

Thoughts on Materialism, Spiritualism, Pantheism, and Realism
as applied to
Righteousness, Faith, Works, Justification, and Sanctification in Salvation
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Materialism

1. Looks for works, and calls only that physical thing righteousness
2. With an outward focus, the inward roots of sin are not dealt with; works become a heartless external
3. Confuses realism with pantheism, thinking God's spiritual connection with and view of all physical creatures (that all are in His heart; that He claims each as His by creation and redemption; that all are in Him in this sense) is the same as saying God is in all
4. In failing to understand faith and its primary function, it denies the heart of righteousness, resulting in an attack on sanctification

Spiritualism

1. Looks for faith, and calls only that spiritual thing righteousness
2. With an inward focus, the outward acts are de-emphasized; faith becomes a bodiless ghost
3. Confuses realism with pantheism, thinking the union of humanity and divinity (partaking of the divine nature) in a concrete physical sense is a pantheistic mixing of God and man
4. In failing to see the way in which the spiritual indwells the physical, it divests righteousness of anything but a legal fiction (righteousness is only justification, and justification is only a verdict by God based on a person's faith), resulting in an attack on sanctification

Pantheism

1. God's very nature is such that as righteousness He is in everyone
2. God's nature and the physical realm are so intertwined that we partake of God by the simple physical actions of breathing and eating
3. Atonement is made of none effect by God's very nature; He has always been with us, so we just need to grasp that; His presence always with us means we do not need to be transformed for that to become a reality
4. The Creator and the creation are blurred, leading to creature worship
5. In holding His presence with us in a co-mingled way, it teaches that the change we need is not a change in nature but a change only in perception, resulting in an attack on sanctification

Realism

1. God in His nature is apart from His creation, but He is connected intimately with His creation
2. God as righteousness views all in faith and love (His righteousness is manifest in His faith working by His love; He is in this sense righteous by faith, not that He needs faith, but that He is the source of faith), beginning something for each, initiating and

nurturing a relationship intended to lead to fellowship; this is righteousness by faith in its primary sense, by the faith of God

3. When the individual responds to God's faith and love, by faith and love, God counts that as righteousness because it is; this is righteousness by faith in the secondary sense, by the faith response of the creature
4. Faith works by love, and always has outward manifestations present
5. Results in genuine sanctification

The truths of realism are particularly applicable to the end of the great controversy. Failure at this end time to separate clearly the roles of Christ and Satan (the two goats on the Day of Atonement) would perpetuate the confusion that sin originally introduced, resulting in continuing imbalance, and leading to materialism, pantheism, or spiritualism as described above. The wrath of God in contrast to the wrath of Babylon is clarified by the 3 angels' messages. The cross unfolds the dynamics of wrath, unmasking the deceptions of sin regarding God's character and role, and unfolding how agape is the foundation of the authority of God's universal government (the great power or authority of the Revelation 18 angel). It is seen that sin is destructive, not God, though He is actively in control of how that is revealed and released. The truths of Isa. 6 and Rom. 7 become clear for the people of God in the last days, being a Day of Atonement experience. The relation between God, law, righteousness, life, sin, and death are clarified, and man's true condition in sin is laid bare. This brings spiritual maturity as self-dependence is replaced by God-dependence, and the eye-salve is applied. As a people begin to see as God sees, the devil's power over them falls away, they overcome as Christ overcame and are clothed for the wedding.