

Who Hijacked the Gospel?

Sunday, November 28, 2021

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Romans 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

Luke 9:43 And they were all amazed at the mighty power of God. But while they wondered every one at all things which Jesus did, ...

- I. The Gospel when preached as it is given in the Bible IS the power of God unto salvation.
 - A. The power is not manifested by physical miracles or signs and wonders, but by the message of the Gospel.
 - B. It DOES have an effect on people – it is not something that can be easily shoved aside and made light of and made fun of.
 - C. Other religions look foolish and vain in the light of the Gospel when it is preached in the power of its truth, as Jesus and the Apostles preached it.
 - D. The Gospel has to do with sin and a Savior – not with all the imaginary mind games and cliches that are being taught and preached today as the “plan of salvation.”
 - E. The message of the true Gospel of the Bible demands repentance from sin unto a life of holiness.
 - F. The message of the hijacked gospel is to “invite Jesus to come into your heart.” Or to “receive Jesus as your personal Savior.” Or to “Try Jesus.”
 1. That’s it! No turning from sin, and no expectation of righteous living after the profession of faith.

2 Timothy 2:19 Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.

Paul

Acts 26:19-20 Whereupon, O king Agrippa, I was not disobedient unto the heavenly vision: But shewed first unto them of Damascus, and at Jerusalem, and throughout all the coasts of Judaea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, and do works meet for repentance.

Acts 17:30 And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent:

Jesus

Luke 24:47 And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.

Luke 15:10 Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth.

Luke 13:3 I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.

Luke 5:32 I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.

Mark 1:15 And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.

John the Baptist

Luke 3:8 Bring forth therefore fruits worthy of repentance, and begin not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, That God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham.

The disciples

Mark 6:12 And they went out, and preached that men should repent.

II. The message of the modern hijacked gospel leaves out the key elements of what Jesus and the disciples taught.

A. Sin

1. Here is one false teaching: “People are lost ONLY because of the sin of unbelief and not because of the sins of their flesh.”
2. Sin is not a part of the message at all – the message is only about “trusting Christ” to be your helper and protector and provider, kind of like a fair god mother, or a genie in a bottle that will always be there to take care of you no matter what you do.
3. This is a far cry from how He is described in the Bible as the LORD and Savior, the King, the Judge of all.
4. But it is our sins that have separated us from God and we will end up in hell and everlasting punishment for our sins if we do not repent and believe the gospel.

John 3:17-18 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

5. Believing in Christ is the only way to be forgiven and cleansed from our sins – it is our only hope and only way out...because we are condemned already – because of our sins.

1 Corinthians 6:9-11 Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God. And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.

B. Repentance – Since sin is left out what is the need to talk about repentance?

1. It is considered a “work,” and therefore an affront to God to try to repent.
2. Repentance and faith happen at the same time.
3. Repentance is more than just being sorry for your sins – it is a change of mind and attitude toward sin, and also toward righteousness; we change sides.
4. We take God’s side against ourselves, as David did in Psalm 51.

C. Faith – “Believing on the Lord Jesus Christ is not explained, but sinners are left to assume that just intellectual assent to the facts of the Gospel is salvation.

1. Believing on Christ is to believe the Scriptures about Him:

1 Peter 1:5 Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

Jude 24 Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy,

2. It is seldom explained that a person can believe the facts of the gospel and remain unconverted.

James 2:14 What doth it profit, my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him?

James 2:19 Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.

James 2:20 But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?

- D. Victory – The Bible teaches deliverance from sin, and all our ancestors taught the same thing, but the modern Gospel teaches absolutely NO VICTORY whatsoever.
 1. Their songs tell what they believe.
 2. Here are a couple we heard in Mexico that the missionaries had taught them over 30 years ago:

I have decided to follow Jesus,
Being good is just a fable,
I just can't 'cause I'm not able,
I'll just leave it to the Lord.

Siempre Pecare

I will be here, because you want me to,
Because I want to be here, and I need to be here.
I am useless here in this world,
Because I do nothing else
I do nothing else, but sin.

I don't work any, I don't preach any,
I don't give advice to anyone.
Because I'm useless.
When you came in my heart,
I never imagined what my path in life would be,
But now that I know what it is,
I am more useless still.

Because being here, I will always sin.
I will always sin, God help me.

- E. They may write and sing their songs of defeat, but the Bible tells us a different story.
 1. Saving faith in Christ means that we believe these promises and statements of facts, as well.

Romans 8:37 Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

2 Corinthians 2:14 Now thanks be unto God, which always causeth us to triumph in Christ, and maketh manifest the savour of his knowledge by us in every place.

Revelation 12:11-12 And they overcame him the devil by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death. Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them...

1 John 5:4 For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.

Revelation 12:11 And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.

- F. With a watered-down gospel like this how can anyone expect things to be different than we see them today?
 - 1. When we send out missionaries, what will they be teaching?
 - 2. Is it any wonder that missionaries used to be different?
 - a) They were the cream of the crop; most enlightened, and most fervent and able to communicate the Gospel to others.
 - b) Now they are generally the most shallow and least fervent of the lot.
 - 3. When we see our young people grow up and go to the world, why should we wonder when we taught them that we have nothing that the world doesn't have?
- G. We need to study to show ourselves approved unto God, and be able to give an answer to every one that asks us of the hope we have, and give a right and true answer.
- H. For there to be power in our testimony, it must be truth and not mixed with fables.

I believe today that my conduct is in accordance with the will of the Almighty Creator.

Adolf Hitler

As a Christian I have no duty to allow myself to be cheated, but I have the duty to be a fighter for truth and justice.

Adolf Hitler

I use emotion for the many and reserve reason for the few.

Adolf Hitler

It is always more difficult to fight against faith than against knowledge.

Adolf Hitler

Who says I am not under the special protection of God?

Adolf Hitler