



CHAPTER 8 – “Five False Gospels Within the Evangelical Church”

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Identify the Problem

As the culture changes there is a looming temptation in the church to change with it. In order to not be seen as “on the wrong side of history” many churches and even entire denominations are beginning to water down the Gospel, avoid certain parts of God’s Word, cater to the Woke Movement and cultural Marxism, and more. If men and women of Jesus don’t fight for the purity of God’s Word we will soon end up with a polluted and impotent Gospel.

Listen to the analogous story of polluted streams and a polluted Gospel in The Church in Babylon on pages 190-191.

Without “keepers of the stream” and warriors for the Gospel we end up with false gospels permeating our churches, and they are gospels that take away from the depravity of man, the grace and gift of salvation found in the power of Jesus’s death and resurrection, and an overall watered down version of who Christ is.

The Five False Gospels:

1. The Gospel of Permissive Grace

This false gospel teaches that since God is gracious and forgives us our sin we are free to live however we want. It teaches that God loves you just the way you are and therefore there is no reason to change.

Listen as Pastor Dave reads highlights from pages 192-198 of The Church in Babylon.

What's your reaction to these statements?

2. The Gospel of Social Justice

The main line of teaching and thinking here is that we must do good to our fellow man and bring social justice to our communities. While those are not bad in and of themselves, they become an issue when we replace the need for a savior that can only come from God Himself and we neglect to preach the need for repentance of sin.

The sin of the heart is replaced with the sin of the skin and Jesus as Savior is replaced with a savior who pushes a social ideology. This becomes idol worship and also leads to narcissism once again. A path that all of the false gospels lead to, one of self-worship.

3. The Gospel of New Age Spirituality

This false gospel tries to combine pure biblical teaching with the pollution of New Age teaching. You see this in practices like Holy Yoga and contemplative or centering prayer.

See the handouts on **Holy Yoga** and **Contemplative Prayer**. These two are of particular focus because they have been heavily practiced by many churches, denominations, and individuals as of late and really embody the premise of the Gospel of New Age Spirituality, which is based on subjective experience as opposed to biblical fact and truth.

4. The Gospel of My Sexual Preference

Since this was covered fairly thoroughly in chapter 6 we simply say that the Gospel of my sexual preference is all about following Jesus until he gets in the way of one's desires and preferences. It is also an attempt to misuse the Gospel by saying that Jesus would simply love and accept all people even though there is no premise for this found in Scripture. He loved all people, He certainly didn't accept their lifestyles.

Carefully read the following passages...

- Proverbs 6:16-19
- Matthew 23:23-26
- John 5:1-14

What do each of these passages tell you about God's love for people but feelings towards their sin? What His response every time to their sin?

5. The Gospel of Interfaith Dialogue

While dialoguing with others sounds like a good thing, we must be clear on what the term "interfaith dialogue" means. This is literally a planned and organized forum developed by Muslim groups to present a more palatable version of Islam. The goal is to present a version of Islam without Sharia Law, harsh penalties for apostates, and things like jihad (holy war against infidels). It is actually quite insidious and deceptive. Remember, Satan's greatest tactic is deception and we see that at its finest in the concept of Interfaith Dialogue.

Conclusion of Point:

These are just 5 of the numerous versions of a watered down, compromised, and even heretical version of the Gospel. We only took a cursory glance at each of these because the goal isn't to be experts on every watered down and false gospel but to really get to know the true Gospel we can recognize the false gospels rather quickly.

It is here that we must be sure of how to identify and apply the solution of knowing the one true Gospel in our daily lives.

Discover and Apply the Solution

In order to not get wrapped up in the deception of a false gospel we must be in and study God's Word diligently. To do this we must employ good solid *hermeneutics*. That is just a fancy word for "the art and science of interpreting the Bible." If we get this wrong we have host of problems in our understanding of who God is, who we are, and what His plan is for the world. Get this right and we get this glorious picture of God Almighty, a sobering picture of mankind, and an awe inspiring picture of His plan for His creation.

So, let's get a brief overview of how to rightly interpret God's Word and let this simply whet your appetite for becoming one who diligently studies God's Word and teaches it to others.

See the handout entitled **Hermeneutics**.

Below are some very helpful tools for becoming a better student of God's Word.

Recommended Resources

Living By the Book by Howard Hendricks

Blueletterbible.org