

"We live between two great days: The day Christ hung before men and the day all men will kneel before Christ."

---Paul Washer

Surplus or Surrender

There are many famous and popular preachers today who preach and who promote another gospel. Some of the most well-known names in Christianity in America, in Australia as well as in Asia are guilty of this.

They no longer preach about the small and narrow road that leads to heaven but they have turned scripture upside down and proclaim that it is the large, the wide open road which leads to heaven today.

The reason for this is that when you come before God (who is only ever spoken of in terms of love while all His other attributes are carefully hidden or disguised) it is essence all about you, it is all about what He can do for you and it is not really about Him at all.

This false gospel has placed humans at the center of the universe and it has made life evolve around us instead of our creator.

The 'new conversion' equals an entry into a life of health, wealth and prosperity.

As one such 'false' pastor told his audience during a presentation which was aired on T.V.

"Every one of you has a God given right to live until you reach 120!"

But this is not the gospel. This is vanity and nothing else. This has nothing in common with the true gospel at all.

The mega-churches of today which promote this false gospel may attract many thousands of people but something else is also happening at the very same time.

While new people are flocking into those churches in great numbers many are leaving through the back door at the very same time. What could be the reason for this? They have simply become disillusioned with both the message and the messenger since what they hear does not relate to their personal experience of life. The message which they had been told over and over again had never translated into reality. At the first serious 'bad news' in life their 'faith' was shipwrecked, was smashed, was destroyed and it left them inwardly disillusioned and shattered. And of course they will always blame God for their misfortune.

When Job had to suffer, when he had lost his health, his wealth and his children his faith stood the test of time.

If any of the churches who preach a false gospel today would face the trials that Job had to face they would have to close their doors overnight.

A true conversion is never built on earthly benefits. A true conversion is never built on what I can get out of God in order to prosper here in life.

The moment someone gets converted because of material incentives (financial and material benefits) his conversion will never be genuine and it will never last. Such a conversion is nothing but a calculated exchange. It is a purchase of handing over once life for the sake of receiving a bag full of goods in return. But this is not a conversion. This is simply a trade deal. It is nothing more than an exchange of goods and in the end such a person will always end up being the loser for God can never be bought.

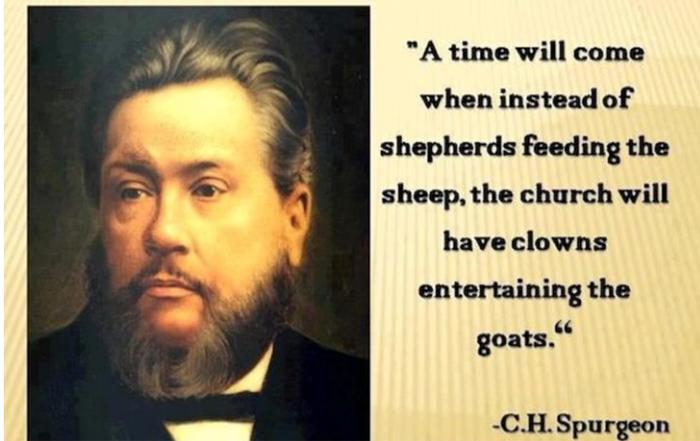
No wonder that such churches can charge hundreds of dollars to every person that attends their motivational meetings (as is the case with Hillsong conferences)

Can you imagine the Apostle Paul or Peter charging money to anyone who had come to hear the word preached?

Paul would have condemned any such action as utterly greedy, as disgusting, as outrageous and as totally shameful.

No true Christian would ever charge anyone money for wanting to share the word of the Lord with them.

Always stay clear of such man! Such man are not interested in your spiritual welfare and in your spiritual growth, such man are always after your money instead!



But this is the message of the modern self-centered church. It is the visible expression of greed in a church. This is the church which has turned church into a greedy business instead. And of course the pastors who promote this false gospel have become fabulously wealthy in the process of promoting their lies.

Whenever you encounter a man who promotes himself as a 'pastor' but who has become rich at the expense of his church (as well as of his other followers who have bought his overpriced books and CD's) you are not looking at a genuine pastor

but you are looking at a greedy and a shred business man instead.

I still remember a man which I had once met in India. He was a young American missionary. He was working among India's poor and he lived like an outcast himself. His home was a little hut made out of mud. He had no running water and no electricity. He did not even have a bed to sleep in. He slept on the floor like most of India's poor do every night.

His only form of transport was an old bicycle. He only ate one simple meal every day.

But those who lived near him could see that something of the glory of God was shining forth from his face.

Occasionally he would wake up during the night and he would hear a little baby cry in front of his door.

Sometimes a poor, desperate mother would leave her little child in front of his door during the night. If a mother became so desperate, if she was so destitute that she could no longer feed her own child she would turn to this man in complete desperation and drop off her own child at his door.

For a mother to leave her child at a stranger's door in India has many implications. This mother knows that the stranger takes full ownership of her little life. He can do with her little child whatever he pleases for she had voluntarily surrendered the control of her new life into his hands. But those mothers had such trust and had such confidence in this godly man that they knew that he would rather feed a starving child before he would feed himself. They knew that he was such a kind man that he would rather go without food himself before he would watch a little child die of hunger.

This is the gospel in essence!

Just like this man had given up his comfortable life in America, had left his nice home, his car and his job and ended up living in a dirty little mud hut with not much to eat so the son of God had left His heavenly throne where billions (or more) of angels had bowed down before him and had worshipped him as the eternal heavenly King.

Just like this young missionary had exchanged a life of relative luxury for a life of poverty so the heavenly King had exchanged a life of royalty for a life of human simplicity, for a life of abuse and rejection, for a life which eventually led him to the most painful death on a cross.

This is the gospel!

Many of those false preachers today have turned the true gospel of surrender into a false gospel of convenience, into an ego-centric, self-centered gospel which has turned God into a servant who is only there to fulfill our wishes and fads.

How many of those seductive false preachers would be willing to give up and surrender their luxurious lifestyle and live like that American missionary did in India? It is doubtful that there would even be 1 among them.

During the Middle-Ages the richest man in Czarist Russia had become a Christian. The Czar was enraged by this man's decision and it did not take long before he too decided to act. He put the rich new convert before a choice. He told him that he could either renounce his new faith and keep all his money or keep his faith and lose all his wealth. The man owned large parts of Russia since he was phenomenally wealthy.

It must have been a very hard decision but in the end that man choose wisely. He decided to surrender all of his wealth and he walked away with nothing at all.

I am sure that this man will be rewarded with the most incredible reward that will last forever, a rewards that no ruler will ever be able to take out of his hands ever again.

Out of the 12 Apostles only 1 did not die a violent death. Here is how some of the apostle's ended their life: Peter was crucified upside down in Rome. Paul was also martyred in Rome. Andrew was crucified and Thomas was pierced through with the spears of 4 soldiers. Philip died a very cruel death in personal revenge after the wife of a Roman proconsul was converted through his Christian ministry. Matthew was most likely stabbed to death while James was stoned to death. Matthias was burned alive and John was the only one of all the disciples who died of natural causes, who died of old age.

All the others had to give their life for the sake of following Jesus their Lord.

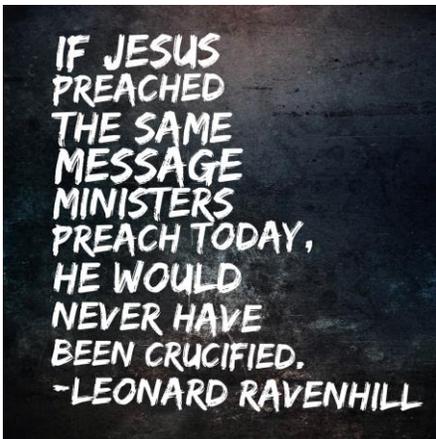
How many of those modern 'fake' pastors and preachers would surrender their life's like the apostles had done?

1 John 2:15-17 gives us a sober warning: 'Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love for the Father is not in them. For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world. The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever. The essence of the love of the world is the love of money itself.

A gospel that focuses on prosperity, on health and wealth is in essence a gospel which focuses too much on the things that scripture so clearly warns us about.

There is nothing wrong with money as long as we are willing to surrender it all to the Lord. The only one of the 12 apostles who used money dishonestly on himself was Judas. Whenever you see a pastor, a preacher who is using his church or his ministry to enrich himself you are looking at another manifestation of the spirit of Judas at work. And we know where that led to in the end. It not only led to the betrayal of Jesus but it also led to an early death of Judas himself.

The old revival preachers of the past all had a very similar message. It was the same message which Jesus had preached: repent and surrender to God what belongs to God. "Surrender" was the message which Jesus had for the rich young ruler. But the rich young man left his encounter with Jesus with his head hanging low. He was very rich and he was not prepared to surrender his riches for the sake of following Jesus. If this young man would have walked into one of our modern mega-churches today he would have greatly rejoiced for he would have been told a very different message instead. Many of our modern preachers who promote a false gospel would have told him: "if you follow Jesus and you can double your money" (or grow it 10-fold). Who would not be tempted by such a message?



False preachers have turned the 'cost' of following Jesus into a 'blessing' instead.

But this is a lie. The Bible clearly tells us that this is a lie.

Jesus left us with a very different message instead.

Following Jesus was never based on a 'surplus' but it was always based on 'surrender' instead. It is only when we surrender that we can experience God's true blessing in life.

But this blessing may not always take on the form that we expect.

Yes Jesus promised the rich young ruler a great reward but this reward was not going to materialize here in this life. There was no '10-fold' increase of his money waiting for him in this life. The full reward for the surrender of all his wealth was reserved for the next life to come.

The former Russian multi-millionaire who had surrendered all his wealth to the Czar never regained his former riches again.

Someone who is not willing to 'surrender' does not want to wait for his reward which is reserved for the next life to come. He wants his reward now, he wants to be rewarded right here and now in this life. His heart is in this life and not in the next life to come.

It is only the heart which has truly surrendered itself into the hands of the Lord that is not concerned about an earthly reward.



The reason why God allows false teachers like Joel Osteen and others is because He is using such man to test the hearts of all those who claim to be 'his people'. Anyone who has truly surrendered his life into the hands of the savior will not be tempted by the glittering temptations and by the lies of such man.

Remember, a pastor, a preacher who lives contrary to the example of Christ is also proclaiming another, a false gospel.

PROSPERITY CANNOT BE A PROOF OF GOD'S FAVOR, SINCE IT IS WHAT THE DEVIL PROMISES TO THOSE WHO WORSHIP HIM.

IF THE GOSPEL YOU PREACH DOESN'T INCLUDE REPENTANCE YOU PREACH A FALSE GOSPEL

The Prosperity Gospel is no gospel because it offers to people what they want as natural people. You don't have to be born again to want to be wealthy, therefore you don't have to be converted to be saved by the Prosperity Gospel.

John Piper



Scratching people where they itch and addressing their 'felt needs' is a stratagem of the poor steward of the oracles of God. This was the recipe for success for the false prophets of the Old Testament.

— R. C. Sproul —

Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world.

1 John 4:1 KJV



"I think the biggest issue is relevance, I really do. We are scratching people where they are itching."

- Brian Houston, Interview with Sydney Morning Herald,

IT IS ONLY AGAINST THE PITCH BLACKNESS OF THE NIGHT THAT WE SEE THE GLORY OF THE STARS. AND IT IS ONLY AGAINST THE PITCH BLACKNESS OF MAN'S RADICAL DEPRAVITY THAT WE CAN BEGIN TO SEE THE GLORIES OF THE GOSPEL. ~ PAUL WASHER

THE BIBLE WARNS US OF FALSE PROPHETS IN THE LAST DAYS

2 Peter 2:1-3		1 John 4:1-6
Matthew 7:15		2 John 1:7-11
Matthew 24:24		2 Timothy 3:5
Mark 13:22		2 Timothy 4:3