

Preaching A Superficial Gospel
by Greg Gordon

A warning against preaching an unbiblical modern gospel

A POPULAR PERVERSION

Is it possible that modern popular Christianity is preaching a spurious, superficial, shallow Gospel in the 21st Century? If you look carefully at the history of the people of Israel many times the “popular” majority of priests and prophets turned from preaching the truth before the people and became profane in their speech and life’s. In Jeremiah’s time we see this recorded in Holy Scriptures: “For both prophet and priest are profane; yea, in my house have I found their wickedness, saith the Lord.” What horror! what dismay to see almost all of the spiritual leaders of Israel speaking lies in the name of the Lord. Could this happen again? Is it possible that in our modern day evangelical circles there are many that are not preaching a true genuine, Biblical Gospel? True Christianity is never popular Christianity! True Christianity is accepted by few and rejected by many. True Christianity is an abhorrence to the flesh, devil and the world. True Christianity is a Cross! Death to self! Crucifixion to the world! But we want it easy a salvation and Gospel that does not hurt us or crucifies us. We want a Gospel that is catered to man and his interests.

A DOCTRINE OF SATAN

Milton Green shares in one of his conferences on the theme of a false modern day Gospel: “I am going to read to you a statement that Martin Luther made and I want you to listen! Martin Luther wrote this, ‘I should have never foreseen that Satan would raise a sect as such that teach the ten commandments should be taken out of the Church. And that men should not be terrified by the Law.’ Are you terrified by the Law? Martin Luther said he was! Moses trembled. Do you reckon Moses knew anything what is being said? Martin Luther continues, ‘And that men should not be terrified by the Law but gently exhorted by the preaching of the grace of Christ.’ You know ‘gently exhorted!’ Martin Luther also said it is a doctrine of Satan, that men are no longer terrified by the Law and have replaced it with a Gospel of love and grace only.” The law and fear of God are foundational aspects of True Christianity and to replace those with the love and grace of God is to build on sand. This Gospel of love and grace has a paramount place in the evangelical Church today. If a minister speaks of the Law and the Judgement of God he is considered by most a extremist and legalist without a proper conception of God’s grace. In the last days Scripture speaks of many false teachers and gospels to abound in the world. In the epistle to Timothy the Apostle Paul wrote: “Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing

spirits, and doctrines of devils.” Could it be possible that you have been believing on a false, spurious gospel? Is it possible that you have been preaching a superficial gospel that does not relate the whole counsel of God to your hearers?

UNBIBLICAL BIBLE PREACHING

Milton Green continues to share on this false gospel: “I have a book back here called ‘Today’s Gospel’, I don’t have too much to do with books, unless I know there is a whole lot of anointing and truth in it and that’s what I found in this book. There’s some truth in it, It’s good! And this is what Walter Chantry said in his book, ‘We have inherited a system of evangelistic preaching which is unbiblical. Our message and manner of preaching the gospel cannot be traced back to the Reformers and their creeds. They are much more recent innovations worse than cannot be traced back to the Scriptures. They have clearly arisen from the careless mixture of 20th century reason with God’s revelation. Products of modern evangelism are often sad examples of Christianity. They make a profession of faith and then continue to live like the world. Only a small proportion of those that make decisions evidence a transformed life. When emotional hope is gone and the evangelist invitation is moved to another city. What do you have that is real and lasting? Large numbers have been led to assume that they have a right to everlasting life and have been given assurance that does not belong to them.’ In other words I am going to add it’s a false security! ‘Evangelicals are swelling the ranks of the deluded with a perverted gospel! Many who have made decisions in Churches have been told in the inquiry rooms their sins have been forgiven will be surprised to hear I never knew you depart from me! What about those that have decided for Christ and you cannot tell what they decided. They do not study the Word, they don’t mind if they are absent when it’s preached. You know they give no evidence of true conversion. Have you considered the possibility they were never evangelized at all?’

“Thousands of sinners think of God having only one attribute, love! When you tell a stranger ‘God loves you’ his mind registers something like this, ‘Yes he loves me, he would never harm me so all is well with my soul.’ To say to a rebel ‘God loves you and has a wonderful plan for your life’ is a terrible misinforming. The truth is that God is holy! Thus He is angry with the sinner at this moment. Wrath already hangs over the head of the guilty and will forever torment him unless he repents and trusts God. This plan is not so wonderful! Sinners frequently think of God as flexible so that He will by no means punish the wonderful men. If you rush into four easy steps with a man that has a defective view of God, you will deceive him. You may lead him to pray after you, and you will be praying to the God of glorious holiness but when he repeats to God in his prayer he’s going to be praying

to another god, he don't know Him. Preaching several easy steps to heaven is not evangelism, preaching the whole counsel of God is! Paul was a missionary evangelist he could say to his ephesian elders I am free or I am pure from the blood of all men. Not because he had given each person four spiritual laws, the next verse substantiates this claim. 'For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God.' You know why some people shrink back from declaring the whole counsel of God? Because it upsets flesh!"

A WONDERFUL AND HORRIBLE THING

Jeremiah wrote this when a entire nation was embracing a false gospel: "A wonderful and horrible thing is committed in the land; The prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests bear rule by their own means; and my people love to have it so: and what will ye do in the end thereof?" What shock should we experience if we realize that a false Gospel abounds and overflows in our evangelical Churches. Could it be possible that just as in the days of Amos the prophet today it is the same as was prophesied: "Behold, the days come with the Lord God, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the Lord. And they shall wander from sea to sea, and from the north even to the east, they shall run to and fro to seek the word of the Lord, and shall not find it." I hear of this desperate searching from many in this day that are seeking out Churches where true biblical doctrine is preached. Where the conviction of the Spirit of God, the burden of lost sinners, the judgement of God are preaching. How rare it is to find such a Church where there is not just presented floppy, sappy, feel-good messages that warm the backslidden soul.

Milton Green continues to share on this false gospel: "Present day preaching only pays lip service to the concept that a man must recognize himself to be a sinner before he can genuinely embrace the Saviour. No definition of sin is included in this presentation. It is God's Law that convicts of sin. It is essential to declare the Commandments in order to show the sinner his heart of hatred toward God and enmity towards men. Only then will he flee to the grace of God in Christ Jesus to provide him righteousness and love. Men are not turning to Christ because they have a sense of sinning against the Lord, they have no concept of sinning because the Law of God is not preached. In the 20th Century the Church is tried to see how little it could say and still get converts! It is succeeding in spreading the truth so thinly that the world cannot see it! We must preach the holy character of God. We must preach the eternal Law of God. Where are the pulpits showing God's clear Law makes strict demands upon motives, desires, feelings and attitudes of the soul? When you find them or pastors that preach these things, you will also discover Churches with convicted sinners prepared to hear the way of salvation."

“Our ears have grown accustomed to hearing men told ‘accept Jesus as your personal saviour.’ A form of words that is not found in Scripture. It’s become a empty phrase that totally ignores a essential element of the Gospel namely repentance. Evangelists and pastors are forgetting to tell sinners to repent this misinformation leads sinners to believe that they can live in their old way of live and just add Jesus. Build treasures on earth and also build treasures in heaven! Who could turn down that bargain? Pleasures of sin and joys of eternity! Sinners are not being saddened or offended, repentance is necessary for forgiveness, confession of sin is not enough. Churches are being filled with professing Christians that have never heard that Jesus demands repentance of any who seek eternal life. People flock to accept Jesus as personal Saviour without selling all! The converts of modern evangelism are often as worldly as after their decision as before. In a panic over this phenomena, modern day evangelicals have invented the idea of a carnal Christian. They are said to be folks that have taken the gift of eternal life without turning from sin. They have allowed Jesus to be their Saviour but they have not yielded their life to the Lord. No one is saved while being unrepentant! What a lie! Giving false assurance to sinners is a Scriptural sign of a false prophet.”

Peter the Apostle said “But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.” Oh to realize this is happening now in our modern day evangelical circles! “damnable heresies” being spoken from renown pulpits across America. This half-gospel that is being preached nullifies God’s power and makes it void. Jesus Christ our Lord spoke these words: “ye have made the commandments of God of none effect by your tradition!” And dare I say that our modern day evangelical “traditions” have made the word of God of “none effect.” May God anoint his vessels in these last days to preach a true Biblical gospel message in our day.