

The Truth of God is in the Bible
By Greg Rangel

One of the facts that we see in Scripture is that God did speak to the Prophets in the Old Testament in different times and in different ways. He spoke through signs, visions, dreams, and through an audible voice. He has now "...in these last days spoken unto us by his Son,..." (Heb.1:2). And as we have previously seen, anything that we need to know about God is found already written in His Word. There is nothing new that can be said about God that He has not revealed already in Scripture. That is, there is no new doctrine or fact about God that man can come to know. If the "new revelation" or "doctrine" is not in the Word it is not true. It does not matter how famous the pastor, teacher, priest, rabbi, etc. might be.

I bring that up again because of the fact that the Word of God is hardly being taught in many of the churches throughout the United States. That causes many of today's Christians to believe things about God that are not found in Scripture. And unfortunately because of the lack of the teaching of the Word, many do not know what to believe or what they believe at all. And unfortunately when such Christians see or hear something on T.V. (The Davinci Code, Discovery Channel's UFO & the Bible, etc) they are so quick to believe it. At the same time, when a cult comes to their door, they do not know how to respond to their questions and give a defense for what they believe in. Due to that they are so quickly deceived.

Unfortunately, instead of teaching the Word, humanistic philosophy, jokes and feel good stories that might touch the emotions are being shared from the pulpits today. That should not be the case because people do not need such things. People need the Word of God. "*For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart*" (Hebrews 4:12).

When the hard times of life come around, the emotional stories and jokes that come from the pulpits will do nothing for those going through a hard time. The only thing that will carry the people through and cause them not to lose hope as they go through hard times will be the Word of God and only the Word of God.

It has been estimated that some 85% or so of today's Americans consider themselves Christians. But if that is true, why is our nation in a moral collapse? Why are immoral leaders being elected into office? Why is there so much crime? Why has God been kicked out of the public schools and public life? Well let me tell you why. Because many of today's pastors have failed to teach the Word of God. Due to that, those that sit under such pastors have no moral convictions when they cast their vote for someone who might have the speech and look of a President, but stands against what the Bible says.

It has been said that history repeats itself. Because the same thing was taking place in the Old Testament, the Lord spoke to the pastors of those days through Jeremiah the prophet saying; "*Woe be unto the pastors that destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! saith the LORD. Therefore thus saith the LORD God of Israel against the pastors that feed my people; Ye have scattered my flock, and driven them away, and have not visited them: behold, I will visit upon*

you the evil of your doings, saith the LORD” (Jeremiah 23:1-2). Hosea the Prophet wrote; “Hear the word of the LORD, ye children of Israel: for the LORD hath a controversy with the inhabitants of the land, because there is no truth, nor mercy, nor knowledge of God in the land. My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge...” (Hosea 4:1, 6).

There are a few questions that I would like to ask you the reader. What kind of church do you attend? Is your pastor teaching you the Word of God? If not, then you need to speak with him about it. If he brushes you off, you need to find a church that will teach you the Bible.

- 1.1). **See** Jeremiah 23:1-6
- 1.2). **See** Ezequiel 34:1-16
 - a). **See** John 10:7-18

A.2).

1). The reason that Pastors allow their churches to do that is because they are not teaching them the Word of God. Yes they will quote 1 or 2 verses throughout the service, but the rest of the service sounds like a madhouse. Pastors need to feed the Word of God to their congregations.

1.1). **See** Hosea 4:1-6

1.2). John 8:31-32 *“Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”*

2). Throughout the Scriptures we are commanded to teach the Word of God.

2.1). Mat 28:18-20 *“And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.”*

2.2). Act 5:42 *“And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to **teach** and preach Jesus Christ.”*

2.3). 1Ti 1:3 “*As I besought thee to abide still at Ephesus, when I went into Macedonia, that thou mightest charge some that they **teach** no other doctrine.*”

2.4). **See** Acts 20:17-32

Mark 1

1.1).

a). For example, many do not believe that the Bible is the inerrant Word of God, that is, without errors.

a.1). Expound: Caesar salad.

b). Many Pastors do not believe in the Resurrection of Jesus Christ.

b.1). Expound: Symbolic

c). Many Pastors do not believe in the Virgin Birth of Jesus Christ.

d). Many do not believe that Jesus physically died and atoned for our sins.

e). Many Pastors do not believe in the physical return of Jesus Christ.

f). And of course, many Pastors do not believe in Heaven or hell or eternal life!

Mark 1

vs. 14 Between verse 13-14 one year takes place. John 1:19—4:42 covers that.

A. Now John the Baptist was a man with no compromise. His message was straight and forward. He told it like it is. He was in today's terms, a right wing, Bible thumper, fire and brimstone, hateful and judgemental, un-politically in-correct person. The media would try to eat him alive because of his message.

A.1). **See** Matthew 3:1-10

1). Too sad that today's church is not like John the Baptist. On the contrary, many of today's Pastor's and preachers are so afraid of the media and the people that they have watered down the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

1.1). Listen to an interview a famous preacher had with Larry King Live:

KING: Is—have you always believed?

OSTEEN: I have always believed. I grew up, you know, my parents were a good Christian people. They showed us love in the home. My parents were the same in the pulpit as they were at home. I think that's where a lot of preachers' kids get off base sometimes. Because they don't see the same things at both places. But I've always believed. I saw it through my parents. And I just grew up believing. [Believing what?]

KING: But you're not fire and brimstone, right? You're not pound the decks and hell and damnation?

OSTEEN: No. That's not me. It's never been me. I've always been an encourager at heart. And when I took over from my father, he came from the Southern Baptist background, and back 40-50 years ago, there was a lot more of that. But, you know, I just—I don't believe in that. I don't believe—maybe it was for a time. But I don't have it in my heart to condemn people. I'm there to encourage them. I see myself more as a coach, as a motivator to help them experience the life God has for us.

KING: But don't you think if people don't believe as you believe, they're somehow condemned?

OSTEEN: You know, I think that happens in our society. But I try not to do that. I tell people all the time, preached a couple Sundays about it. I'm for everybody. You may not agree with me, but to me it's not my job to try to straighten everybody out. The Gospel is called the good news. My message is a message of hope, that's God's [message] for you. You can live a good life no matter what's happened to you. And so I don't know. I know there is condemnation, but I don't feel that's my place.

KING: You've been criticized for that, haven't you?

OSTEEN: I have. I have. Because I don't know.

KING: Good news guy, right?

OSTEEN: Yeah. But you know what? It's just in me . . .

.....

KING: But you have rules, don't you?

OSTEEN: We do have rules. But the main rule to me is to honor God with your life. To live a life of integrity. Not be selfish. You know, help others. But that's really the essence of the Christian faith.

KING: That we live in deeds?

OSTEEN: I don't know. What do you mean by that?

KING: Because we've had ministers on who said, your record don't count. You either believe in Christ or you don't. If you believe in Christ, you are, you are going to heaven. And if you don't, no matter what you've done in your life, you ain't.

OSTEEN: Yeah, I don't know. There's probably a balance between. I believe you have to know Christ. But I think that if you know Christ, if you're a believer in God, you're going to have some good works. I think it's a cop-out to say I'm a Christian but I don't ever do anything . . .

KING: What if you're Jewish or Muslim, you don't accept Christ at all?

OSTEEN: You know, I'm very careful about saying who would and wouldn't go to heaven. I don't know . . .

KING: If you believe you have to believe in Christ? They're wrong, aren't they?

OSTEEN: Well, I don't know if I believe they're wrong. I believe here's what the Bible teaches and from the Christian faith this is what I believe. But I just think that only God with judge a person's heart. I spent a lot of time in India with my father. I don't know all about their religion. But I know they love God. And I don't know. I've seen their sincerity. So I don't know. I know for me, and what the Bible teaches, I want to have a relationship with Jesus.

1.2). That is just one example of what takes place behind the pulpits today. It is a very watered down gospel.

a). Listen to quotes from Dr. Robert Schuller from the Crystal Cathedral:

a.1). "Jesus knew his worth, his success fed his self-esteem.... He suffered the cross to sanctify his self-esteem. And he bore the cross to sanctify your self-esteem. And the cross will sanctify the ego trip!"
(Living Positively One Day at a Time, p.201)

"A person is in hell when he has lost his self-esteem." (Self-Esteem, The New Reformation, pp.14-15)

"You don't know what power you have within you!... You make the world into anything you choose. Yes, you can make your world into whatever you want it to be." (Possibility Thinking: Goals, Amway Corporation cassette tape)

The most effective mantras employ the "M" sound. You can get the feel of it by repeating the words, "I am, I am," many times over....

Transcendental Meditation or TM... is not a religion nor is it necessarily anti-Christian." (Peace of Mind Through Possibility

Thinking, pp. 131-32)

i). By the way, Dr. Schuller never calls people sinners. That goes against his positive preaching.