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Church History Critique

A study of the historic degeneration of most of the Christian church, reveals that, to its shame, the situation is not even suspected by an overwhelming majority of its universal members, which is the result of centuries of false gospel indoctrination, and the resulting absence of spiritual thinking and acting, without which a Christian's works are unspiritual and unacceptable to God.

For most of the first two centuries, after the original church was established in Jerusalem, it appears that the gospel and other doctrine was faithfully maintained--having been instituted by God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who communicated the salvation principles to the apostles, to be recorded in the the language of the specific literal truth of its intended meaning,

The gospel, being the doctrinal foundation of Christianity was, of course, clearly imparted by God to the early churches, and implicitly to be perpetuated and faithfully followed by all future churches. By churches is meant Christian (believers) churches, and all Christians who may not be regularly associated with one.

So, what went wrong, and who is to be blamed for the false gospel belief that corrupted the churches, from about the third century, and continuing to the end-time churches, as prophesied in Rev. 2 and 3?

A heretic named Pelagius, a British monk, infiltrated third

century churches with the leaven of a false interpretation of certain gospel principles. While he was the culpable, evil influence of introducing false teaching of the literal meaning of the scriptural gospel, it was initially the pastor's fault for letting the false teacher speak or preach to the believers. Also, the pastors themselves may have previously given ground to the false teachers' influence!

The corruption of the church by man (Christians) is the most damaging form of disobedience to God that a Christian can be guilty of. It is, in fact, an act of idolatry, which has permeated most churches throughout their history, which spiritually is worse unfaithfulness than Israel's frequent turning away from God, and engaging in various forms of idolatry.

Once the doctrine of salvation had been liberalized by false preaching and teaching, declaring salvation to be universally available to all mankind, subject to man's will, requiring his belief and acceptance (known as Arminianism* vs. the literal gospel of Calvinism)--began the descent of Christianity into a continual religious, but unspiritual personal and church life!

*Named after Jacobus Arminius, a reformation era advocate of the same false gospel doctrine as Pelagius, in the early church period.

In essence, applying to possibly 95% or more of the church's membership, the believers have continually tried to live the Christian life in the flesh. That is, by their old unspiritual nature, not by their new spiritual endowment which they were indwelt

with by God, at the time of their conversion to Christians. They can rightfully claim that they are "new creations in Christ", and that old things are passed away, and behold all things are become new". 2 Cor. 5:17. But, they do not live by the operating principle of that truth!

A careful look at the resultant, devastating effect of a false gospel "concept" on a great majority of Christians, is a pathetic commentary on the "assumed" orthodoxy of the church in general today, and for most of the church's history.

An analysis of the contemporary, conventional church's indoctrination with an adulterated, misrepresentation of the gospel, and not knowing it, is summarized as follows:

1. They (Arminian "free will" Christians) worship a concept of God, and His gospel--not the biblical, true interpretation of it, which gives them a lesser, untrue image of God than he really is.
2. They seriously think that they pray to God, but having broken fellowship with God by their false gospel belief, they also lost their prayer audience with Him, because they forsook the required imputed righteousness of Christ, which is necessary for Christians to be admitted in the presence of a holy God. Christians do not have pure righteousness of their own, until they become glorified in heaven. That is why Christians say "In Jesus' name at the end of their prayers".
3. Nor, can they rightfully, or meaningfully sing praises to God, because they are not spiritually committed to the Lord, nor "walking" with Him faithfully, which is at least a daily act of

submission to God. Neither are they spiritually aware of the doctrinal meaning of the truths they sing about.

Do you think that if Adam held a wrong belief about God, that he could have "walked with God", in the "cool of the evening", like he did? Well, neither can a Christian who believes in a corrupted interpretation of the literal gospel. The vast majority of the universal Christian church holds to a consensus (mutual agreement) gospel belief, but consensus is not proof, and in the case of today's conventional church, it is a misleading alliance, based on doctrinal error, that must be repented of, and reformed to the true gospel, in order to be reconciled to God.

Returning to the subject of the advent of the false gospel introduced to the early churches by Pelagius, and the failure of church pastors who never should have let anyone be admitted to preach false doctrine to members of their churches, the following example is of extreme importance in endeavoring to maintain doctrinal integrity in perpetuity, by all Christian churches.

A pastor is inherently similar to a shepherd of a flock of sheep, and included in his care of the sheep, is the responsibility of protecting them from any danger they might face. This, then, in the case at hand, is where the blame lies. That is, the pastor should never have allowed a heretic to subject the members of the church to false doctrine.

A pastor should also teach the church members that they are personally responsible for what they believe. Which would include the practice of proving what they are taught, to determine

if it is the truth, as the Berean Church habitually did in "receiving the word gladly, and then went home and searched the scriptures to see if those things be so," In other words, a pastor is responsible to God for what he teaches, but Christians are responsible for what they learn, and believe!

Can a Christian, then, justify or defend what he believes by referring to what he was taught, if he hadn't proved whether it was true, or not? No, he may not; not here on earth, and certainly not at the Judgment Seat of Christ, which he would painfully learn, then.

The truth of what I have been saying about almost all of the universal Christian church, is indisputably verified by church prophecy. Chapters 2 and 3 of the book of Revelation contain a graphic negative description of the unspiritual condition of the end-time churches. There is no other reason for churches to be negatively included in Revelation prophecy, except for the purpose of showing the extent of church degeneration from long-standing disgraceful unfaithfulness, applying in type and principle to practically all end-time churches, as well.

It is to be realized that there is no good prophecy noted, except for some partial commendations which do not, and cannot exonerate the churches described, nor any others, except for an assumed remnant of individuals, and possible faithful churches, even as God reserved some to himself under the Old Testament dispensation, and will in the New Testament times, as stated in Rom. 11:4 and 5.

Descriptions applying to contemporary, and future churches in general are "lukewarm" (which God hates), "wretched" and "miserable", and "poor", and "blind", and "naked". Rev. 3:15-17. And yet, most churches for centuries have been deceived into thinking that they are generally sound, and faithful. Hence, the description of "blind".

The final universal church condition prophesied indicates that no major revival, or repentance can be expected, except that because God always allows space for repentance, that some individuals, and possible churches may turn to God in faith, and be reformed. Otherwise, literally many millions will have to face the consequences of following the wrong gospel interpretation, thus turning away from God, and never repenting of their unconscionable dishonor to Him, having forsaken the knowledge of the true gospel, and succumbing to the evil influence and temptation of Satan!

Salvation is the most precious, eternal gift of God, that one can ever receive, and it is completely a work of God, with no human requirement involved, or having any effect on it. In other words, man cannot choose it, refuse it, or lose it! So that it can be accurately, and definitely stated that any doctrinal belief that does not conform to the facts of that condensed salvation truth, is scripturally wrong gospel doctrine! Which, sad to say, applies to the great majority of the worldwide Christian church!

May God's ever-present grace, and mercy, cause or lead some to see the self-imposed, unfaithful situation they are in, and

submit themselves to Him, while there is time on earth to make things right, and turn to true worship of the God of their salvation.

Amen!

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