

When God Seems Far Away #3 of 3
“I Have Come To Deep Waters”
Psalm 69:1-2
By Russell Earl

Thesis: I want to show how we can climb out of “spiritual deeps”

- Intro:
1. The Bible refers to the deep areas of the ocean or seas as “the depths of the sea or the ocean”. The Psalmist refers to these areas as “the deep (**Ps 107:24**)
 2. We sometimes find ourselves in spiritual depths (**Eph 6:12**).
 3. How can we be wise enough to escape these kinds of “deeps” (**Acts 17:5-10**)?

I. Spiritual “deeps” of Apostasies.

A. 1st “deep” of Apostasy – vain worship (**Mt 15:7-9**).

1. Those who attempt to draw near to God only with their mouth but do not another Him with their heart sink into the deep of Apostasy.
2. When a person or congregation falls into the “deep” of apostasy in their worship their worship is vain (useless). Thus, unscriptural worship accomplishes nothing. It is only scriptural worship that is acceptable to God and pleases Him.
3. How do we escape this spiritual “deep”? (**Jn 4:24**)
 - a. Only by worshipping God as He has commanded will keep us from this spiritual “deep”.
 - b. Those that are in this spiritual “deep” must repent and return to scriptural worship. This may involve leaving a congregation that will not turn from their vain worship.

B. 2nd “deep” of Apostasy – fellowship of false teachers
(**[Gen 5:22, 6:9-“walked with God], 2 Cor 6:14-16**).

1. A common spiritual “deep” that is overlooked by many today is fellowship with false teachers and those who promote false teaching.
This fellowship includes allowing such people to have an audience at the local congregation and also includes condoning their teaching.
Condoning such teachers can be done by overlooking their ideas/teachings and also by attempting to rationalize their teachings or actions.
2. A false teacher is someone who teaches an idea that is not supported from the scriptures. There are some persons who also promote that same doctrine.
3. Neither person should be fellowshiped if they will not repent.
4. How do we escape this spiritual “deep”?
 - a. We escape by trying to correct those in error. However, if they do not repent we cannot have fellowship with them (**Eph 5:11**)
 - b. False teachings give many hope- but false teaching gives false hope. (**2 Pt 2:17-20**)

C. 3rd “deep” of Apostasy – members who have fallen away (**1 Cor 10:12, 2 Pt 3:17**)

1. Members who have fallen away doesn’t refer only to those who do not attend. Some attend even after they are unfaithful, continuing to live in a sinful situation is just one example.

2. Those that do not walk carefully in their daily spiritual walk can fall away.
3. How do we escape this spiritual “deep”?
 - a. We must examine ourselves daily (**2 Cor 13:5**).
 - b. We should try to restore those who have fallen away, but we must be careful we are not lead away with them (**Gal 6:1, 2 Peter 3:17b**)

II. Spiritual “deep” of the world

A. 1st spiritual “deep” of the world – Atheism (Ps 14:1)

1. The world is constantly trying to prove there is no God.
2. Over the years we can see how these attempts often lead to the demand for God, the demand for a creator.
3. How do we escape this spiritual “deep”? (**Ps 8:3-4, Rom 1:20**)
 - a. We must recognize that God does indeed exist.
 - b. We must teach and show others the evidence for God; they will have no excuse on the day of judgment.

B. 2nd spiritual “deep” of the world – Denominationalism (Jn 15:5).

1. Many teach their church as being a branch of Christ. We cannot allow denominationalism to confuse us (**1 Cor 12:27**).
2. Denominationalism and their false teachings have pulled many off the pathway of eternal life (**Mt 7:13-14**).
3. How do we escape this spiritual “deep”? (**Jn 15:10, 1 Jn 2:3-6**)
 - a. We seek out and follow the church of the Bible and encourage others to do the same.

III. Recognizing and Avoiding Spiritual “deep”.

A. How do I recognize spiritual “deeps”? (Mt 7:16-20)

1. A “spiritual deep” is any way of life or teaching that can cause one to stray from the faith and become eternally condemned.
2. If we cannot recognize these we are at risk to be lead away.

B. How do I avoid a spiritual “deep”?

1. We can avoid these by knowing what the Bible says (**Acts 17:11**).
2. We can overcome them with the weapons and tools given to us by God (**Eph 6:11-18**)

Conc: 1. What this means to us today (**1 Peter 5:8-10**)

2. We must be wise so that we are not cheated of our reward (**Col 2:18**).
3. Full Invitation