

“Christianity” Today

How do you react to the following statement?

The contemporary, liberalized gospel is the word of man, not the authentic word of God!

I realize that most of you would object to it, and resent it. But, it is scripturally provable that it is not the apostles' doctrine, as received from the Lord, which, of course, was the literal truth. Today's gospel theology is a contrived, philosophical misinterpretation of certain parts of the doctrine of salvation.

And, who would be behind it all? Satan, the enemy of God, and our souls—working relentlessly to draw us away from God, just as he did with Adam and Eve, from which classic example we ought ever to be on guard against him; but don't even seem to be aware of the threat.

Why have we erred from the truth? Because God's strictly specific meaning of his declared gospel principles is too exclusive, too much of an absolutely sovereign, independent work of God for man to literally accept. Why else would we not take God at his word?

If man, in Adam, could—and did—disobey God's will in the original test in the garden of Eden, with extreme eternal consequences at stake, then, Christians could—and did—turn away from God's true gospel, daring thereby to humanize and corrupt his word to make salvation appear to be applicable and acceptable to mankind in general—rather than it being God's particular plan of election of certain individuals to become saved and, in fact, them only!

So, now, for many centuries we have become an increasingly degenerated church—having fallen from the model of the original, and early churches.

And, instead of seeing their critical errors and disservice to God, and repenting from such a deplorable state, most Christians are deceived into thinking that the church has actually improved over time, and is generally in God's will, and commendably living for him, and serving him. And what is the cause of their unseen plight? Bad theology, from not being faithful students of true biblical doctrine!

An understanding of church prophecy in Rev. 2 & 3 would show them the folly of their thinking, but there are few that would read and heed those culpable descriptions of themselves. Which general lack of reaction, is also sadly implied in that prophecy.

What remains, then, but judgment for failing to learn the full truth of God's gospel, and hence, being disloyal to him. So, what do they base their positive image of themselves on? Why, don't the great number of decisions for Christ, all over the country, and the world. show the fruits of evangelistic ministries and campaigns? And isn't that the most important thing a church, or a Christian, can do to serve the Lord? That is, preaching the “gospel”, and witnessing to the unsaved?

True, there are churches with many thousands of members. But, how many tares may have been sown among the wheat by humanistic methods of evangelism? I don't want to sound like an unappreciative skeptic, but because of my observation of some of those works—especially knowing the false gospel theology, which is their doctrinal constitution, it wouldn't surprise me if there were more carnal professing “Christians”, than true believers. Like the Genesis example of seeds bearing fruit after their own kind.

And those who indeed are actual Christians, were made so directly by God, because of his decree of predestination, not due in any way to the evangelistic programs and efforts of man. Which are, in other words, of no efficacy—being entirely passive—God being the only active agent, or factor in man's salvation, from start to finish!

What I believe and have contended for in this brief commentary puts me in a small minority of believers. And yes, that bothers me, more for the church's sake than my own, but I do wish I had more contemporary fellowship and support in the literal doctrinal position I have taken (proved) to be the truth.

My consoling affirmation comes from the fact that my beliefs align me with the early church (and eminently notable advocates of literal gospel truth, in church history). The original church, of course, having been instituted by the apostles, is the paradigm or model for all churches to follow and emulate. But, similar to the drift away from our national constitution, the early church example of church unity and integrity is long forgotten, and practically abandoned for the “enlightenment”, and progressive development of the modern church.

Whereby, not only the gospel truth was corrupted, but, the false concept of his plan and work of salvation, causes such believers to have a wrong image of God himself. If we misrepresent his word, we mischaracterize him, personally! It is an unavoidable consequence.