

False Teaching in The Church.

2,000 years ago there was a temple in Jerusalem built by the Jews, to worship the Lord God of all Creation.

But the religious leaders who ruled over the people, who should have been looking after the people like a good shepherd looks after their flock.

Instead they were fleecing the sheep! And teaching the traditions of men as though they were commandments of God.

They were in fact, false teachers of the Word of God.

And this is what Jesus said to them.

“But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you shut up the kingdom of heaven against men; for you neither go in *yourselves*, nor do you allow those who are entering to go in.

¹⁵ “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you travel land and sea to win one proselyte, and when he is won, you make him twice as much a son of ^[b]hell as yourselves.

²⁷ “Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which indeed appear beautiful outwardly, but inside are full of dead *men*’s bones and all uncleanness.

³³ Serpents, brood of vipers! How can you escape the condemnation of hell?

And those comments, together with the fact that Jesus claimed to be equal with God, because He was, is, and always will be God.

For this reason, the religious leaders had Christ crucified.

But, there is a price to be paid for rejecting the living Word of God.

Jesus told his disciples that when they see the city of Jerusalem surrounded by the enemy. They are not to stay and fight to protect the people, the city or the temple of God, but to flee the city as fast as possible.

Then in 70 AD, when the Roman Army began to surround Jerusalem, all the Christians fled the city. As for the Jews, the Romans slaughtered a million Jews, took the rest into slavery, removed the name of Judah and Israel off all their maps and renamed the land Palestine.

As for the temple, they tore down the temple and all that remains to this day is a section of a wall known as the Wailing Wall.

Where the devout Jews pray and lament the destruction of the temple.

And all that death, destruction and slavery came upon the people because of the false teaching of those religious leaders.

No wonder that Jesus called them a brood of vipers destined for the fires of Hell.

As you have heard in the Bible reading, Paul had a problem with people who had been taught the gospel of Christ, but didn't teach others the gospel of Christ. They preached a different gospel, a false gospel, a gospel they preferred, than the truth.

No wonder Paul called the false teachers of the Gospel of Christ as being accursed, destined for the Second Death in the Lake of Fire.

But that was 2,000 years ago, surely the priests and ministers today couldn't be spreading a false gospel, could they?

After all, they all have to go through a selection process, spend three years of theological training, and then a couple of years with an experienced priest or minister, before leading their own church.

33 years ago, in 1982, in the USA someone conducted a survey of over 7,000 protestant ministers to see what they believed in.

The survey asked if they believed that Jesus Christ was born of the virgin Mary.

60% of the Methodists said NO

49% of the Presbyterians said NO

44% of the Episcopals said NO

19% of the Lutherans said NO.

Asked if they believed Jesus was/is the Son of God.

82% of Methodists said NO

81% Presbyterians said No

89% Episcopals said NO

57 % Lutherans said NO.

Asked if they believed the Bible was the inspired Word of God.

82% of Methodists said NO

81% Presbyterians said No

89% Episcopals said NO

57 % Lutherans said NO.

Asked if they believed in the bodily resurrection of Jesus.

51% of Methodists said NO

30% Presbyterians said No

33% Episcopals said NO

13 % Lutherans said NO.

Some 50 years ago, a famous preacher from Leeds called Leonard Ravenhill said.

If Jesus preached the same gospel that many ministers preach today, they would never have crucified Christ!

Why did Leonard say that? Because he knew there were many ministers who instead of preaching the gospel of Christ.

They preached a diluted version of the gospel, a gospel according to their own ideas, and to make it more acceptable to those who listened to them.

Well, that's what Leonard thought about the false teaching 50 years ago, and unfortunately, things are no better today, in fact I think they have become worse.

25 years ago, I began training as a Lay Minister in the Church of England. I didn't go to a residential Bible College, because being a Lay Minister, I didn't get paid, I did it for the love of God.

Also, my training was done locally, by attending lectures, doing essays, and being assessed throughout the course.

But I was taught the same theology as those studying at a residential college.

Some months before I started the course, I bought a 5-volume set of books called Evidence for Truth, on Science, Archaeology, Prophecy, Miracles and Angels, and The Origin and Destiny of Life.

These were by a Victor Pearce, a Church of England priest and theologian, and a lecturer in two bible colleges.

And it was in reading his books that I read about his warning of false teaching in the theological colleges and from ministers in their churches.

Now before I tell you of the false teaching in some churches today, I want to share with you the true teachings of God.

2,700 years ago, God declared a prophecy, and delivered it to the people through his servant Isaiah.

Isaiah was known as a prophet of God. But neither he or any other prophet delivered a prophecy from their own desire or imagination. They all simply told the people, exactly what God told them. So, in Isaiah 46:9-10 we read.

Remember the former things of old,
For I am God, and there is no other;
I am God, and there is none like Me,
Declaring the end from the beginning,
And from ancient times things that are not yet done,
Saying, 'My counsel shall stand,
And I will do all My pleasure,'

Here God is telling us, that He is able to prophesy the end from the beginning.
To prophesy from ancient history the things that are not yet done.

But is it true? Can God prophesy from ancient times the things that are not yet done?

As you will know, the Holy Bible is in two parts, the Old Testament of the Jews, and the New Testament of the Christians.

The old testament was written over a period of 1000 years, then there was a gap of 400 years before the writings of the New Testament, which covered a period of 100 years.

Now, the Bible, both Old and New Testament contains over 100 prophecies of God.

Many of them given in the Old Testament and had their fulfilment 400 to 1,400 years later, in the birth, life, ministry, crucifixion, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

And considering the Jews of the Old Testament had Jesus Crucified, they would never have added the prophecies to their scriptures after Jesus Christ had fulfilled them.

Because they hated Jesus, and if the Jews realised their religious leaders had crucified God, they would have stoned them to death.

Also, there are prophecies from the Old and New Testament that have been fulfilled in modern history, since the Second World War, concerning the Nation of Israel.

And no one could suggest those prophecies were added after the event.

What these prophecies prove, is that God is who He said He is, He has done what He says He has done, and He will do exactly what He has said He will do.

It also proves that the history of humankind has been unfolding according to the predetermined plan and purpose of God.

And it also proves that during our short life on planet Earth, God has a plan and purpose for our life. And that is to live our life according to the commandments of God, in preparation for eternal life in Heaven.

Of course, not everyone is going to be accepted in Heaven, particularly those who preach a different gospel than the truth.

So, here are just a few of the false teachings of some priests and ministers in the churches today.

False Teaching #1. Ministers who don't believe in the Virgin birth of Jesus.

You will probably all remember the priest David Jenkins, who was a lecturer at Leeds University, and was made Bishop of Durham, and shocked many Christians by saying he didn't believe in the virgin birth of Christ!

Well, I was surprised anyone could be a priest and not believe in the virgin birth of Christ. But I was even more surprised anyone would allow a priest to be a bishop who didn't believe in the virgin birth.

Then when I started my training, there were 16 of us on the course, and when the tutor asked if anyone believed in the virgin birth of Jesus Christ, I was the only one who believed.

And I believed it because it was prophesied by God through Isaiah in Isaiah 7:14.

Therefore the Lord God Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.

We were told the word virgin can mean a young woman who has not experienced sexual relations with a man.

Which of course is true, but a young woman getting pregnant would not be a miracle sign from God.

But if a virgin, who has not had sexual relations with a man, and who bears a child, then that would definitely be a miracle sign from God.

That is why Jesus was known as Immanuel, which means God with us, for Jesus was and is, and forever will be, God – God with us.

And that is why God prophesied about this momentous occasion for humankind, because it was a miracle virgin birth.

False teaching # 2 Ministers who don't believe in the Prophecies of God.

Later in the course, I was asked to write an essay on the prophet Isaiah, which I completed and gave to my tutor.

At my next meeting with my tutor, I was told I had made a mistake with my essay. This was because I had written the essay based on all 66 chapters of Isaiah. But they told me Isaiah had only written the first 40 chapters.

When I asked how they came to that conclusion, I was told they didn't believe Isaiah could have written the last 26 chapters, because it contained a prophecy that was so accurate, it must have been written by someone years later and added afterwards!

These theologians, bishops and priests couldn't believe that a mere man, Isaiah could make a prediction 200 years into the future.

But Isaiah, didn't make the prediction, he simply told the people what God had told him to say.

Let me give you another example of a prophecy of God. A prophecy that would have been impossible for any human to make, and impossible to add to the scriptures after the prophecy was fulfilled.

In the Old Testament, in Deuteronomy 18:15-19. God prophesies that in the future he will send another prophet to the people who will be like Moses.

If we look back through 3,400 years of history since God made that prophecy. There is only one person in history who was like Moses and that was Jesus Christ. And so God gave the prophecy 1,400 years before it was fulfilled in Jesus Christ.

Then, following Jesus crucifixion and resurrection, Jesus meets with two of his followers. And in Luke 24:25 – 27. Jesus reveals all the prophecies of God delivered through Moses and all the prophets that speak of Jesus, his birth, life, crucifixion, death and resurrection.

And it must have been a marathon conversation, for there are so many prophecies of God.

False Teaching # 3. Ministers who hate those who preach the true Gospel of Christ.

During my theological training, I was asked to write an essay to complete my studies and enable me to be licensed as a Minister.

But a few weeks later, I was shocked to discover the examiner had failed my essay.

When I asked my tutor what was wrong with the essay, he told me that there wasn't anything wrong with it, and it should have easily been a pass.

But he said the only reason the examiner could have been against it, was because I had written the essay from the theological position, of absolute faith in God. That the Bible was completely true from beginning to end.

And my tutor asked me to write the essay from a more liberal point of theology.

What he was asking me to do, was to dilute the gospel of Christ, just to please the person who was marking my paper.

I realised the examiner didn't want me to complete the course, because he didn't want people like me preaching the undiluted gospel of Christ.

So, I chose a different topic, and wrote an essay that was difficult for him not to pass my work.

False Teaching # 4. Ministers who don't believe in Hell.

A few months later, having completed my training, I was called to help with a funeral service, and during my chat with the priest, I became concerned with something they said.

So I asked them, You don't believe in Hell, do you?

And they said no, they didn't believe in Hell, and when I asked them why, they replied.

I don't believe in Hell because when I get to heaven, if I find my parents are not there, then I will cry my eyes out. And because the Bible says there are no more tears in heaven. That means Hell cannot exist!

Well, I was shocked at their answer, because for a priest to come to that conclusion. It would mean that if everyone was going to heaven, then sin wouldn't matter anymore, nor would we have any concern about the commandments of God.

Nor would Jesus had to come down from Heaven to Earth, and die a horrific death on the cross to pay the price for our sins.

Nor would we need to go to church on Sundays, nor would we need churches, and nor would we need priests and ministers.

But in fact we do need all these things, what we don't need is the priests and ministers with their false teachings.

But in fact, the Bible doesn't say – there are no more tears in heaven. What it actually says is – And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes. Revelation 21:4. and that is a big difference from what the priest believed and taught others.

In the Book of Revelation we have the prophecies of God.

That there is a time appointed by God for men and women to die, and then face the Judgement of God through Jesus Christ.

Those whose names are written in the Book of Life will enter Heaven, and those whose names are not found in the book, will face the Second Death in the Lake of Fire.

Now, this might seem a little harsh!

But, God has told us, both in the Old Testament and by Jesus Christ.

That if we want to be sure we will go to Heaven when we die, then we must obey the greatest commandment of God.

And that is we must love God with all our heart, mind, soul and strength, and to love our neighbour as ourselves.

Because in Heaven, everyone loves God with all their heart, soul, mind and strength, and loves one another as themselves.

Now, imagine then. That God were to allow everyone into Heaven.

How long would Heaven be paradise? Not very long.

Most people look at all the evil in the world, and ask the question – Why doesn't God do something about all the evil in the world.

A question I will answer in detail in another sermon!

You're only allowed 1 sermon each service! Otherwise you won't get out of here before supper!

But, one thing God has made sure, is that no one who is not willing to live their life here on Earth, loving God with all their heart, mind soul and strength, will enter and spoil God's Kingdom of Heaven.

False Teaching # 5 Ministers who don't believe the spiritual gifts are for today.

Paul taught that we should earnestly desire the Spiritual gifts of God. Prophecy, miracles of healings, words of knowledge, words of wisdom, discerning of spirits.

Yet, there are many ministers who refused to believe this is true for today. They think all these gifts of God died out with the apostles nearly 2,000 years ago.

Well, some time ago, a young man came to our church and asked for healing prayer.

I had never seen him before, and when three of us sat with him after the service, we asked him what he wanted healing.

He told us he had been a drug user but was now clean, and showed us his leg that was grey from injecting drugs. He said it was really painful and walked with a limp.

As we prayed for his healing, God said to me "Ask him if he is a plumber, and showed me a picture of a white sink with water pipes underneath that were gleaming with silver.

So I asked him if he was a plumber. And he said no. But he said, earlier that week he had met a friend who he hadn't seen for years. He was a plumber, and was encouraging him to train as a plumber, as he said it was a good job and he made lots of money.

So he was considering the training, but wasn't sure.

We asked him to stand and then to walk. He could walk without a limp and without any pain.

Even though he came for healing prayer, he was surprised how quickly the pain had gone, and how God was now encouraging him to train as a plumber!

I could share dozens of similar examples about healing and words of knowledge from God.

And I have lots of friends who could stand here and say the same. Because those spiritual gifts from God have not died out, and they are available for every Christian today.

False Teaching # 6. Ministers who tell you that God loves you and has a wonderful plan for your life.

That sounds wonderful doesn't it?

But the truth is God extends His love to everyone, but not everyone accepts the love of God, which become problematic on the Day of Judgement.

And when they say God has a wonderful plan for your life. God does have a wonderful plan for your life, your eternal life in Heaven, but again, not everyone accepts the gift of God of eternal life in Heaven.

As for our life here on Earth, our time is very short, and Jesus never promised anyone an easy time here.

Many of you here, over the years will have experienced all kinds of trials and tribulations in your life.

Some of you may have been through such tough times in your life, and you might have contemplated suicide.

And I know personally how that feels, and I might share that with you sometime. But as you know, you only get one sermon for 1 service, you can't have 2!

According to the Christian organisation Open Doors, last year, more than **380 million Christians worldwide faced persecution**, 4,476 were murdered, 7,679 churches and Christians had their properties attacked, and 4,744 Christians were imprisoned for their faith in Jesus Christ.

Now, if you said to those 380 million Christians, God loves you and has a wonderful plan for your life. They might be tempted to punch you in the mouth!

What Jesus did promise is that He would always be with us, no matter what problems, no matter what calamities we may have to face in life.

And there's a poem that is meaningful to many Christians who have been through tough times.

Footprints in the Sand

One night I dreamed I was walking along the beach with the Lord. Scenes from my life flashed across the sky. In each, I noticed footprints in the sand. Sometimes there were two sets of footprints; other times there was only one.

During the low periods of my life I could see only one set of footprints, so I said, "You promised me, Lord, that you would walk with me always. Why, when I have needed you most, have you not been there for me?"

The Lord replied, "The times when you have seen only one set of footprints, my child, is when I carried you."

And that is how many of us feel, when we have walked through the valley of death, and we didn't think we could get through, and perhaps we just wanted to give up and die.

And yet somehow we managed to keep walking, keep going.

And when things did get better, and we came out of the other end, we know we didn't do it in our own strength. But Jesus carried us through.

False teaching # 7. Ministers who don't believe in The Great Commission.

Some years ago I was a member of a church and planning to lead a door-to-door evangelism campaign in our parish. It was based upon the Evangelism Explosion method of evangelism, that has been used by Christians around the world.

I had informed a senior minister of our church about the evangelism plan, and was asked to attend a meeting with the minister and church wardens. I was then told by the minister that neither the PCC, the church wardens nor himself wanted me to go door to door sharing the Gospel of Christ!

I was shocked, I never thought I would hear such words of evil coming from the mouth of a priest. It was demonic!

The minister told me he didn't want me or anyone else going door to door with the gospel, because it would give the church a bad name!

Well, that never bothered Jesus Christ, nor His disciples. For at the end of Matthew's Gospel, when Jesus Christ had been crucified, buried and raised from the dead. Jesus met with His disciples and told them.

¹⁶ Then the eleven disciples went to Galilee, to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. ¹⁷ When they saw him, they worshiped him; but some doubted.

¹⁸ Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.

¹⁹ Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you.

And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age." Matthew 28:16-20

This passage of scripture is known as The Great Commission, and yet this priest wanted to overrule the Great Commission of God.

Why?

The theologian R.T. Kendall in his book Are you Stone Deaf to the Spirit....or Rediscovering God? On page 26 he writes.

Many people are going to universities today, trying to learn theology. It is pitiful what is taught in most seminaries (colleges) today.....

There is an assumption in most theological schools today that the Bible is mostly myth and we need to demythologise it and get back some meaning. For example, we are not to take seriously that Christ really walked on the water, instead just demythologise and say that through Jesus we can conquer problems or difficulties. R.T. Kendall. Are You Stone Deaf to The Spirit...or Rediscovering God? Page 26. The Gurnsey Press Co. Ltd. Christian Focus Publications.

This is the heart of the problem of all those ministers who pick and choose what to believe in the Bible, according to their own desires. None of them can go door to door with the Gospel of Christ, because they don't believe it. Many of them have no hope in eternal life in Heaven, and one wonders how on God's Earth these people ever became ministers in the first place!

Which brings us to **False teaching # 8. Ministers who tell you that all religions worship the same God.**

When Jesus was heading to Jerusalem with his disciples, Jesus knew he was heading for his crucifixion and death.

And he wanted to prepare them and comfort them.

And in John chapter 14, Jesus told them.

I am the way, the truth and the life, no one comes to God the Father except through Me. John 14:6

Jesus said he was the way. He is the only way to God, and there is no other way.

Jesus is the truth, if we don't believe the truth, then anyone telling you there is a different way to God is lying to you.

No one comes to God the Father except through Jesus. This is because on Judgement Day, the one who will be judging you is Jesus Christ.

Then Jesus tells his disciples –

“If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; and from now on you know Him and have seen Him.”

⁸ Philip said to Him, “Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us.”

⁹ Jesus said to him, “Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? ¹⁰ Do you not believe that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me? The words that I speak to you I do not speak on My own *authority*; but the Father who dwells in Me does the works. ¹¹ Believe Me

that I *am* in the Father and the Father in Me, or else believe Me for the sake of the works themselves.

This is how Jesus explained that God was in Jesus and Jesus was in God. He then promises another Helper, the Spirit of God. Here we have the Trinity of God –

God the Father, God the Son Jesus Christ, and God the Holy Spirit.

One God yet three distinct persons.

Jesus said.

¹⁵ “If you love Me, keep My commandments. ¹⁶ And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever— ¹⁷ the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. ¹⁸ I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.

Let me repeat what Jesus said –

The Holy Spirit of God will be with you and within You!

As Paul said in Romans 8:11

But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies, through His Spirit who dwells in you.

And to the Corinthians he wrote -

Do you not know that Jesus Christ is in you? 2 Corinthians 13:5.

1. Corinthians 6:19, Paul wrote, Your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit of God, who is in you, whom you have received from God.

2. Corinthians 5:17 Paul wrote. If anyone is in Christ, they are a new creation.

Do all religions worship the same God? Are all the religions the same?

NO!

Only Jesus Christ who is God, sacrificed his life on the cross to pay the price your sins deserve. He died so that you could have eternal life in Heaven.

But Jesus didn't just die so we could look forward to heaven when we die.

The promise, the prophecy of God, is that through Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit, God lives in us!

How amazing is that! There isn't any other religion where their god lives in their followers.

Is there any other religion where their god loves them as much as our God loves us?

In the service of Holy Communion, we eat a small piece of bread, and take a sip of wine, the symbols of the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, and of his sacrifice on the cross for us.

It is as though Jesus is pouring his love into us, and we feel the bread and wine actually deep within us.

And that is how close Jesus wants us to feel God is to us, with us and within us.

And it is this closeness to God, Christ within us, that transforms our lives here on Earth. So that we can personally experience the love, joy, peace, power and presence of God in our life.

The presence of God who guides us in this life in all that we do, as we learn to love God with all our heart, mind, soul and strength, and to love one another as ourselves.

And because Christ lives in us, we are assured of our salvation, assured that on Judgement Day our names are written in the Book of Life, and of our entry into God's Kingdom of Heaven.

But those false teachers who tell you otherwise, their end will be the Second Death in the Lake of Fire.

So, as I have shared just a few of the false teachings from the priests and ministers of Satan.

As Jesus called them a brood of vipers, what then is the antidote to their poison of death?

The antidote is the Truth that is written in the Word of God, the Holy Bible.

This is why for every Christian it is important to read and study the Bible, so you know the truth.

Then whenever any minister stands in front of you, no matter what they tell you. You will be able to know if they are preaching the gospel of Christ, or another gospel and the doctrine of demons.

And the best bible to get is one like mine –

On every page, it has Bible references in the middle column of each page.

Also a commentary at the bottom of each page.

However, you need to check and see what those commentators believe in.

25 years ago I looked at this Bible, and read about the commentators, and discovered they all believed God is who He says He is, they believed He has done what he says he has done, and He will do exactly what he says he will do.

And this Bible has been invaluable to me as a Christian learning about God.

And when in training for the ministry, in knowing when those theologians were preaching the gospel Paul preached, or they were preaching a false gospel.

Because, the scriptures tell us, the unbelieving and idolatrous will not enter the kingdom of Heaven.

And when those ministers of God dilute the gospel of Christ so it doesn't offend anyone, or for them to pick and choose the scriptures that is pleasing to them. They are guilty of unbelief and idolatry.

They have made a god in the image that is acceptable to them, and rejected the Lord God of all creation.

They have in fact rejected the sacrifice of God, and ridiculed Christ Jesus on the cross.

And for that, how can they escape the Judgement of God?

For it is from these theological-intellectual-giants, that false teaching flows down through the universities and Bible Colleges.

Down through the bishops, priests, and ministers to their victims (the congregations).

And flows down through teachers of religious education in schools, to their victims – the children.

And as a result of this false teaching, our children and grandchildren, our parents and grandparents, our husbands and wives, our brothers and sisters, our families and loved ones and friends are all in great danger!

And all because of the ministers of God, who diluted the Gospel of Christ, who have ridiculed the Word of God and the gospel of salvation.

And have subjected the living Word of God to their intellect.

But on their day of Judgement, they will stand and watch God's faithful people ascend to the kingdom of heaven.

While they call – Lord, Lord. Then hear those terrible words – I never knew you. Away from me you evildoers!

But be sure of this, we can always trust in the prophecies and promises of God, as He has revealed to us in His Holy Bible.

Because our Lord and our God, is who He says He is, He has done what He says He has done, and He will do what He says He will do. Amen.

