

FAKE GOLD

1 Kings 14:26-28; 10:16-18

Introduction: "It's not nice to fool mother nature..." then lightening and thunder crashing around..That was a commercial of some years ago. We do live in a world of counterfeits, substitutes, synthetics and although some of the replacement for the real things is convenient, obviously the replacements are not of the same value, they are cheap at the very best.

If we are not careful, we will also substitute our Christianity. For instance, have you found yourself singing less in worship? Has your talk, testimony about the Lord grown more silent, has your interest, zeal for the things of your Church quieted down? Has your fires of "revival" burned low? Has worship seemed to be less interesting than it once was?

If so the perhaps the genuineness of simplicity, purity, truthfulness, love and reverence for the things of God have been substituted for things of less value.

SOME SUBSTITUTES:

1. Make believe life in place of a real life in Christ.
2. Human attainments in place of Divine atonement.
3. Ritual and traditional in place of the real Jesus Christ.
4. Deified persons in the place of God.
5. Mankind's view of people in place of what God thinks of mankind.
6. Religious profession in place of Christian dedication.
 - Such are called "hypocrites"
 - Entertained for hours but actual worship of God is lacking
7. Ideas and beliefs of others in place of our own personal belief in Jesus Christ.
8. Religion in place of Christianity.
9. Self indulgence in place of self discipline.
10. Any substitute in place of the one and only "SUBSTITUTE' the Lord Jesus Christ.

CONCLUSION:

1. Take an inventory, have you been substituting less for the real thing?
2. Have you been living a lesser life than you should be?
3. Have you been "make-believing" all is just fine between you and God?
4. There is but one acceptable substitute in the eyes of God and that is His Son, Jesus Christ.