based on a grain of truth which has been extended and stretched disproportionately until it becomes an error. A large barrage of supplemental support is then supplied. These waves of supporting information convince us of the authority of our speaker and serve to distract us from his initial, underlying, interpretive error(s). Don't be fooled by this sleight of hand (Mark 7:11).

5. The Subtle Redirect. These new waves always draw us away from Christ while claiming to move us toward him. Sometimes they diminish the person and work of one member of the Godhead, and Christ in particular. Other times they are effective simply because they bring division among our friends, families, and churches. In so doing, they diminish our credibility and they distract us from our main focus and task (Romans 16:18).

SLIDE 6

How do these practices aid Satan's ecumenical scheme?

- Blurring definitions shift us away from absolute truth and puts man in the position of authority instead of the literal scriptures. It undermines our foundations by making us less confident in what we once knew to be true and thus, more vulnerable to Antichrist's lies.
- Claiming that an old truth has been uncovered changes the lens through which we view the scriptures. In all generations, Satan has sought to argue his points through ancient wisdom. Whether in Old Testament times, the days of Christ, or this very day, Satan wants to nullify what God says through traditions and ancient ways. He wants us to return to ancient thinking (Mark 7:13).
- When we allow someone to re-weight the truth for us we do exactly what Eve did. We are seduced by higher knowledge so called. The carrot stick of higher knowledge forms the bait for every false scheme of Satan (Genesis 3:1-6ff).
- When we are carried about by these waves, large or small, they always lead us away from Christ, albeit in incremental thrusts. These waves shift our world view away from the centrality of Christ almost imperceptibly. And, they build upon each other. This drift eventually results with the plan and program of Christ becoming compromised, thus paving an even broader way for the coming lie (Galatians 1:6).

Though *all* errors are unique and diverse, they all share the same commonalities. The observant person will notice that all of these are basic tools in Satan's ecumenical toolkit; redefining what God says, changing the lens of our world view by moving us back toward ancient traditions, infusing the lie through respected teachers and figures, re-weighting issues by emphasizing facts out of context to the truth, and dividing us into multiple factions with multiple authorities in order to infuse even more anarchy. These all move us from the centrality of Christ. These are all a part of the grand ecumenical scheme, moving us further into the mystery of iniquity.

SLIDE 7

Never stand with your back to the waves!

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