

A CAKE NOT TURNED

In the days of Hosea, prophet of Israel, God's people had become completely immersed in the ungodliness and idolatry of those around them. Long ago, Israel made the ill-fated decision to procure a king that they might be like all the nations round about them (1 Sam.8:20), and it was not long before they had become hedonistic and idolatrous, wandering far away from God. Israel had a serious heart condition: she divided her allegiance between the true and living God and the pagan, lifeless idols of her ungodly neighbors. She refused to abandon her unrighteous infatuation with peoples and practices that God had warned her to shun time and time again. Israel was guilty of trying to hold to the hand of God, while holding to the hand of the world simultaneously. Through the prophet Hosea, God painted a very vivid picture of the two-facedness of His unfaithful children: "Ephraim, he hath mixed himself among the people; Ephraim is a cake not turned" (Hos.7:8). Who among us enjoys a pancake that has not been flipped during the course of cooking? On the side away from the heat, you have a doughy, runny mess. On the side to the heat, you have burnt batter. Neither side is appetizing.

"A cake not turned" is certainly a fitting illustration of one who desires the approval of God coupled with the approbation of men. Like Israel of old, there are many today who want the blessings and benefits that come from following God, but who also refuse to relinquish sinful relationships with the world. The Devil has deceived the multitudes into thinking that it is possible to maintain friendship with the world while also securing Divine favor. Sadly, such is not only impossible, but it is also detrimental to the eternal well-being of our souls, as James reminds us that "friendship with the world is enmity with God" (James 4:4). So many are convinced that they can please both God and man that they will do everything possible to hold to both. It is sad that the divided heart thinks that by giving half-allegiance to two diametrically opposed entities it will garner the affection and attention of both. Such could not be further from the truth! "No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon" (Matt.6:24). Just like a "cake not turned," the one who tries to please God and those opposed to God is not appetizing to either side. The Christian who refuses to shun ungodly companions and immoral actions is an enigma to his worldly associates and an enemy of his God. The "theistic-evolutionist" (a misnomer if ever there were one!) believes there is room for both a Divine Creator and large-scale evolution. While he believes he has solved the dilemma that pits these two cosmological explanations against one another—thereby gaining approval from both sides—he in reality is nothing more than a coward and a sell-out to his "intellectually enlightened" Darwinists and to his Master Designer.

May we determine to take our stand on God's side (Exo.32:26), no matter what may befall us as a result. While the world may look upon us with

disdain and disgust, we can rest assured that God will smile upon us in Divine favor.

Patrick Morrison