

WHERE'S THE CHEESE?



FREE

Anything that enters our lives that is contrary to the Holy Scriptures is garbage. We must recognize garbage for what it really is and what it does to us. Whether it is a matter of food, thoughts, teachings, experiences, or whatever – anything contrary to divine law pollutes the purity of our being... even religion. And so we see the Professional Pew-Sitter:

THE PROFESSIONAL PEW-SITTER holds punctuality records for being in the same spot at the same time every Sunday morning. He follows the accepted code of conduct. He is well-groomed, well-dressed. He rises when he is told. He sits when he is told. He sings when he is told. He prays when he is told. He puts his change in the collection plate when he is told. He leaves when he is told, but there is no change in him, no stimulation. There is no challenge and no radical view of life like the one expressed in the Word of God, and no movement toward the Kingdom of God. The professional pew-sitter is leveled to the leveled norm. He is a slave to **rote**... but he smells a rat.

He goes home and sets his mouse trap, but he has no cheese. He does, however, have a picture of some cheese. So he clips the picture from the magazine and baits the trap with that. The next morning, he comes down and there he finds in the trap a picture of a rat.

So every week, he is told that he gets out of the church what he puts in... and so it goes, Christianity today.

Rote is garbage. If he would have taken out the garbage, he wouldn't be having all this trouble with the rat anyway.

It's like a husband who turns to his wife and says, "Honey,

it is my duty to tell you that I love you. So, 'I love you.'" But only an outpouring of instinctive, natural, spontaneous love is what a spouse responds to. And so it is also what we respond to from our Heavenly Lover, and it is what He responds to. Anything done out of duty is devoid of life. Anything not done from passion is merely rote.

If you recognize yourself coming home from the church in Laodicea, recorded in Revelation 3:15-21, there is hope you may be able to repent if you see the garbage and hate it.

"I know all about you: how you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were one or the other, but since you are neither, but only lukewarm, I will spit you out of my mouth. You say to yourself, "I am rich, I have made a fortune, and have everything I want," never realizing that you are wretchedly and pitifully poor, and blind and naked, too. I warn you, buy from me the gold that has been tested in the fire to make you really rich, and white robes to clothe you and cover your shameful nakedness, and eye ointment to put on your eyes so that you are able to see. I am the one who reproveth and disciplines all those whom I love: so repent in real earnest. Look, I am standing at the door,



knocking. If one of you hears me calling and opens the door, I will come in to share his meal, side by side with him.”

The very reason and purpose for our existence has been negated by the dead system, the assembly of the dead. No matter what you put into it, it is still like getting back a picture of the rat as a result. The rat is in the house and you know it. But you don't have any cheese and you know it. The very reason and purpose for our existence is to kill the rat. The Church is God's instrument to subdue His enemies, “Till all His enemies be made a footstool for His feet.” (Hebrews 10:13) Yes, you do have a trap, but no cheese.

Whatever you do in rote, the result of your effort is just rote. No wonder the “church buildings” today are filled with “self-satisfied solitude.” Somehow they have finally settled for a picture of the rat because all they have is a picture of the cheese.

The rat is still loose, you hear it in the kitchen pantry at night, and you haven't the faintest idea what to do about it. Your picture of the cheese is being taken away every night and replaced by a picture of the rat. But the rat lives on. So if you don't have any cheese and no one else in your “church” has any — why do you sing on? What do you have to sing about? “We get back what we put into it,” you say. But if you don't have anything to put into it except **rote**, why do you stay there?

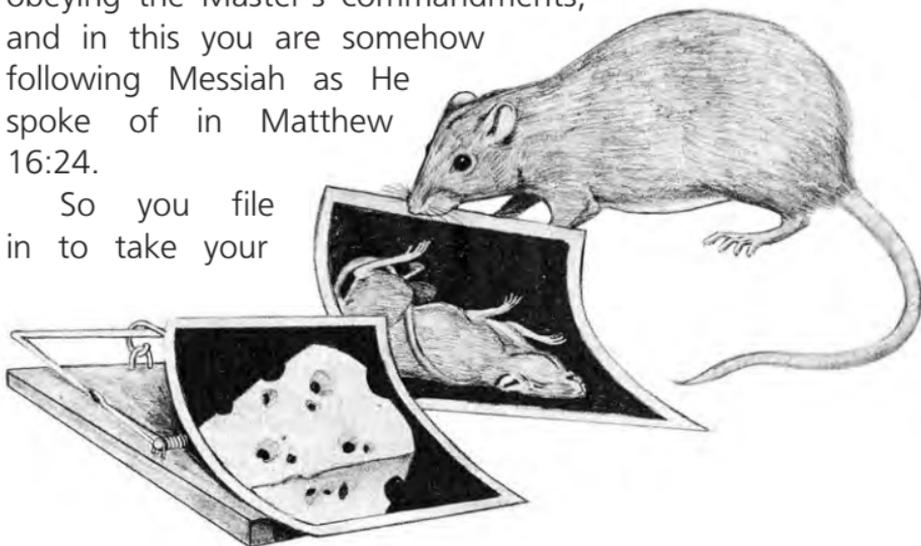
One reason is that you are the one trapped by the rat. He has you there, putting a picture of cheese on the trap while he simply replaces it by a picture of himself. Somehow you think it's OK. “We've been doing it for years. That's all there is to it.

That is just how it is, I suppose.” So you go on trapped, with no real solutions to your many problems.

You try to convince yourself that you are overcoming your loneliness, anger, depression, guilt, worry, greed, and selfishness. You cannot honestly admit that you are overcoming these things with a mere picture of cheese, can you? You somehow know in the back of your mind that it’s all futile, but you go on in the ritual – oh, how long, how long, how long will you go on?

Every Sunday morning, you file into the “local church” as someone has deceived you into calling it. You start obeying your leader. You have been made to believe somehow that Hebrews 13:17, “obey your leaders” is being lived out by your performance here. You relate this obedience to that spoken of in 1 John 2:4-6. Since you obey your leader’s commands, you are obeying the Master’s commandments, and in this you are somehow following Messiah as He spoke of in Matthew 16:24.

So you file in to take your





familiar seat. You don't feel comfortable if someone else gets it before you and you have to sit elsewhere. But this Sunday, you are confronted by that very situation. Somehow you are secretly irritated by this, but you trudge on, denying yourself of your own security and comfort for the sake of your brother. You thus see yourself fulfilling 1 John 3:14-16. You know you have passed out of death and into life because you are loving your brother. You convince yourself of this, holding back resentment because he got your seat that you have sat in for the last twenty-five years. So you take another seat as close as possible to your comfortable, secure corner of the congregation.

You begin your obedience to your leader by responding when he asks you to rise. Then you obey still further when he asks you to sing, then pray, then read responsively. And then...

the supreme obedience — the time has come to worship with your tithes and offerings. So you flip a five into the plate as it goes by. Then you finally leave the building when you are told to. You go home promptly at twelve and settle down to a good afternoon of your favorite sport. You have put your picture of cheese on the trap, so you feel good that you have fulfilled the great commission by giving your five dollars to send those who have suffered in Bible college for years to be prepared for the foreign mission fields.

“Well, someone has to work to give support to those missionaries. After all, I didn’t go to Seminary, and who would build the bridges anyway if everyone went off to be a missionary? My ministry is to give support. This is my way of fulfilling the great commission — so I am told.”

“So I can settle down in my own easy chair and watch the Red Sox or... what else is on, anyway?”

Whatsoever a man sows, that shall he also reap. If one sows a picture of cheese, he will reap a picture of a rat. Whatever you put in, that is what you get out. It is a divine law. Christianity today is a living example of the working of this divine law. They are reaping what they have sown — even as all the nations of the earth shall reap. The nations will pay every jot and tittle, even as the Christian Church today is paying. The law “we will reap what we sow” is *exacting*, and will be worked out in absolute justice.

Do you smell a rat?

**YOU CANNOT
BE SAVED BY
READING THIS
TRACT.**

GUARANTEED.

IN FACT, NO ONE HAS EVER BEEN SAVED BY READING A TRACT... SAVING FAITH CAN ONLY COME BY A LIVING, BREATHING MESSENGER SENT BY GOD, BRINGING THE UNDILUTED WORDS OF THE GOOD NEWS OF SALVATION. OUR GOAL IN PUBLISHING THIS IS NOT TO CONVERT YOU TO SOME PARTICULAR FAITH OR PERSUASION. INSTEAD,

WE WISH TO PROVOKE YOU TO CONSIDER WHAT YOU HAVE READ. LET US KNOW WHAT YOU THINK. WE WOULD LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU ANYTIME.



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