

The False Teachings of the Word of Faith Movement

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Who is Jim Smith and why he felt led to write this book...

Pastor Jim L. Smith was born in West Palm Beach, Florida in 1965. He was raised in the First Baptist Denomination for the first 20 years of his life, but adds, never accepted Christ. While enrolled at the university in Orlando, he attended a revival at an Assembly of God Church where received exposure to the "Baptism of the Holy Spirit."

After years of being lost (Jim was saved at the age of 33) and bound to pornography and alcohol, it was the truth of the Cross that set him Free! After moving from Orlando to Ringgold, Georgia, Jim and Lisa Smith were joined in Holy Matrimony and became members of a local Church of God ministry. Jim and Lisa were the youth pastors as well as leading the youth choir there. In 1998, Pastor Jim and Lisa began giving away Bibles for FREE...to anyone that wanted one. This ministry later included a radio ministry (Jesus First Ministries). The ministry grew to marriage, family and financial counseling, the distribution of food, clothes and furniture to the needy, as well as a 24-hour prayer line. In 1999 the Lord impressed upon him to plant a church in the area and that it's purpose was to reach out to those that have "fallen between the cracks" of today's churches. Jim and Lisa have two girls and two boys, and what a blessing they are. As parents, they believe in maintaining a balance between the ministry and quality family time with their children.

Now that you know about him, let's share why he felt led to write this book. Jim was ordained by the Word of Faith ministry in 1999 after leaving Church of God to start Battlefield Church of Faith (Interdenominational/Pentecostal). He was approached by a Word of Faith pastor of a large ministry who ordained him and helped him finance BCOF for the first few months. After God moving BCOF into three different buildings in just three years, not only was the ministry growing in numbers, but they were growing spiritually as well (spiritual growth is really the only thing a ministry should focus on).

One January, Pastor Jim remembers receiving such a deep and Divine Revelation of the CROSS. The Holy Spirit had begun giving him such powerful and spiritually enriching messages for the congregation (as well as for himself) on the true purpose of the Cross. By the end of that year, the Lord gave him a vision (a continued vision of what he received during a tent revival in 1999).

Pastor Jim began researching the Bible and compared what those around him was preaching to what the Lord had given him. On many occasions in prayer with God, he said "Lord, these men have been your under-shepherds for years," "Lord, these men have Bible colleges," "Lord, these men have multi-million dollar TV ministries." The Lord pressed upon his Spirit to re-read Psalms 1:1 "Blessed is not the man who walketh in the counsel of the ungodly." After hearing from the Lord, he had no other option then to resign all board positions he held on other Word of Faith ministries and surrendered his Ordination and License (for they were issued to him by men preaching false doctrine). Friends, Pastor Jim is just a man who is giving you a free book that ask nothing more than for you to open your Bible and compare what it says to what he has reprinted from quotes of men that call themselves servants of the most high.

Chapter One

What is the Faith Movement? Who are the Faith Movement Teachers?

Founder/Founding date: As a movement rather than an organized group, there is no founder or founding date, *per se*. The philosophical roots extend to Gnosticism. E.W. Kenyon (1860-1948) was perhaps the earliest modern exponent to blend the movement's eastern mystical and New Age elements with Christian teaching.

Official Publications: None. Two prominent publications are Kenneth Copeland's "*Believer's Voice of Victory*" and Kenneth Hagin's "*The Word of Faith*" magazines. There are scores of books, newsletters, pamphlets by various authors Kenneth Hagin Sr., Kenneth Hagin, Jr., Kenneth & Gloria Copeland, Frederick Price, Creflo & Taffy Dollar, Kenyon, Capps, etc.

Organizational Structure: Has no key universally acknowledged leader or central headquarters. The teachers of the movement all have their own churches and followings.

Unique Terms: The God-kind of faith; the force of faith; the Anointing; spirit-man; spiritual death of Christ; born-again Jesus; authority of the believer.

Other Names: Word-of-Faith, Positive Confession, Faith-formula, Health & Wealth Gospel.

HISTORY

Born in 1860, E. W. Kenyon is generally recognized as the founding father of the modern Word-Faith Movement. Beginning as a Methodist, he became quite ecumenical, associating with the Baptists. Some of his work even resulted in the founding of a few Primitive Baptist Churches. Late in life, Kenyon moved into Pentecostalism. At the same time, he combined elements of the metaphysical cults, such as Christian Science, New Thought theology, and Unity School of Christianity (D.R. McConnell, *A Different Gospel*, pp. 31-35). "The doctrines of correct thinking and believing accompanied by positive confession, with the result of calling a sickness a symptom (denial of reality supported by a Gnostic dualism) are not found in Christian writings until after New Thought and its offspring had begun to develop them. Therefore, it is not unreasonable to state that the doctrine originated and developed in these cults, and was later absorbed by Christians in their quest to develop a healing ministry" (H. Terris Neuman, *An Analysis of the Sources of the Charismatic Teaching of Positive Confession*, p. 43).

Though obviously not the movement's originator, some have also called Kenneth Hagin the "grand-daddy of the faith teachers" (Sherry Andrews, "Kenneth Hagin < Keeping the Faith," *Charisma*, October 1981, p. 24). In a survey of readers of *Charisma* (a major Charismatic magazine) concerning those ministers that influence them the most, Kenneth Hagin was 3rd, ranked behind only TV evangelist Pat Robertson, and the heir apparent to the Word-Faith movement throne, Kenneth Copeland (Kenneth Hagin, Jr., *Charisma*, "Trend Toward the Faith Movement," August 1985, pp. 67-70).

DOCTRINE

God

Word-Faith teachers claim that God operates by spiritual law and is obliged to obey the faith-filled commands and desires of believers. He not only reveals prosperity teaching supernaturally to the Word-Faith teachers, but personally and verbally confirms their unique interpretations of Scripture (Copeland, *Laws of Prosperity*, pp. 60-62).

They say the Abrahamic Covenant is the basis for commanding God to do His part in the covenant. Robert Tilton says, "we make our own promises to do our part, then we can tell God, on the authority of His word, what we would like Him to do. That's right, you can actually tell God what you would like His part in the Covenant to be" (*God's Miracle Plan for Man*, p. 36). Kenneth Copeland says, "as a believer, you have a right to make commands in the name of Jesus. Each time you stand on the Word, you are commanding God to a certain extent, because it is His Word" (*Our Covenant with God*, p. 32). Copeland goes so far as to say that "God was the lesser party and Abraham was the greater" in the covenant between them (Copeland, *Legal and Vital Aspects of Redemption*, 1985, Audio Tape #01-0403).

The Faith teachers also make God into a big man. Copeland says, "God is...a being that stands somewhere around 6'-2," 6'-3," that weighs somewhere in the neighborhood of a couple of hundred pounds, little better, and has a hand span of nine inches across" (*Spirit, Soul, and Body*, 1985, Tape #01-0601). Morris Cerillo, in an alleged out-of-body experience, describes God: "Suddenly, in front of this tremendous multitude of people, the glory of God appeared. The form that I saw was about the height of a man 6 feet tall, maybe taller, and twice as broad as a human body, with no distinguishing features such as eyes, nose, or mouth" (*The Miracle Book*, pp. x-xi).

Man

Word-Faith teachers say that not only is God a big man, but man is a little god. Kenneth Hagin has asserted, "man...was created on terms of equality with God, and he could stand in God's presence without any consciousness of inferiority.... He made us the same class of being that He is Himself.... He lived on terms equal with God.... The believer is called Christ, that's who we are; we're Christ" (*Zoe: The God Kind of Life*, pp. 35-36, 41). "God's reason for creating Adam was His desire to reproduce Himself...He was not a little like God. He was not almost like God. He was not subordinate to God even" (Copeland, *Following the Faith of Abraham*, 1989, Tape #01-3001). He also proclaims, "You don't have a God in you < you are one!" (Copeland, *The Force of Love*, 1987, Tape #02-0028). Morris Cerillo says "the whole purpose of God was to reproduce Himself. ...you're not looking at Morris Cerillo, you're looking at God, you're looking at Jesus" (*The End Time Manifestation of the Sons of God*, Audio Tape 1, Sides 1 & 2).

Christ

The deity of Christ is compromised. Kenneth Copeland, in relating what Christ supposedly told him, says, "don't be disturbed when people accuse you of thinking you are God...the more you get to be like Me, the more they are going to think that way of you. They crucified Me for claiming that I was God. But I didn't claim I was God. I just claimed I walked with Him and that He was with Me" (Copeland, "Take Time to Pray," *Believer's Voice of Victory*, #15, 2 February 1987, p. 9). "Jesus was on the earth just a man, not the son of God" (Frederick K.C. Price, Tape #RP 19, May 1993). And Kenneth Hagin says, "You are as much the incarnation of God as Jesus Christ was" (*The Word of Faith*, December 1980, p. 14).

According to Word-Faith teachers, when Adam rebelled, or "committed high treason," he not only betrayed God by turning over to Satan what God had given him, he also took on the nature of Satan. So, to redeem mankind and creation from Satan's legal control, Jesus, as the second Adam, had to die not only physically but spiritually. This may be acceptable among some evangelicals. But where it has led Word-Faith teachers is not. They say that Jesus did not bare our sins on Calvary, but took on the actual nature of Satan himself. "Just as Adam died spiritually, Jesus died spiritually. The spiritual death He suffered caused His physical body to die.... When *Jesus accepted the sin nature of Satan* into His Spirit He cried 'My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken me.'

Atonement

The very important doctrine of the atonement of Christ is distorted. Frequently Word-Faith teachers unduly over-emphasize the spiritual death instead of the physical death of Christ. "Physical death will not remove sins" (Hagin, *The Name of Jesus*, p. 29). In other words, it took the spiritual death of Jesus to atone for sins. "Do you think that the punishment of our sins was to die on the cross? If that was the case, the two thieves could have paid our price. No, the punishment was to go into hell itself and to serve time in hell separated from God" (K. C. Price, *Ever Increasing Faith Messenger*, June 1990, p. 7).

Me?' He was separated from God... He was ushered into the bowels of hell" (Kenneth Copeland, *Classic Redemption*, p. 13; emphasis added). "Spiritual death means having Satan's nature" (Hagin, *The Name of Jesus*, p. 31).

Just a man on earth, and taking on the nature of Satan at the cross, Jesus becomes just a sinner in need of redemption. At the resurrection Jesus is a *born again man from the pit of hell*. "Jesus was born again in the pit of Hell....The Church started when Jesus was born again in the gates of Hell" (Charles Capps, *Authority In Three Worlds*, pp. 212-13).

Other Doctrines

1) Positive Confession: The Theology of the Spoken Word (*Rhematology*), or thought actualization, is commonly known as *positive confession*. It stresses the inherent power of words and thoughts. Each person predestines his own future by what he says verbally and by how well he uses spiritual laws. As such, it is as if we live in a mechanistic universe instead of a personal one (see, Kenneth Copeland, *Laws of Prosperity*, p. 15; Charles Capps, *The Tongue A Creative Force*, pp. 117-118; *Releasing the Ability of God*, pp. 98-99, 101-104).

2) The Gospel of Health: Isaiah 53 is used to justify blanket coverage for the physical healing of every Christian who has enough faith. "...it is the plan of our Father God in His great love and His great mercy that no believer should ever be sick, that every believer should live his life full span down here on earth and that every believer should finally just fall asleep in Jesus" (Hagin, *Seven Things You Should Know About Divine Healing*, p. 21). Hagin also denies having a headache for forty-five years, labeling such as "simply symptoms rather than any indication of a headache" (*In the Name of Jesus*, p. 44).

3) The Gospel of Wealth: A central tenet of the prosperity gospel is that God wills the financial prosperity of every Christian. If a believer lives in poverty, he/she is living outside God's intended will. "You must realize that it is God's will for you to prosper" (Copeland, *Laws of Prosperity*, p. 51).

Chapter Two

True Biblical Responses to the Word of Faith teachings

1) God is the unique, Sovereign of the Universe (1 Timothy 6:15). God is pure spirit (John 4:24). There is no biblical basis for teaching that God has His own body, as an essential part of His nature or being. This would be more in line with Mormonism than orthodox Christianity.

2) Man is unique from the rest of Creation, but is not Divine. He was created in the image of God (Genesis 1:26, 27; 9:6), but bearing God's image does not make him a "little god." By definition, God is an "uncreated" or self-existent Being. Obviously, humans were created and therefore are not self-existent or divine; only God has a divine nature (Galatians 4:8; Isaiah 1:6-11, 43:10, 44:6; Ezekiel 28:2; Psalms 8:6-8).

3) Christ is Eternal, the Only Begotten Son, and the Only Incarnation of God (John 1:1, 2, 15; 1:14, 18; 3:16; 1 John 4:1). In Him dwelt the fullness of the Godhead bodily (Colossians 2:9). By receiving the limitations of humanity (Philippians 2:6-7) Jesus forwent the exercise of some of His prerogatives as God. But He did not cease to be God. It is also impossible for the natures of God or man (Christ was both on earth) to cease being what they are.

4) The nature of the atonement had to do with Jesus' physical death on the cross being the payment for sins (Hebrews 9:22). Christ said, "It is finished" (John 19:30), which translates *tetelista* meaning "paid for in full." Payment for our sins took place on the cross (Matt. 26:28; 1 Pet. 2:24; Col. 1:20-22; Heb. 10:10, 12, 14, 19-20). There was nothing more to pay beyond the cross (Heb. 10:18).

5) God is the only One who ever created reality by the power of His Word (Genesis 1:3). He does not have or need "faith." Faith is depending on something outside ourselves. If God depends upon something outside Himself, He is not Supreme and therefore not God. Man, not God, is in need of faith. The faith referenced in Mark 11:22 and Hebrews 11:3 is clearly "the faith which has God as its object," not "the kind of faith that God has."

6) The use of words for Positive Confession < One may help or hurt another by words of encouragement or condemnation, by telling the truth or misleading, etc. But to treat words as if they were some "star wars" type weapon by which reality is manipulated or altered is not biblical, but Occultism. The Word Faith Movement has a different Jesus and Gospel. Those of you who do not know about this or you do know and are wanting to know exactly what all the commotion is about we encourage you to truly examine these things for yourselves. The Word Faith Movement teaches many things that are **un-Biblical**, but the major points of concern is the Jesus they preach and the gospel they preach.

Faith teachers such as Benny Hinn, Kenneth Copeland, Frederick Price, Kenneth Hagin Jr. & Sr., and many others teach that Jesus did not atone for all of our sins through His shed blood and death on the cross. They teach Jesus became literally sin and the nature of Satan, and had to go to hell to pay for our sins there by being punished by demons, and three days later became the first born again man. Many of them openly teach this, and some of it is not so known about. But the fact is they teach it, and it truly is **heretical**. Let me add that welcome you to look all this up and to go more in depth on these issues, and if you have questions please feel free to send me a letter or email me at pastorjim@battlefieldchurchofffaith.org

This section will be focusing on what the Faith Movement Teachers believe and teach. Many of the known Faith Movement Teachers are Kenneth Hagin, Kenneth Copeland, Gloria Copeland, Benny Hinn, Frederick Price, Paul Crouch, Jan Crouch, and many others. Many believe these

Faith Teachers teach Biblical Christianity, but the truth is they teach another Jesus and another Gospel according to the Word of God. Many of them teach heretical things on issues of being healthy and wealthy.

The information here will be given for people to see the other side of the coin that most do not see. This information is for Christians who are wanting to know more about these ministries and if they are teaching things in truth. This information is to show the dividing line of the Faith Movement Teachers where truth and heresy do not mix.

I know that I will get those of you who will oppose this but want you to know that I have no hatred towards these teachers and my desire is for people to know the truth and to not be deceived into believing the wrong Jesus and the wrong Gospel.

Many of the Faith Movement Teachers such as Kenneth Copeland, Benny Hinn, Kenneth Hagin, have been encouraged, exhorted, rebuked by Christians in love and they continue to preach their heresies and mock at those who reject their heretical teachings. I have personally tried to contact Kenneth Hagin, Kenneth Copeland and Benny Hinn by emails and by phone, and have had no replies to my questions about what they believe on certain things, and have been called divisive for it. I conclude that these teachers if they truly wanted to set the record straight would publicly set the record straight, but they have not and continue to teach what they do. I did manage to reach the senior pastor of a Word of Faith church in Hixson, TN, a Rhema Graduate (Hagin's school) and he agreed with their doctrine and all the statements written by them (that are included in this book). My prayer is that this information will help some people see "the Light" and not to be deceived by these false teachers, and for some of those who've listened to them, not be deceived any longer.

The last days has revealed the "Church of Laodicea" which is the "church of apostasy." What concerns me deep in my Spirit is that not only are they claiming that they are of God, but that other denominations are embracing their positions. I wrote Ron Phillips (Senior Pastor of Central Baptist, Hixson Tennessee) and his response to my letter was, "to eat the prunes and spit out the pits." He listed a few points like "we are not going to all agree" and that "we all have something good to bring to the table." Friends, my letter to Pastor Ron was not to debate scripture (I refuse to debate as well) between different denominations (tongues, eternal security, gift of prophesy, etc.) but to expose what the Apostle Paul says as "enemies of the Cross."

Some of my Baptist and Church of God brothers are saying "don't rock the boat Pastor Jim, it's not your concern." I'm here to tell you brother and sister, it is not only my concern, but your concern as well. If we don't expose this garbage, then the blood will one day be on our hands. Ask yourself why the Word of Faith preachers stand on "financial prosperity" and "healing" so much. They are seeking the hurting of this world who live off of fixed incomes and can't afford the best of medicines and medical treatment and they say "send me just \$20 a month and become my covenant partner and I will petition the Lord to heal you." This has produced multi-million dollar TV ministries, led by men and women living in 5 million dollar homes, driving \$100,000 cars, flying in their private multi-million dollar jets and sporting around in their \$15,000 Rolex watches while walking their \$5,000 dogs (all while these senior citizens and home bound disabled folks send in a portion of their monthly check). I know this because my grandmother was caught up in this "abomination."

If I seem over-passionate about these "so called preachers" it is because it makes it more difficult to witness and win souls for the Kingdom of God after lost individuals see this garbage on TV. We have truly witnessed how the "world" has come into "the church" to such a degree, that you don't know where one begins and one ends.

Chapter Three

Kenneth Copeland – Kenneth Copeland Quotes, Teachings

Let's look at Kenneth Copeland, a popular Word of Faith teacher. Kenneth Copeland Ministries false teachings of Jesus and the Cross are heretical according to the Scriptures. Many out there say do not attack Kenneth Copeland and I wish to say that I am not attacking at all, but I am sharing information that is needed for the body of Christ to know concerning what Kenneth Copeland Ministries teaches concerning what took place at the cross and what Jesus went through for atonement. I ask anyone to be open to look at this carefully and decide for yourself whether or not Kenneth Copeland is truly teaching the Biblical Gospel message of Jesus' atonement.

I have emailed Kenneth Copeland Ministries many times asking for confirmation of Kenneth Copeland false teaching that Jesus had to die spiritually and go to hell to suffer punishment for sins their, and that Jesus was the first one to be born again. What I am going to share is what I was given and what I have found at Kenneth Copeland's site, and other references which clearly show Kenneth Copeland does in fact teach these things which is very important to the body of Christ.

A general letter (form letter) is sent from Kenneth Copeland Ministries and informs us of the following: "Brother Copeland has made it a policy to not respond to or debate with anyone about their disagreements with him over the Word of God (Titus 3:9' 2 Timothy 2:23-26). In most cases no one changes their beliefs and an even greater division is created in the Body of Christ. Strife and division in His Body do not please the Lord (Proverbs 6:12-19; Romans 16:17; 1 Corinthians 3:3-9; James 3:16-18)." Now I understand that talking to certain people can be useless, but it depends upon the person and what is being discussed. Anyone can say what was said here about not responding or debating over the Word of God if one disagrees with them, but that truly is stating if one disagrees with them they do not need to defend or prove what they believe. I could say Jesus was not the Son of God and give why I believe, and then someone says to me why do you believe that or share with me why they believe that is wrong, and I then say well I make it my policy to not debate over these things because it is displeasing to God and causes division. That sounds silly does it not? Sure it does. Kenneth Copeland knows full well that there are those who are examining his ministry and are letting others know what is wrong with his ministry, and he says it is not him who is teaching these things, it is the Bible.

Quote: "I've had ugly books written about me because I said that Jesus died spiritually, but the fact is, I didn't say that the Bible said it. Jesus became our substitute. If he hadn't died spiritually, then we could never have been made alive spiritually. But He did! On the cross, Jesus was separated from the glory of God. He allowed Himself to be made sin for us, and He became obedient to death. He went into the pit of hell and suffered there as though He was the One Who had committed the sin." (The Power of His Resurrection by Kenneth Copeland)
http://www.kcm.org/studycenter/articles/seasonal/power_of_resurrection.html

Kenneth Copeland clearly at his website acknowledges that Jesus died spiritually and went to hell to suffer as a sinner and more references following will confirm that. There

was a letter sent to Kenneth Copeland Ministries in July of 2002. The response letter was dated **August of 2002** concerning the questions about Word of Faith's doctrine.

Quote: "The place designated as hell is Sheol or Hades. Before Jesus died and arose, hell was the abode of the spirits of men after death. It was divided into two compartments which were separated by a great gulf - one which housed the souls of the righteous and the other, the unrighteous. In Jesus' reference to Lazarus and the rich man, hell was a place of torment for the unrighteous, while the righteous obtained comfort at Abraham's bosom. While Jesus' body lay in the sepulchre or grave, His spirit was delivered to hell. He went not just into the comfort zone, but into the depth to be punished for Adam's treason and our sin."(An Email from Kenneth Copeland Ministries Staff in response to being asked, did Jesus go to hell and why did He go there?)

I would encourage anyone wanting to see why Jesus was not separated from the Father on the cross please read the last chapter of this book. Understand, that the Kenneth Copeland Ministries teaches Jesus died spiritually, and that He had to go to hell (states He was dragged down there)

to be punished, that Jesus had to complete atonement for our sins in hell. Kenneth Copeland also teaches that Jesus became the nature of Satan on the cross and literally was sin. Read carefully the following references from Kenneth Copeland Ministries false teachings on Jesus and what happened at the cross.

Quote: "Now here's the part I want you to get. When He said, "It is finished," on that cross he was not speaking of the plan of redemption -- the plan of redemption had just begun. There were still three days and three nights to be gone through before He went to the throne." (Kenneth Copeland, What Happened From the Cross to the Throne, Kenneth Copeland Ministries, side two tape)

Quote: "See, you have to realize that He [Jesus] died; you have to realize that He went into the pit of hell as a mortal man made sin. But He didn't stay there, thank God. He was reborn in the pit of hell and resurrected." (Kenneth Copeland, What Happened From the Cross to the Throne, Kenneth Copeland Ministries, side two tape)

Quote: "The righteousness of God was made to be sin. He [Jesus] accepted the sin nature of Satan in His own spirit and at the moment that He did that He cried, "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" You don't know what happened at the cross. Why do you think Moses, obeying the instruction of God, hung the serpent up on the pole instead of a lamb? That used to bug me. I said, "Why in the world would you want to put a snake up there -- the sign of Satan? Why didn't you put a lamb on that pole."

And the Lord said, "Because, it was the sign of Satan that was hanging on the cross." He said, "I accepted in my own spirit spiritual death and the light was turned off." (Kenneth Copeland, What Happened From the Cross to the Throne, Kenneth Copeland Ministries, side two tape)

This truly is blasphemous on teaching Jesus became the nature of Satan, and that Jesus had to go to hell to pay the price for sin, and that is was not finished through His death and shed blood on the Cross.

This page contains what Scriptures clearly teaches on the atonement and completed work on the cross by Christ.

The Scriptures teach us that Jesus' Blood not only atones, but that the Atonement was on the Cross.

"8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him. 10 For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life" (Romans 5:8-10)

"18 For the word of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God." (1 Corinthians 1:18)

"7 In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace." (Ephesians 1:7)

"19 For it was the Father's good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him, 20 and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross; through Him, I say, whether things on earth or things in heaven. 21 And although you were formerly alienated and hostile in mind, engaged in evil deeds, 22 yet He has now reconciled you in His fleshly body through death, in order to present you before Him holy and blameless and beyond reproach." (Colossians 1:19-22)

"18 knowing that you were not redeemed with perishable things like silver or gold from your futile way of life inherited from your forefathers, 19 but with precious blood, as of a lamb unblemished and spotless, the blood of Christ." (1 Peter 1:18-19)

"7 but if we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin." (1 John 1:7)

"14 how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? 15 For this reason He is the mediator of a new covenant, so that, since a death has taken place for the redemption of the transgressions that were committed under the first covenant, those who have been called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance. 16 For where a covenant is, there must of necessity be the death of the one who made it. 17 For a covenant is valid only when men are dead, for it is never in force while the one who made it lives. 18 Therefore even the first covenant was not inaugurated without blood." (Heb 9:14-18)

"10 By this will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. 11 Every priest stands daily ministering and offering time after time the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins; 12 but He, having offered one sacrifice for sins for all time, SAT DOWN AT THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD" (Hebrews 10:10-12)

Concluding here it is clear that **Kenneth Copeland Ministries teaches heretical things contrary to what the Word of God teaches.** I encourage you to email us at www.battlefieldchurchofffaith.org to request a list of FREE tapes on the TRUTH OF THE CROSS. These false teachings that Jesus was separated, and died spiritually, or became literally sin is just some of the latest perverted interpretation of the Bible from groups disguising themselves as Christian Pentecostal assemblies. If the foundation is rotten, how can you build upon it?

I submit to you, the reader of this book, if Jesus Christ's Deity, if you question that He was the Only Begotten Son of God and further question His Power and the Atonement at the Cross, then aren't you really siding with Satan? My prayer is that you be blessed in the Lord and may

you grow in the grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus by exposing the false doctrine and lies taught by the Word of Faith organization.

17 You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, be on your guard so that you are not carried away by the error of unprincipled men and fall from your own steadfastness, 18 but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen. (2 Peter 3:17-18)

Chapter Four

Benny Hinn - Benny Hinn Quotes, Teachings

Benny Hinn is known by TV and his crusades. Is Benny Hinn a true teacher? Is Benny Hinn a false teacher? Is Benny Hinn a false prophet? Is he a true prophet? This information will be for those of you out there who are searching for answers to these questions. The following will be actual statements and quotes from Benny Hinn's teachings on what he believes concerning certain topics.

Benny Hinn said Jesus would have sinned if it had not been for the Holy Ghost: *"Now, Jesus endured the cross and looked towards the cross by the power of the Holy Ghost...He was kept sinless by the Spirit. Because the Bible says He offered Himself spotless through the Spirit. Watch this, it's right here. "How much more shall the blood of Christ Who, through the eternal Spirit, offered Himself without spot." So had the Holy Ghost not been there, then Jesus would have sinned." (Benny Hinn, Praise The Lord, TBN, April 24, 1998)*

Benny Hinn teaches that Jesus would have sinned if it had not been for the Holy Spirit (Holy Ghost). This is a false teaching from Benny Hinn, because John the

Baptist was filled with the Holy Spirit from birth, and yet John the Baptist was not without sin. Jesus was anointed with the Holy Spirit (Holy Ghost) at the age of 30, what about the 30 years before that? Jesus was without sin before the Holy Spirit (Holy Ghost) came upon Him, and to teach that Jesus would have sinned without the Holy Spirit (Holy Ghost) is to say Jesus was not truly God in the flesh. Jesus was true God and true man. Jesus would have not sinned if the Holy Spirit had not been there, and Benny Hinn is a false teacher to say that Jesus would have sinned.

Benny Hinn quotes on Jesus becoming the nature of Satan: *"He [Jesus] who is righteous by choice said, 'The only way I can stop sin is by Me becoming it. I can't just stop it by letting it touch Me; I and it must become one.' Hear this! He who is the nature of God became the nature of Satan where He became sin!" (Benny Hinn, TBN, December 1, 1990)..."Ladies and gentlemen, the serpent is a symbol of Satan. Jesus Christ knew the only way he would stop Satan was by becoming one in nature with him. You say, What did you say? What blasphemy is this? No, you hear this! He did not take my sin; He became my sin. Sin is the nature of hell. Sin is what made Satan. It was sin that made Satan. Jesus said, "I'll be sin! I'll go to the lowest place! I'll go to the origin of it! I won't just take part in it, I'll be the totality of it!" When Jesus became sin, sir, He took it from A to Z and said, "No more!" Think about this: He became flesh, that flesh might become like Him. He became death, so dying*

man can live. He became sin, so sinners can be righteous in Him. He became one with the nature of Satan, so all those who had the nature of Satan can partake of the nature of God." (Benny Hinn TBN December 15, 1990).

These are false teachings of Benny Hinn concerning Jesus on the cross and Jesus becoming the nature of Satan. Jesus was our sin sacrifice, Jesus did not become literal sin, that would make Jesus a sinner, and that would make Jesus a blemished lamb unworthy to give His life for a sacrifice for sins (John 1:29 & 1 Peter 1:18-19). Christians are not without sin here on earth, Christians still sin even after being born again, but when Christians are transformed into the spiritual body then they will be without sin (1 Corinthians 15:40-52 & Romans 7:14-25). To teach Jesus became literally sin, that Jesus took on the nature of Satan is heresy, and shows Benny Hinn is a false teacher. That makes the Holy One of God a sinner, blemished, and that

Jesus would have then needed a Savior Himself. These are false teachings from Benny Hinn according to what the Bible teaches.

Benny Hinn quotes on Christians being little Gods/ gods: "When you say, 'I am a Christian, you are saying, 'I am mashiach' in the Hebrew. I am a little messiah walking on earth, in other words That is a shocking revelation.... May I say it like this? You are a little god on earth running around." (Benny Hinn Praise-a-thon TBN November 6, 1990).

"Christians are "Little Messiah's and "little gods" on the earth. Thus [Encouraging the audience]...say "I am a God-man.... This spirit-man within me is a God-man..." say "I'm born of heaven-a God-man. I'm a God man. I am a sample of Jesus. I'm a super being. Say it! Say it! Who's a super being? "I walk in the realm of the supernatural." Say it!...You want to prosper? Money will be falling on you from left, right and centre. God will begin to prosper you, for money always follows righteousness.... Say after me, "everything I ever want is in me already." (Benny Hinn, TBN, 1990)... "If you say, I am, your saying you're a part of him, right? Is he God? Are you his offspring? Are you his children? Then you're not human!" (Benny Hinn, Our position in Christ, #2 1990, audio side 2)... "Let's say, I am a God man.' This spirit man within me is a God-Man. I'm a God-Man." (Benny Hinn Praise the Lord, TBN, December 6, 1990)... "When you were born again the Word was made flesh in you You are everything He was and everything He is and ever He shall be Don't say, 'I have.' Say, 'I am, I am, I am, I am, I am." (Benny Hinn, "Our Position in Christ #2-The Word Made Flesh" 1991, audiotape #A031190-2, side 2.)

These quotes from Benny Hinn teaches that Christians are little Gods/ gods. The word Christian means Christ-like, Christians are far from being the same as Jesus. Benny Hinn again is teaching heresy concerning Jesus and Christians, because only God is God. When someone receives Jesus they still are human, they are not sinless, not all-powerful, not all-knowing, still mortals here on earth. Benny Hinn teachings here are false. For Benny Hinn to say that "I am, I am, I am, I am, I am" is truly heresy according to the Bible because only God is the "I am (I AM)." (Isaiah 43:10)

These quotes from Benny Hinn prove clearly that Benny Hinn is not a true teacher of God, but in fact is a false teacher. For Benny Hinn to be a true teacher he would have to have his teachings line up with what the Bible teaches, but Benny Hinn is not a true teacher of God because what he teaches is not what the Bible teaches. There will some who will say we hate Benny Hinn, and some will email us saying do not touch God's anointed, and some will say that God is going to judge us.

Well we do not hate Benny Hinn, and we have not touched Benny Hinn, because when the Bible says do not touch God's anointed that means do not kill him, it does not mean that we can not examine what someone teaches. It is true that we will be judged, all mankind will be judged for what they have done.

We believe many have been misled by what Benny Hinn teaches, and that is why we have put this information here. If you believe we are wrong about what we have shared you are welcome to let us know where, and share why we are wrong from the Bible. One who is a true prophet of God teaches things that line up with what God has given us, and Benny Hinn's teachings prove he is not a true prophet, but that Benny Hinn is a false prophet.

Chapter Five

Paul Crouch – Paul Crouch Quotes Teachings

Head of Trinity Broadcasting Network (TBN), Word of Faith movement, Endorses the "Holy Laughter Movement" of Howard Rodney Browne

1. **Christians are little gods.** (Praise the Lord (TBN), recorded 7/7/86)
2. "Do you know what else that's settled then tonight? This hue and cry and controversy that has been spawned by the devil to try to bring dissension within the body of Christ **that we are gods. I am a little god. I have His name. I am one with Him. I'm in covenant relation. I am a little god. Critics be gone!**" (Paul Crouch, "Praise the Lord" program, July 7, 1986).
3. **Anti-intellectual, anti-doctrine:** "I think God's given up on a lot of that old rotten Sanhedrin religious crowd, twice dead, plucked up by the roots. I **think they're damned and on their way to hell and I don't think there's any redemption for them...the heresy hunters** that want to find a little mote of **illegal doctrine** in some Christian's eye and pluck that little mote out of their eye when they've got the whole forest in their own lives and in their own eyes. I say to hell with you! Oh hallelujah. Get out of God's way, quit blocking God's bridges or God's gonna shoot you if I don't! I refuse to argue any longer with any of you out there. Don't even call me. **If you want to argue doctrine, if you want to straighten out somebody over here,** if you want to criticize Ken Copeland for his preaching on faith, or Dad Hagin. **Get out of my life! I don't even want to talk to you or hear you. I don't want to see your ugly face! Get out of my face in Jesus' name.**" (Paul Crouch, "Praise-a-thon" broadcast on TBN, recorded 4/2/91)
4. Paul Crouch said (on the TBN show "Praise The Lord" during their money-raising telethon) "if you have been healed or saved or blessed through TBN and **have not contributed to (the) station, you are robbing God and will lose your reward in heaven.**" (Witnessed by Ed Tarkowski, e-mail Mon, 04 Aug 1997 20:34:13 -0600)

"Ah, dear Partners, can you see why God has called this TBN ARMY together in these last days? YOU and I are HIS VOICE to this dying generation! Help Jan and me - all of us - to cry out -HELLO WORLD! There is hope; there is help; there is deliverance; there is SALVATION! ... Please let us hear from you this month! The future of Christian Television, as we have known and loved it, is in the balance!" By "let us hear from your this month" Crouch means **"send in your donations quickly"** or "Christian television, as we have known it and loved it" **will go down the tubes and people will have no way to hear about "salvation"**. If TBN and the TBN "Joels Army" **is the only way for people to hear about salvation**, then God help us all. Salvation by signs and wonders is no salvation at all. This kind of appeal for funds is yet another example of the shameful high pressure tactics of this and I quote, "anointed" television syndicate. (Paul Crouch, Praise The Lord Newsletter, August 1997, emphasis in the original)

5. "The first evidence to many of us was the great stirring of the Spirit in Toronto, Canada, about two years ago. Then, spontaneous revival broke out in Pensacola, Florida. Hungry souls sometimes wait in line all day just to get into the services at Brownsville Assembly of God Church. Signs, wonders and miracles, just like the Book of Acts, are happening there and many other places at home and abroad!" Here is yet another connection between and endorsement by a Faith Movement guru and the "counterfeit" revivals of

Toronto and Pensacola. This should prove yet again that these movements are all connected in one "river". (Paul Crouch, Praise The Lord Newsletter, August 1997)

6. "God, we proclaim death to anything or anyone that will lift a hand against this network and this ministry that belongs to You, God. It is Your work, it is Your idea, it is Your property, it is Your airwaves, it is Your world, and we proclaim death to anything that would stand in the way of God's great voice of proclamation to the whole world. In the Name of Jesus, and all the people said Amen!" (Paul Crouch, TBN, 11/7/97)

Chapter Six

Creflo Dollar – Creflo Dollar's Quotes & Teachings

After many of her family members joined World Changers Church International under the charismatic leadership of the Rev. Creflo A. Dollar Jr., Florence Duncan decided to give it a try. But what Duncan says she found was closer to a cult than to Christianity.

"It's horrible, just absolutely horrible. My whole family is in this thing except me," says Duncan, a devout Christian whose distress and exasperation over the situation is evident in her tone. "I'm the only odd man out."

World Changers is one of the fastest-growing churches in the nation. Founded in an elementary school 11 years ago, the church is now forced to hire shuttle bus drivers and police officers to accommodate its Sunday services crowd. The church's \$7 million dome on Burdette Road in College Park is the largest church building in the Atlanta area.

Many of its 15,000 members, among them Duncan's family, have been caught up in the promise of prosperity. And the promise of worldly riches says Duncan, a graduate of Atlanta Christian College who is working on her masters at Southern Christian University in Montgomery, Alabama, is "just Humanism dressed up in Christian clothes."

The message of the "Prosperity Gospel," which World Changers teaches, is simple: "You can be rich, healthy and trouble free. Jesus was rich and God wants you to be rich." One look at the church's facility, called the World Dome, is enough to convince you that it works -- for somebody.

Sunday morning at the cavernous dome can be a moving experience. An army of ushers direct you to your seat in a state-of-the-art auditorium that is devoid of traditional church pews and instead, sports 8,000 plush theater-style seats. White collection buckets can be found alongside each aisle. The church's bookstore is filled with books touting prosperity such as, "Confession Brings Possession," and "How To Bring Home The Wealth."

Of course, the prosperity message is not just limited to World Changers. Two of the movement's elder leaders, Fred Price and Kenneth Copeland, can be viewed on a total 420 television stations worldwide and have published 67 books.

But some religious observers say the Prosperity Gospel is out of sync with the substance of Jesus' teachings, which emphasizes selflessness and spiritual virtue.

J.R. Hudson was a member of World Changers for five years and graduated from their school of ministry. But his quest for true knowledge of the scriptures caused him to stray from the fold and persuaded him that the teachings were anti-scriptural.

Hudson contends that the Prosperity Gospel takes advantage of people who are not grounded in Biblical teachings. It tells them they can be wealthy and always healthy and never have problems.

But Hudson says the only one prospering is Dollar, who wears expensive suits, drives a

Rolls Royce and owns his own Lear jet to whisk him across the country spreading his message of prosperity. According to Dollar's teachings, if he didn't look prosperous, how could he gain more followers?

Such thinking is one of the reasons both Duncan and Hudson call the movement a cult.

"The leader of a cult is generally someone very charismatic," says Duncan. She characterizes him as charismatic, manipulative and with so much personality that his word carries more than the Bible's -- although members would deny that.

The other sticky issue is the enormous pressure the church places on members to tithe, or give ten percent of their earnings to the church. Unlike traditional churches, many of which also encourage tithing, World Changers goes further by tracking its members' tithing records through membership numbers and computer records. Those who don't tithe in accordance with the pledge signed during new member orientation are ostracized from the church's ministries. You can attend the church, but you can't participate in any of its official business.

Hudson says members are also taught that failure to tithe will result in the devil wrecking your car or something else terrible happening to you. Everything bad -- and good -- that happens in a believer's life is attributed to whether or not the believer tithed properly.

The Rev. Marque Payne, author of "Tithing: The Truth About It," has conducted Christian Finance conferences throughout the South and studied over 1,000 scriptures involving Christian finances. He says that what World Changers teaches is not what the Bible teaches.

"It is literally another gospel," he writes. "The Bible makes it clear that you cannot serve two Gods -- God and Mammon. Mammon being greed and the desire for materialistic things above everything else."

Hudson describes Dollar as a very sincere, compassionate, strong-willed man who loves his family. "If you knew him you'd like him," he says. "I don't have anything bad that I can say about him personally.... He's very sincere. He thinks he's right. There's a whole lot of people who think that but the thing is you can be sincere and be sincerely wrong."

Hudson says that Dollar leads a very insulated life surrounded by what's called Personal Pastor's Assistants, or PPAs. In laymen's terms that's bodyguards. Those PPAs train both physically and technically in the tactics used by the Secret Service.

"People can't just readily walk up and talk to him," says Hudson. "Especially on his way to the pulpit no one is allowed to touch him because they might disturb the anointedness on his life. He's supposedly so Godly he can't be touched."

Dollar also teaches that his word is beyond reproof. "They even use scripture to support that they shouldn't be corrected in any way," says Hudson.

Payne says that the notion that church leaders shouldn't be questioned or corrected is one of the key characteristics of cults.

"The foundations of a cult are don't question, don't speak out of turn, don't go study for yourself outside of the guidelines that they give you," Payne says.

Duncan agrees that the followers are brainwashed by Dollar's teachings.

"When someone does criticize them they come out strong against them calling them devils and the like," says Hudson. "Word of Faith ministers are not going to respond to media or critics or anything like that. They're pretty much focused in on their own little deal and their teachings."

The Rev. T.A. Body of One Accord Community Church also hosts a daily radio talk show on WGUN which addresses the issues of false doctrine. He says that people call in by the thousands who have left the teachings of World Changers.

"I've asked him [Dollar] for a public debate but he won't give it to me," says Body. "I've asked him to even call into my show and correct me if I'm wrong. He hasn't ever asked me to call him and correct him. Because I certainly would."

Body says that Dollar constantly teaches his congregation that they can be just like him. "The person who works at McDonalds cannot expect to be the president of a bank by that message," he says. "He lives in a very high lifestyle and he tells the members you can acquire this kind of lifestyle if you have faith in God."

Hudson says the emperor has no clothes. "He's riding to church in a Rolls Royce and flying a Lear jet across the country and here these people are still riding buses. They're not getting any wealthier. Look in the parking lot. There's too many beat up cars." "I thought it could work," says Demetrius King, a former member. "It sounds good and you would want it to work. It's as simple as one, two three -- tithe and you will prosper." King's financial situation didn't get any better and he left the church disillusioned.

"It leaves a person spiritually bankrupt and empty trying to use formulas that do not work," says Payne. "It leaves a person wondering in a daze and having to reassess their whole belief in what Christianity is."

"World Changers teaches a theology and doctrine that people want to hear," says Duncan. "There's nothing wrong with wanting to prosper, but to present that as the central core of the teachings of Christianity is a deception and lie. I'd say that they would have just about as much chance of gaining abundant prosperity by purchasing a lottery ticket."

Chapter Seven

Charles Capps – Charles Capps Quotes Teachings

Ordained as a minister in the International Convention of Faith Churches and Ministers
by Kenneth Copeland.

1. Capps has gone so far as to teach that Jesus was the product of God's positive confession: "This is the key to understanding the virgin birth. God's Word is full of faith and spirit power. God spoke it. God transmitted that image to Mary. She received the image inside of her....The embryo that was in Mary's womb was nothing more than the Word of God....She conceived the Word of God." (Charles Capps, Dynamics of Faith and Confession (Tulsa, OK: Harrison House, 1987), 86-87; cf. Charles Capps, Authority in Three Worlds (Tulsa, OK: Harrison House, 1982, p76-85) (Note: this is the Arian view of the Godhead taught by Christadelphians: see www.bible.ca/trinity/)
2. Capps claims that if someone says, "I'm just dying to do that" or "That just tickled me to death," their statements may literally come true (i.e., they may die). According to Capps, this is precisely why the human race now lives only about seventy years instead of 900 years, as was the case with Adam. (Charles Capps, The Tongue -- A Creative Force (Tulsa, OK: Harrison House, 1976), pg 91.

Chapter Eight

A summary of false Word of Faith teachings concerning the Cross

Quote - "Do you think that the punishment of our sins was to die on the cross? If that was the case, the two thieves could have paid our price. No, the punishment was to go into hell itself and to serve time in hell separated from God" (**Frederick K. C. Price, Ever Increasing Faith Messenger, June 1990, p. 7**)

Quote - "Just a man on earth, and taking on the nature of Satan at the cross, Jesus becomes just a sinner in need of redemption. At the resurrection Jesus is a born again man from the pit of hell. "Jesus was born again in the pit of Hell....The Church started when Jesus was born again in the gates of Hell" (**Charles Capps, Authority In Three Worlds, pp. 212 13**)

Quote - "Ladies and gentlemen, the serpent is a symbol of Satan. Jesus Christ knew the only way he would stop Satan was by becoming one in nature with him. You say, What did you say? What blasphemy is this? No, you hear this! He did not take my sin; He became my sin. Sin is the nature of hell. It was sin that made Satan. Jesus said, "I'll be sin! I'll go to the lowest place! I'll go to the origin of it! I won't just take part in it, I'll be the totality of it!" When Jesus became sin, sir, He took it from A to Z and said, "No more!" Think about this: He became flesh, that flesh might become like Him. He became death, so dying man can live. He became sin, so sinners can be righteous in Him. He became one with the nature of Satan, so all those who had the nature of Satan can partake of the nature of God." (**Benny Hinn TBN December 15, 1990**).

CONCLUSION

Looking at what Kenneth Hagin, Kenneth and Gloria Copeland, Benny Hinn, Frederick Price, Charles Capps, and many others of the faith movement on what happened at the cross and how we are redeemed it is clear these people are teaching another gospel message which is heretical and un-Biblical.

The Bible clearly states that Jesus was sinless in Hebrews 4:15 which says: "For we do not have a high priest who can not sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin." The Bible clearly states Jesus' work on the cross paid our debt in full as John 19:30 says: "Therefore when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, 'It is finished!' And He bowed His head and gave up His spirit." The Bible clearly states that Christ purchased the Church with His own blood

as Acts 20:28 says: "Be on your guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood." It was Jesus' death on the cross that satisfied the requirement for reconciliation from man to God. I pray this information is used to inform and edify the body of Christ and for those involved listening to these teachers to see that they are not teaching things in truth from the Word. Any questions please let us know.

17 You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, be on your guard so that you are not carried away by the error of unprincipled men and fall from your own steadfastness, 18 but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen. (2 Peter 3:17-18)

Chapter Nine

Does it matter what you believe?

Does it really matter what you believe concerning who Jesus is? Can a person be sincere in their beliefs yet be deceived and lost? I believe the answer is yes, and God has given some guidelines to examining ourselves.

Many claim to be followers of Jesus Christ. Some say He is a prophet, a good teacher, the Son of God, is Michael the archangel, is the firstborn spirit child of God the Father and spirit brother of Lucifer, false teacher, false prophet, a hoax, never existed, a myth, God come in the flesh, God the Son second person of the Trinity.

PROVERBS 14:12 "There is a way which seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death."

PROVERBS 14:15 "The naive believes everything, But the sensible man considers his steps."

These are warnings for us to consider our steps.

1 THESSALONIANS 5:21 "But examine everything carefully; hold fast to that which is good"

2 CORINTHIANS 13:5 "Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith; examine yourselves! Or do you not recognize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you--unless indeed you fail the test?" We are to test everything and make sure we have not been deceived. Faith in Jesus is proven by the fact Jesus is in us, unless He dwells within us we fail the test.

2 CORINTHIANS 11:4 "For if one comes and preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted, you bear this beautifully."

2 CORINTHIANS 11:13-15 "13 For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. 14 No wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light. 15 Therefore it is not surprising if his servants also disguise themselves as servants of righteousness, whose end will be according to their deeds."

MATTHEW 7:13-15 "13 Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it. 14 For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it. 15 Beware of the false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves." The warning is that there are false apostles, false prophets, those who on the outside who look and sound like sheep, but are according to Jesus' own words "ravenous wolves." We need to be careful and make sure that what we believe is truly of God

Chapter Ten

The TRUTH on the Atonement and the finished work on the CROSS

(I JN. 4:1) "BELOVED, BELIEVE NOT EVERY SPIRIT, BUT TRY THE SPIRITS WHETHER THEY ARE OF GOD: BECAUSE MANY FALSE PROPHETS ARE GONE OUT INTO THE WORLD."

The composite is:

1. Behind every doctrine there is a "spirit," the Holy Spirit if it's true Doctrine, evil spirits if it's false doctrine.
2. We are not to believe everything we hear, but rather to "try" or "prove" the spirits whether they are of God.
3. "False prophets" are generic, meaning that it can stand for false teachers, false pastors, in other words, anyone who claims to be preaching and teaching the Word of God.

The Holy Spirit says there are "many" of these people.

EVERY SPIRIT

The phrase, "Beloved, believe not every spirit," presents the Apostle dealing with false prophets, i.e., "false teachers."

The mention of the Holy Spirit and those whom He inspires gives occasion for this parenthesis which instructs with respect to evil spirits and those whom these spirits inspire.

The Apostle provides two tests which decide whether a teacher in the Church spoke by Divine or by Satanic influence. The two tests are: A. The confession of Jesus the Messiah having come in the flesh (vs. 2); and, B. Subjection to Apostolic doctrine (vs. 6), Christ come in the flesh, i.e., in actual physical and perfect humanity involves Atonement and Resurrection; for in order to die as the Sin-Offering He must become man, for God could not die; and that His Atoning Death should have a demonstration of Divine acceptance He must be raised from the dead, otherwise His oblation failed in its purpose and did not satisfy the claims of Righteousness.

The false teachers of that day, like some presently, taught that the Messiah was an Illusion, a Power that influenced Jesus of Nazareth. The Messiah, therefore, at least as they taught this error, had no proper actual humanity. What the Apostles taught was by the Holy Spirit committed to writing, and all teachers of truth teach what they taught (vs. 6). These two tests, i.e., presenting Christ as a personal Savior, and subjection to the Holy Scriptures as the Divine fount of doctrine, reveal the true Minister of the Gospel. To confess Jesus Christ having "come in the flesh" is more than the intellectual acceptance of the doctrine of Incarnation. It is a confession to Him and of Him Personally that involves conversion and the New Birth; and, a presentation of Him to give to men as the only Savior of man (Williams).

By John using the word "spirit" in the way that he does here, tells us two things:

- * He is speaking of human beings, and in this case, Teachers and Preachers of the Gospel.
- * But more particularly, he is speaking of the "spirit" which is promoting them, whether the Holy Spirit, or evil spirits.

WHAT NOT TO BELIEVE

As Christians we are not to believe everything we hear. The truth is, every single Preacher and Teacher claims to be of God. They claim that what they are teaching and preaching is truth. But the facts are, some are of God and some aren't.

In this Chapter, the Holy Spirit through John will proclaim to us in no uncertain terms, how we can tell which ones are of God, and which ones aren't. Consequently, this is one of the most important Chapters in the entirety of the Bible.

ALWAYS TRY THE SPIRITS

The phrase, "But try the spirits whether they are of God," refers to the fact that everything we hear is to be put to the test. And what test do we use? Well of course the correct answer is that we test everything to the Word of God; however, that is sometimes complicated. Peter said: "Which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other Scriptures, unto their own destruction" (II Pet. 3:16). In other words, Preachers and Teachers can put an erroneous interpretation on the Scripture, making it mean something which was not originally intended. In fact, this is done constantly. Verse 2 will help us to understand more so the test we are to use as it regards "trying the spirits."

THERE ARE FALSE PROPHETS

The phrase, "Because many false prophets are gone out into the world," refers to Satan attempting to sow tares among the wheat.

Every person reveals what kind of a personality or spirit he is by his word and his action although he may try to hide what he really is. Proper testing will penetrate the deception, will show whether what is in his spirit or heart is "out of," i.e., "derived from, God" or from some ungodly, unscriptural source. John wants all his Readers to apply this testing to all who come to them as Prophets in order to teach them.

It is vital to find out whether "the spirits" of these Prophets, their inner spiritual character, and what is in their hearts, "are really from God." If the source, the spring, is Divine and pure, one may drink; if the source is otherwise, it is poison.

Note well that all Christians are told to do this testing. It is not taken out of their hands and reserved for the clergy of the Church. Unfortunately, some Pastors or Denominational heads, attempt to do the testing themselves, and then force all who are in their respective Churches to accept their findings. The implication here is that every single Christian should conduct the test himself, and not take someone else's word.

Christians will, of course, help each other in making the proper tests; some are more capable than others, have more experience than others; **to be frank, Pastors should be especially trained for this work.** We accept all such aid; in fact, John is offering it here to his Readers. Yet in the last analysis every Christian is personally responsible. Whom he believes or does not believe affects himself primarily. In essence, John wants himself to be tested by his Readers.

Every true Preacher will definitely fall into this category. As stated, the Second Verse will bring out more clearly what that test ought to be.

(2) "HEREBY KNOW YE THE SPIRIT OF GOD: EVERY SPIRIT THAT CONFESSETH THAT JESUS CHRIST IS COME IN THE FLESH IS OF GOD:"

It breaks down to:

1. As Believers, we are to know what the Spirit of God sanctions.
2. The Incarnation of Christ speaks of the Cross of Christ.
3. The Spirit of God will place His sanction on the Cross and the Cross alone. Anything else is not of God.

THE SPIRIT OF GOD

The phrase, "Hereby know ye the Spirit of God," refers to the fact that we as Believers are to know what the Holy Spirit sanctions. We are to be acquainted with Him enough that we will know His leading, etc. The idea is, we as Believers are to be so familiar with the Holy Spirit, which pertains to His leading and guidance, which means that we know the Word very, very well, that we will recognize instantly what is of Him and what is not of Him. The Holy Spirit is actually the giver of the Word, and as such, it is impossible to be properly acquainted with Him, unless we know the Word. And to turn it around, it's impossible to properly know the Word, unless one is properly acquainted with the Holy Spirit. And now we will see what all of this actually means:

THE CROSS OF CHRIST

The phrase, "Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God," proclaims the test which we are to use. Now, what is involved in the statement, "Jesus Christ is come in the flesh"? The name "Jesus" is the English form of the Greek "Iesous," and this is the Greek form of the Hebrew name "Jehoshua" which means "Jehovah saves." "Christ" is from "Christos," "the Anointed One." The words "is come" speak of the God of the Old Testament Who in the Person of His Son became Incarnate in human flesh without its sin, died on the Cross to satisfy the just demands of His Law which man broke, and was raised from the dead in the body in which He died, to become the living Saviour of the sinner who places his faith in Him in view of what He did for him on Calvary's Cross. The person who teaches that, John says, is actuated by the Holy Spirit. Otherwise, such a teacher who does not agree with that Doctrine is not of God. He is actuated by the spirit of Antichrist who denies and is against all that the Bible teaches regarding the Person and Work of the Lord Jesus.

So there will be absolutely no misunderstanding as to what is being said here, please note the following:

The Bible teaches us "Jesus Christ is the Living Word" (Jn. 1:1). The Scripture then says: "And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us" (Jn. 1:14). John the Baptist then said concerning Jesus: "Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world" (Jn. 1:29).

The idea is the Living Word became flesh in order to die on a Cross, which in fact, was planned from before the foundation of the world (I Pet. 1:18-20). Therefore, any Preacher who denies the Cross in any manner is labeled by the Holy Spirit as a **"false prophet."**

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO PREACH THE CROSS?

The meaning of the New Covenant was revealed to Paul by Christ, which in effect, was and is the meaning of the Cross (Gal. 1:11-12).

Now this means that the entirety of the New Covenant, which refers to all that the Holy Spirit does, is wrapped around what Jesus did at Calvary. In other words, the Cross of Christ is not merely a doctrine, but rather the foundation of all Doctrine.

Paul in effect, was the great Preacher of the Cross, which is the foundation of the Church. He said, and as it regards the Cross... "For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the Gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the Cross of Christ should be made of none effect. "For the preaching of the Cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God" (I Cor. 1:17-18). "But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumbling block, and unto the Greeks foolishness" (I Cor. 1:23). "For I determined not to know anything among you, save Jesus Christ and Him Crucified" (I Cor. 2:2).

In the book of Romans, Chapter 6, Paul gave us what some refer to as "the mechanics of the Spirit." In other words, in that Chapter he brought to us in detail the manner and way in which victory is won and maintained by the Saint, which tells us how the Holy Spirit works as it regards the Cross.

In Romans, Chapter 8, which some refer to as the "dynamics of the Holy Spirit," the Apostle in that Chapter tells us what the Holy Spirit does, as a result of the Believer properly placing his Faith in the Cross of Christ, which is outlined in Romans, Chapter 6. The preaching of the Cross is actually embodied in one principle, which means that everything comes to us through the Cross; however, to make it easier for the Believer to understand, I will break it down into two parts:

1. The Preacher is to preach the Cross, which refers to what Jesus did there, as the only means of Salvation. This means that no one can be saved, unless they accept Christ as their own personal Saviour, which means to believe in Him and what He did at the Cross on our behalf (Jn. 3:16). To be sure, the believing sinner has almost no knowledge whatsoever of Christ and the Cross, but to be sure, when the Holy Spirit initially convicts the sinner, He does so on the premise of the fact that Christ is the only Saviour, and that He saves through what He did at the Cross (Jn. 16:7-11).

If the Preacher doesn't hold up the Cross as the only answer for sin and sinners, he is not preaching the Gospel, and will not see anyone saved.

2. Along with preaching the Cross as it regards the initial Salvation experience, the Preacher must as well preach the Cross as it regards the Christian having victory over the world, the flesh, and the Devil. This is where many Preachers let down. Many Preachers preach the Cross as it regards the initial Salvation experience, but not at all as it regards the everyday life and living of the Child of God. For those who sit under such teaching and preaching, they are consigned to spiritual weakness and defeat. The Cross of Christ has just as much to do with our ongoing Christian experience, as it did with our initial Salvation experience. To be frank, it has even more, and for all the obvious reasons. As stated, this is what Romans, Chapters 6 and 8 are all about.

MODERN FALSE TEACHING

As I hope we have adequately brought out, this which John addresses as it regards the Incarnation, centers up on the reason for the Incarnation, which was the Cross of Christ. In other words, the Cross was the very purpose and reason for God becoming man (I Pet. 1:18-20). Consequently, there is nothing more important! It's not pleasant to address false doctrine, and worse still, it is even more unpleasant to address those who are preaching false doctrine.

Nevertheless, if we are to properly obey the Word, we must point out the error as well as portray the Truth (Ezek. Ch.3).

It is my personal feeling that the Church as a whole is no longer preaching the Cross as it should. Of course, there are definitely exceptions to what I have said, but I think as a general rule my statement is correct. For instance, most every religious Denomination, and I especially speak of the major Denominations, whether Pentecostal or otherwise, have opted wholly for humanistic psychology. We believe the Bible teaches that the Cross is the only answer for the sins, perversions, and aberrations of the human race. This means that the situation was and is so bad that it is only the Cross which could address this terrible problem. By contrast, humanistic psychology claims that man holds the answer to this dilemma. We cannot have it two ways, and neither can we join the Bible with psychology. The two will not at all mix. One must be believed and the other rejected.

If one teaches and preaches that the Cross is the answer, then at the same time, one is teaching and preaching that humanistic psychology isn't the answer. And conversely, if one teaches that humanistic psychology is the answer, they are at the same time teaching that the Cross holds no answer. As stated, one cannot have it both ways. It is either one or the other! So if the modern Church has opted for psychology, I have to believe at the same time, it has rejected the Cross. And as stated, every major Denomination of which I am aware, at least in the United States and Canada, has opted wholly for the psychological way.

The Word of Faith people fall into the category of rejecting the Cross as well. They do so by openly repudiating the Cross, claiming that it was the greatest defeat in human history. One of their bright lights refers to it as "past miseries." Many of their teachers openly claim that the Blood does not atone; consequently, they will sing no songs about the Blood or the Cross in their services, I am told! They teach that the Cross was incidental, claiming that Salvation was brought about by Jesus dying as a sinner on the Cross, actually taking upon Himself the Satanic nature, and going to Hell where He remained for some three days and nights. Suffering agony those particular three days and nights, they claim, God then said, "It is enough," and at that time, Jesus was Born-Again, actually being the firstborn of many Brethren, they continue to claim. He was then raised from the dead. They claim that Salvation comes by having faith in the sufferings of Jesus in the burning side of Hell and in His Resurrection.

Now there are many problems with all of this, but the main problem is, it is all pure fiction from beginning to end. Not a shred of that which we have stated is found in the Bible. It is made up out of whole cloth! Jesus did not die as a sinner on the Cross. Actually, He was a Sin-Offering on the Cross, which means that He poured out His Life's Blood, which atoned for all sin. While He did go down into the part of Hell called "Paradise," and as well also preached to the fallen Angels who were imprisoned, there is nothing in the Bible that states that Jesus went to the burning side of Hell and there suffered as a sinner (Ps. 16:10; Acts 2:31; Eph. 4:9; I Pet. 3:19).

There are **thousands of Word of Faith Churches across the nation and around the world.** Think about the fact that if the people praying a prayer of salvation, is doing so on sinking sand (incorrect belief, a belief that says the Cross is of no avail) is their prayer a prayer of Salvation at all? I guess what I am saying regarding those who have been saved, it was not by heeding the Message these people preach as it regards the Cross. It's impossible for one to be saved believing such error. And let the Reader understand, misunderstanding anything in the Bible is serious; however, misunderstanding the Atonement, or misinterpreting the Atonement, is as serious as it can get. That's why Satan fights the Cross so hard.

(3) "AND EVERY SPIRIT THAT CONFESSETH NOT THAT JESUS CHRIST IS COME IN THE FLESH IS NOT OF GOD: AND THIS IS THAT SPIRIT OF ANTICHRIST, WHEREOF YOU HAVE HEARD THAT IT SHOULD COME; AND EVEN NOW ALREADY IS IT IN THE WORLD."

What this is saying is:

1. Every person who denigrates or even minimizes the Cross in any way is not of God.

2. The spirit that denies the Cross is the spirit of the Antichrist.
3. The denial of the Cross was prevalent in John's day, and is even more prevalent now.

A WRONG CONFESSION

The phrase, "And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God," presents one of the boldest statements in the entirety of the Bible as it concerns the Atonement. The Doctrine of the Cross is essential to the Christian system; and he who does not hold it cannot be regarded either as a Christian, or recognized as a Christian Teacher.

The test that we are to apply is to examine the person's confession. The Scriptures nowhere ask us to look into a man's heart. God Alone sees the heart; no man can see into another's heart. And yet, it is precarious to assert: "The man's heart is alright!" when the man's confession is wrong. The Lord has given us the one safe test, the confession. Beyond this our responsibility ceases. "What is the man's real confession?" is for us the only question. Since one confesses not only with his lips but also with his practice and his acts, we are to examine both. If the Preacher denigrates the Cross, he is false through and through. This means he is not of God, which means he is a false prophet, which means he is not saved. It doesn't really matter what else he might say, how smooth he may seem to be concerning other Biblical matters, if he denigrates the Cross, he is false.

There are two groups of people in the modern Church who fall into this category, at least of whom I am aware:

The first is the Modernists. These people do not believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, or that His Death on the Cross with the shedding of His Life's Blood availed anything. Unfortunately, there are many of these in the old-line Churches.

The other group, which we have just addressed, goes under the heading of "Word of Faith," or some such name. They aren't in the same category as the Modernists, which means they do not exactly deny the Cross, but rather pervert its meaning. In other words, they make the Cross of Christ of none effect (I Cor. 1:17). I've already addressed their particular beliefs several times in this book, so I will not go into detail here; however, to refer to the Cross as the "greatest defeat in human history," shows a complete misunderstanding of the Atonement; consequently, those who follow this teaching, will bring upon themselves serious spiritual harm, and could even lose their salvation.

PUTTING IT IN PROPER PERSPECTIVE

Let the Reader understand the following:

We are speaking of the end result. We are maintaining that whatever God gives to humanity comes exclusively through the Cross of Christ. All other proposed ways and means projects the idea that these things come from God by other means. That's really what it boils down to. Using Cain and Abel as an example, both men offered up sacrifices. Cain offered up one that God wouldn't accept, which was the labor of his own hands, while Abel offered up an innocent victim, a Lamb, which God would accept, and because it was a type of the coming Christ. So when we talk about "trying the spirits" or "false prophets," or error of any nature, we are basically speaking of the end result, and how that end result is attained. We believe the Bible teaches that everything that God gives to humanity comes exclusively through the Cross of Christ. We believe that the Bible also teaches that any proposed way other than the Cross, is error, and those who teach such error are false prophets, etc.

THE SPIRIT OF ANTICHRIST

The phrase, "And this is that spirit of antichrist," in effect says, that if any other way than the Cross is proposed as the answer to hurting humanity, that such way is "antichrist."

The story of the Bible is the story of the fall and Redemption of humanity, and the story of that Redemption is "Jesus Christ and Him Crucified" (I Cor. 2:2). So this means that the Cross of Christ, i.e., "the Finished Work of Christ," is not merely a doctrine, but actually the foundation on which all Doctrine is built. It is the "house built upon the rock" (Mat. 7:24). Everything else is "the house built upon the sand" (Mat. 7:26).

The word "antichrist" used here actually means "pseudochristos." In other words, these false teachers pretend to be of Christ, but they actually aren't. These would be those of whom Paul spoke of as "preaching another Jesus" (II Cor. 11:4).

THERE ISN'T ANOTHER JESUS

Paul spoke of "preaching another Jesus," which is done by "another spirit," which presents "another gospel" (II Cor. 11:4). This falls under the heading of "antichrist," or "pseudochristos." Once again to make it crystal clear, it refers to the following:

Basically the sum total of Christianity can be characterized by the means which God uses to reach fallen humanity. As stated, we teach and preach what the Bible teaches, that He does so exclusively through the Cross of Christ. If any other way is taught, it is false.

THE FALSE WAY

The phrase, "Whereof you have heard that it should come; and even now already is in the world," speaks of Satan immediately trying to counter the great message of Redemption.

Of all the ways which Satan attacks, I think he reserves his greatest energy for attacks against the Cross. He seldom proposes that God has no answers, but rather proposes a false way of receiving from the Lord. Most of the ways which he suggests are good within themselves, and this deceives us. Listen to what Paul said:

"Was then that which is good made death unto me? God forbid. But sin, that it might appear sin, working death in me by that which is good; that sin by the Commandment might become exceeding sinful" (Rom. 7:13).

Most Christians do not really understand what Paul is saying here. First of all, the Apostle is talking about how that the Law is "holy, just, and good" (Rom. 7:12). The problem was, he was trying to keep the Law in his own ability and strength, which fell out to failure, as it always will. So he is saying that the Law is good, which it is, and that his efforts as well were good; however, his trying to live for God in the wrong way, caused sin to appear within his life, which worked death in him "by that which is good."

Now all of this happened to Paul before the Lord revealed to him the Message of the Cross, which then brought victory. But the sadness is, most modern Christians fall into the same category presently as Paul did so long, long ago.

Not understanding the Cross, most Christians attempt to live for God by doing "good things." But the doing of these good things, whatever they might be, and as well intentioned as the individual might be, does not fall out to victory, but the very opposite. And that leaves Christians in a state of confusion. Instead of victory the failure becomes worse and worse. This is what is wrong in most churches today.

The good things they are doing aren't wrong. And the desire to do right certainly isn't wrong. The wrong comes in with our misplaced faith. In other words, trying to live for God in this way, in effect says that what Christ did at the Cross was not enough and needs some other things added. Because these "other things" are "good things," it deceives us (Rom. 7:11). The problem is we are trying to achieve results in the wrong way.

The only way that we can successfully live for the Lord is to understand that Jesus did everything for us at the Cross. We are to place our Faith exclusively in that great Sacrifice, which will then guarantee the help of the Holy Spirit. Victory will be the result. Any other way, and no matter how good it may seem on the surface, is in effect "the spirit of the antichrist."

Conclusion

In many ways the Christian Church is growing and ministering to people all around the world. But in many ways it is failing to meet the needs of the body of Christ on certain doctrinal issues. It seems today that if a person disagrees with someone and shares information that is correcting (exposing) something that they believe is un-Biblical they are called "judgmental." A lot of times people will make the statement "do not judge me, didn't Jesus say to judge not?"

That mentality seems to be growing in the Christian Church. What did Jesus mean by "judge not?" According to the context of Matthew 7:1-5 Jesus is talking about judging in the sense of looking down upon people, being too critical of a person's life, and not seeing the same things in their own life. When Jesus said "judge not", he did not imply to not examine Biblical truth and doctrine. Jesus warned about false prophets who would appear to be of God but in reality they were wolves. (Matthew 7:15)

Many people today are being taught false doctrines "in the Christian Church" and a Christian who truly loves their brothers and sisters in the Lord will take Biblical doctrine seriously and will want to share truth with them. The following Scriptures instruct us to examine what we are taught (also our own beliefs) and to share the Word of God with those around us: Acts 17:10-11, Colossians 4:2-6, 2 Timothy 2:15, 2 Timothy 2:24-26, 2 Timothy 3:16-17, 2 Timothy 4:2-5, Titus 1:7-16, Titus 2:6-8, Titus 3:9-11, 1 Peter 3:15, and Jude 3. There are many other Scriptures in the Bible on this topic, but these Scriptures we share with you to encourage you to examine them for yourselves. We welcome any feedback that you may have.

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INTERNET RESOURCES

Watchman Expositor published by Watchman Fellowship, Inc. www.watchman.org

Apologetics For Christians is a ministry that provides information on Christian Doctrine, Christianity, Religious Cults, Christian Cults, Trinity. <http://www.apologeticsforchristians.homestead.com/>

Journey to the Cross is a step-by-step trip through the Stations of **the Cross** with Jesus. www.members.tripod.com/~C_Verge/Easter/easter.html

Christadelphians: see www.bible.ca/trinity/); the Arian view of the Godhead

PUBLICATION RESOURCES

The HOLY BIBLE (KJV & NIV), various publishers not mentioned

A Different Gospel (Updated Edition) D.R. McConnell. Warns of the movement's cultic nature in its doctrine of healing and its understanding of the atonement, and demonstrates how far the movement's doctrine of prosperity is from Scripture's true teaching. Chapter end-notes, Bibliography.

Christianity in Crisis, Hank Hanegraaff. Documents the antibiblical doctrines of the Word-Faith Movement and shows their systematic subversion of the historic Christian faith. Appendices, Notes, Bibliography, Scripture and Subject indexes.

Jimmy Swaggart Bible Commentary, Jimmy Swaggart, A set of commentaries with indepth studies on scripture, historical Biblical history all founded upon the purpose and reason for the Cross.

On a Hill too far away, John Fischer, Putting the Cross Back in the Center of Our Lives by receiving a deeper understanding of the Cross.

God's Miracle Plan for Man; Our Covenant with God; Laws of Prosperity; Releasing the Ability of God; Legal and Vital Aspects of Redemption; books written by Kenneth Copeland, "Believer's Voice of Victory," Kenneth Copeland's monthly magazine distributed to church members.

Zoe: The God Kind of Life; In the Name of Jesus; Seven Things You Should Know About Divine Healing; books written by Kenneth Hagin, "The Word of Faith," Kenneth Hagin, Sr & Jr., a monthly magazine distributed to church members.

A Different Gospel, D.R. McConnell, The FALSE doctrine of correct thinking and believing accompanied by positive confession, with the result of calling a sickness a symptom (denial of reality).

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Frederick K. C. Price, Ever Increasing Faith Messenger (magazine)