

a notebook:

THOUGHTS ON CHRISTIAN EVANGELISM IN MODERN PAGAN AMERICA

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I. ENTRY 9/21/2006 AD - MATTHEW 28:18-20 – The Great Commission

Why should Christians & The Church be involved in evangelism? The answer is simple. Our Lord JESUS CHRIST commands it in The Great Commission:

MATTHEW 28:18-20

18: And JESUS came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto Me in heaven and in earth.

19: Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of The Father, and of The Son, and of The Holy Ghost:

20: 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. ¹

If we do not as GOD's people engage in evangelism, we are saying "NO!" to Him Who died for us on The Cross! We are saying, "Lord, I confess You as The Messiah, but I refuse both Your Command to help reach the lost; I decline Your mantle of power offered to me; I turn away from Your authority that You created for Your Church."

Heaven forbid that I, O Lord, should be found to be an unworthy and disobedient servant on The Day when I stand before Your Throne. As it is written by the prophet:

ISAIAH 6:8

8: Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me. ²

For many years, I attended a Church at which behind the altar above The Cross was the Bible verse above from ISAIAH 6:8. As I sat in the pews listening to the minister and worshipping, I often prayed, "Here am I O LORD. Send me."

II. ENTRY 9/22/2006 AD - JOHN 14:15 – Keep His Commandments

If we love GOD, we will keep His Commandments. CHRIST commands us to do so:

JOHN 14:15

15: If ye love Me, keep My Commandments. ³

The question is, as professing Christians, do we love our Lord enough to keep His Commandments? If we do so, we will recognize that The Great Commission to evangelize the lost in His power and authority is not optional. If we are to abide in CHRIST, and He in us, then we shall have a heart for reaching our lost and suffering neighbors in this fallen world. GOD forbid that we should not!

¹ 1, KJV, MATTHEW 28:18-20.

² 1, KJV, ISAIAH 6:8.

³ 1, KJV, JOHN 14:15.

III. ENTRY 9/23/2006 AD - MATTHEW 22:36 – The Greatest Commandments

More thoughts on evangelism as a Christian duty:

MATTHEW 22:36-40

36: Master, which is The great Commandment in The Law?

37: Jesus said unto him, Thou shalt love The Lord thy GOD with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.

38: This is The first and Great Commandment.

39: And The second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.

40: On These two Commandments hang all The Law and the prophets. ⁴

When our Lord was asked what is the sum of The Commandments of GOD's Law, He answered that we must love GOD with our entire being and our neighbor as ourselves. It strikes me that, if we keep this in our hearts as CHRIST commands us, we will love GOD enough to not be ashamed of The Gospel to those who are lost and suffering. We will also care enough about others to see them rescued from earthly suffering and eternal damnation by the grace of GOD.

If men are made in GOD's Image, it follows that all human life is precious in GOD's eyes. So it should also be in our eyes - especially we who claim to be Christians. We are not to go through this world like the self-righteous observant Jew and haughty Priest of Old who would not stop to help the man who had been robbed & was lying in the dirt bleeding by the side of the road. Rather, we are to be as the Good Samaritan who, though lacking in the vice of self-pride, loved GOD and his neighbor enough to stop and bind the stricken man's wounds; to care for his needs in his recovery; to show the mercy of our Creator to his fellow man.

IV. ENTRY 9/24/2006 AD - II CHRONICLES 7:14 –If My people

The Bible says that, if His People who are called by His Name will repent and turn from their sins, praying to Him for forgiveness, He will hear their cries that come up to His Throne and heal them:

II CHRONICLES 7:14

If My people, which are called by My Name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from Heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land. ⁵

But in this present time and place, the majority of people are unchurched and unsaved. They do not know or care to know GOD's Laws. Nor do they realize they are in need of repentance and salvation at The Cross of our Lord. How then can a nation of sinners be brought to cry out to The Almighty for forgiveness and healing, if they do not recognize their need to do so?

⁴ 1, KJV, MATTHEW 22:36-40.

⁵ 1, KJV, II CHRONICLES 7:14.

Here The Church in this present time and place has failed miserably to carry out The Great Commission to evangelize the lost, as well as to uphold the tenants of The Faith. O LORD, move our hearts to care enough for our neighbors and love enough for you to reach out with the saving Word of salvation in your precious Son!

V. ENTRY 9/25/2006 AD - I PETER 4:17-18 – Judgement Begins at GOD's House First

The Church is guilty today in America of not loving You enough, Lord JESUS CHRIST, to be willing workers in the vast mission fields of the unsaved and unchurched around her:

I PETER 4:17-18

17: For the time is come that judgment must begin at the house of GOD: and if it first begin at us, what shall the end be of them that obey not The Gospel of GOD?

18: And if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear?⁶

If Christians cast away the tenants of The Faith, disregard The Holy Bible and care nothing for CHRIST's commands to evangelize in The Great Commission, will not GOD bring judgment? Does not The Church stand convicted of a lukewarm faith that more embraces corruption & comfort of the world than the passion of The Savior?

For The Church to produce willing workers, the hearts of professing Christians must be cleansed of apathy, lukewarm faith and lack of love. Revival must take place first among GOD's people, so that they will be convicted of their sin of unwillingness to evangelize. O LORD, may it be so!

VI. ENTRY 9/26/2006 AD - EZEKIEL 3:17-21 – Watchmen on The Wall

In the days of the prophet Ezekiel there was great want of righteousness in ancient Israel and spiritual darkness in the gentile nations. GOD called Ezekiel to be a "watchman on the wall" to his people, that they might repent of their sins and return to The LORD:

EZEKIEL 3:17-21

17: Son of man, I have made thee a watchman unto the house of Israel: therefore hear The Word at my mouth, and give them warning from me.

18: When I say unto the wicked, Thou shalt surely die; and thou givest him not warning, nor speakest to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life; the same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand.

19: Yet if thou warn the wicked, and he turn not from his wickedness, nor from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; but thou hast delivered thy soul.

20: Again, When a righteous man doth turn from his righteousness, and commit iniquity, and I lay a stumblingblock before him, he shall die: because thou hast not given him warning, he shall die in his sin, and his righteousness which he hath done shall not be remembered; but his blood will I require at thine hand.

⁶ 1, KJV, I PETER 4:17-18.

21: Nevertheless if thou warn the righteous man, that the righteous sin not, and he doth not sin, he shall surely live, because he is warned; also thou hast delivered thy soul. ⁷

Are not Christians in all times and places also called as Ezekiel's to be "watchmen on the walls" of their societies? Should not Christians in America today be calling first themselves, then their brethren, and then the lost to repent and return to The LORD?

How can we as Christians sit idly by in silence - passively watching others lost in the suffering of sin and damned to hell - and then come before The Throne of GOD to confess their faith? Are we not hypocritical in our faith if we care nothing for reaching others with the love and grace of GOD?

Surely, when we stand before our Lord JESUS CHRIST in Heaven on our day of judgment, He will ask of us if we loved Him enough to obey His commands to evangelize. And oh, what a fearful thought, to have to confess to Him on that dreadful day that - although we accepted salvation for our own souls - we cared nothing about the lost souls of other men! Lord forbid it!

VII. ENTRY 9/27/2006 AD - REVELATION 3:14-16 – The Lukewarm Church

When a Church on earth possesses a shameful lukewarm faith, does not GOD extinguish the flame of that branch and take away her lamp stand?

REVELATION 3:14-16

14: And unto the angel of The Church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith The Amen, The faithful and true Witness, the beginning of the creation of GOD;

15: I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot.

16: So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth. ⁸

If a Church does not love CHRIST enough to evangelize the lost, to testify to GOD's Word to a sin-sick world, to minister in word and deed of the grace and love of GOD her neighbors, does not GOD promise that He shall spue her out of His mouth?

VIII. ENTRY 9/28/2006 AD - JAMES 2:17-18 – Faith Without Works is Dead

Where are the works of righteousness of The Church on earth in this nation today? Where is the heart of evangelism in our paganized nation of idolaters among Christians? How terrible that America - once perhaps the most thorough Christian nation in the history of mankind - is today the third largest mission field on earth!

JAMES 2:17-18

17: Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.

⁷ 1, KJV, EZEKIEL 3:17-21.

⁸ 1, KJV, REVELATION 3:14-16.

18: Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works.⁹

If our Christian faith is merely intellectual and confessed only with our mouths, is that a living faith or a dead faith? If we love CHRIST earnestly, should we not have a faith that shows itself in keeping The Great Commission commanded of us by our Lord?

So The Church today in this nation - as in all times and places in human history - is called to do what ancient Israel was to do and failed to do. That is to have a living faith which testifies of The Light of GOD to all mankind, that men may be reconciled to The Creator, that their lives may be blessed and that their souls may be saved from eternal damnation!

IX. ENTRY 9/29/2006 AD - MATTHEW 5:13-14 – If Christians Loose Their Saviour
CHRIST tells us we as Christians are to be both salt and light to this world:

MATTHEW 5:13-14

13: Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savour, wherewith shall it be salted? It is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men.

14: Ye are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid.¹⁰

What does this mean for evangelism? As the salt of the earth, Christians are to be - not of the world - but in the world. We are to stay involved and attached to the world around us, living our lives as faithful Christians, thus being a testimony for The Gospel's changing power and salvation. We are also to be the light of the world, in that we are to be holy before GOD and men.

It is a great injury to the Great Commission when Christians choose to be either salt or light, but not both, in this life. We must put on the full righteousness of our Lord and also be involved in the affairs of men - both inside and outside The Church.

X. ENTRY 9/30/2006 AD - MATTHEW 5:15-16 – Let Your Light so Shine

If the gentile nations - the unsaved people of the earth - are our inheritance as Christians, how can our Christian faith be an example to them and a glory to our Lord if we do not live out and share our faith? Not only The Church and her institutions, but also every individual Christian, are called to evangelize the lost and encourage the brethren. So CHRIST instructs us:

MATTHEW 5:15-16

15: Neither do men light a candle, and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all that are in the house.

⁹ 1, KJV, JAMES 2:17-18.

¹⁰ 1, KJV, MATTHEW 5:13-14.

16: Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in Heaven. ¹¹

Here again is The Great Commission in The Sermon on The Mount commanding the faithful in CHRIST to place their Christian faith where their proverbial mouth is. If we belong to CHRIST JESUS, then our lives should show the good fruits of The Spirit. Those good fruits of salvation should be visible to all men in everything we do. And in so doing, the light of our Christian faith in good works is to be a testimony of The Gospel and a glory to GOD.

XI. ENTRY 10/01/2006 AD - MARK 8:38 – If The Church Becomes Like The World

John MacArthur in his book, "Ashamed of The Gospel - When The Church Becomes Like The World" observes,

“The fear of GOD was a central doctrine in the early Church, as in the Old Testament. Unbelievers and believers alike were taught to fear Him... It was that very fear that drew people for salvation and kept the obedient. Salvation doesn't come from wanting to join the fun and emotional pain - it comes when the heart cries out for deliverance from sin!”
¹²

MARK 8:38

38: Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of Me and of My Words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall The Son! ¹³

The false idols of pragmatism and modernism as methods of evangelism in The Church today does not declare the great glory of GOD, nor does it teach men to fear Him, nor does it lead the lost with any urgency to The Cross of CHRIST. When entertainment replaces worship, worldly enticements replace preaching of The Gospel, The Church loses her First Love - and falls into the sin of spiritual adultery. Behold the warning sounded by men like MacArthur to the unfaithful Church on earth today - Let The Church arise again and declare the glory of Calvary! AMEN.

XII. ENTRY 10/02/2006 AD - II TIMOTHY 4:1 – Will We Be Found To Be Faithful?

Saint Paul counseled the novice preacher and minister Timothy with sound advice on how to evangelize the lost and minister to the saved:

II TIMOTHY 4:1

1: I charge thee therefore before GOD, and The Lord JESUS CHRIST, Who shall judge the quick and the dead at His appearing and His Kingdom. ¹⁴

¹¹ 1, KJV, MATTHEW 5:15-16.

¹² 2, MacArthur, Ashamed of The Gospel, 2nd paragraph under heading, “Knowing The Terror of The LORD, We Persuade Men,” Ashamed of The Gospel, p 63.

¹³ 1, KJV, MARK 8:38.

¹⁴ 1, KJV, II TIMOTHY 4:1.

We must ask ourselves as Christians, "Are we faithful to what men think of us, or to what GOD thinks of us?" All men shall stand before the judgment seat of CHRIST in Heaven. When we who confess Him as Savior do so, will we be found to have been faithful Christians? Will we be found to have been faithful servants of The Gospel in our earthly lives?

It does not matter that, when we evangelize for our Master to lost men, that they find The Gospel an offense and a stumbling block. The Word of GOD is designed to be so, that it may convict the unsaved sinner of his sins and the need to repent at The Cross! We must be careful that we ourselves are not personally offensive when we evangelize, while not compromising The Gospel message. Let us give the heathen no excuse in us personally to turn away from our evangelism, but let us preach CHRIST crucified faithfully, that The Gospel may offend the unsaved souls of men!

XIII. ENTRY 10/03/2006 AD - II TIMOTHY 4:2 – Preach The Word

Saint Paul continues his counsel of the young Preacher Timothy in II TIMOTHY 4 to minister The Gospel boldly, to constantly calling the lost to salvation and the saved to seek to grow closer to the Image of The Lord JESUS CHRIST:

II TIMOTHY 4:2

2: Preach The Word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. ¹⁵

What time is appropriate to evangelize with The Gospel? There is no time that is not! So the faithful minister of GOD's Word is to be ready at all times to seize every opportunity placed before Him as a servant of The Cross to open his mouth in Christian witness. We are to correct error in faith with The Word. We are to take to task those who are in sin, sometimes gently, at other times sternly. We may take comfort in strength in The Lord, for wherever He sends us, He is with us and will equip us with the gifts we need to serve Him. Christopher Columbus wrote of this in his "Book of Prophecies:"

"No one should fear to undertake any task in The Name of our Savior, if it is just and if the intention is purely for His holy service. The working out of all things has been assigned to each person by our Lord, but it all happens according to His sovereign will..." ¹⁶

We are to never tire in the strength of The Holy Spirit to call upon all men to seek The Face of The Almighty while they yet have time. We are to set right again errors in Christian doctrine. And we are to do all this as evangelists with longsuffering - patience, perseverance and love. O LORD, help us to be such men of GOD!

¹⁵ 1, KJV, II TIMOTHY 4:2.

¹⁶ 3, Federer, GOD and Country, Quote from Christopher Columbus' "Book of Prophecies." America's GOD and Country Encyclopedia of Quotations, 10th paragraph, p 114.

XIV. ENTRY 10/04/2006 AD - II TIMOTHY 4:3-4 – In an Age of Apostasy

We live in an age and a place in The West when men do not want to hear the hard Truths of The Word of GOD that convict them of their sins. They prefer to hear easy words of men that condone, coddle and justify them in their sins. So Saint Paul foresaw such a time and place as this:

II TIMOTHY 4:3-4

3: For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;

4: And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables. ¹⁷

But this must not dissuade the faithful man of GOD from being true to our Lord's Great Commission Command. We must pray that GOD will soften the hearts of sinners, but still preach His Word boldly. We must confront those who preach that evil is good and good is evil, but not loose love for those whose ears are tickled with such error. We must continue constant in reaching out beyond the walls of The Church to the un-Churched, but not compromise the ministering of The Gospel within the walls of The Church.

And we must do all these things to glory our Lord and not ourselves; to serve the Kingdom of GOD and not the works of our own hands and minds; to desire that the light of salvation of The Gospel be spread to all the corners of the earth in loving obedience to The One Who Redeemed us and not in submission to our own vainglory. May it be so, O LORD Most High, across our land again!

XV. ENTRY 10/05/2006 AD - ISAIAH 53: 3-6 – By His Stripes We Are Healed

When CHRIST ministered on this earth, He was prepared from before time began to suffer His Passion and cruel death on The Cross, that He might rise again on the third day. This to redeem all of creation and the souls of those whom He would save from eternal separation from Himself. Isaiah prophesied of the suffering that The Creator of The Universe would be willing to endure for His purposes of Redemption:

ISAIAH 53: 3-6

3: He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from Him; He was despised, and we esteemed Him not.

4: Surely, He hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem Him stricken, smitten of GOD, and afflicted.

5: But He was wounded for our transgressions. He was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon Him; and with His stripes we are healed.

6: All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and The LORD hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all. ¹⁸

Every time I read Isaiah's prophesy of what and how The Messiah would suffer in ISAIAH 53, I shudder with a fear of The LORD for His awful glory and endless love!

¹⁷ 1, KJV, II TIMOTHY 4:3-4.

¹⁸ 1, KJV, ISAIAH 53: 3-6.

CHRIST Himself came to do the work at The Cross because only The Messiah Himself was capable of doing so: truly GOD and also truly man, fully perfect and without sin and yet fully identified with mankind as one of us. Upon Him was laid the sins of all of times, suffering in our place the just judgment and punishment for them, even unto death!

When we desire to evangelize the lost and minister to the saved, we ourselves must die first to our own selves, that we may better live to CHRIST. Throughout the ages, some faithful men and women did so even in martyrdom. In this time and place in The West, we have the luxury of not being likely being called to evangelize even unto the death of a martyr, though this is changing. We must come along side the lost in their sins, that they may see the love of The Lord.

This is not easy to do. Evangelizing the lost sinner in this sinful world is often difficult and unpleasant. It often reaps criticism, rebuke, hatred and sometimes even violence and death for the faithful Christian from those we seek to save in CHRIST JESUS. But when we consider what He Himself endured, that we ourselves might enter The Kingdom of GOD, should we not go in the strength of The LORD? Should we not evangelize in the power and authority of The Holy Spirit?

Did not JESUS Himself promise that He would always be with us, no matter what, even until the end of this age? O LORD, give us the strength of Your hand and the infilling of Your Spirit, that we might be better able to pay the costs required of us as faithful servants of The Gospel.

XVI. ENTRY 10/06/2006 AD - I CORINTHIANS 9:19-22 – All Things to All Men

How did Saint Paul evangelize to men in his day? MacArthur covers this issue at length in his book, "Ashamed of The Gospel - When The Church Becomes Like The World." He cites this Scripture:

I CORINTHIANS 9:19-22

19: For though I be free from all men, yet have I made myself servant unto all, that I might gain the more.

20: And unto the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might gain the Jews; to them that are under The Law, as under The Law, that I might gain them that are under The Law;

21: To them that are without Law, as without Law, (being not without Law to GOD, but under The Law to CHRIST,) that I might gain them that are without Law.

22: To the weak became I as weak, that I might gain the weak: I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some.

23: And this I do for The Gospel's sake, that I might be partaker thereof with you. ¹⁹

I believe he had 2 principles. First, to preach The Gospel without compromise. He never toned down the stumblingblock of The Cross so as to not give offense to unsaved sinners or to wayward Christians. It is the offense of CHRIST crucified that convicts men's souls of their sin and need to repent before our Lord. Good if a man's conscience becomes uncomfortable at the hearing or reading of the pure Word of GOD, for then

¹⁹ 1, KJV, I CORINTHIANS 9:19-22.

there is hope he may be stirred to humbly turn from his wicked ways and confess earnestly JESUS CHRIST as Lord!

Second, Saint Paul was as "all things to all men." This did not mean he left out certain parts of The Gospel that caused offense to different groups of hearers. Rather, it meant that he did all he could to give no offense to men, as long as it did not compromise The Gospel or lead to sin. So to The Jews, he became again as a Jew by observing Jewish ceremonial law and customs. Why? That he might better have opportunities to preach The Word of salvation in CHRIST to them! To the gentiles he became as a gentile by partaking with them in their customs, such as eating foods with them that were forbidden under Jewish ceremonial law. Why? That he might better have opportunities to preach The Gospel to them!

This by no means that Saint Paul tells us we should become fornicators to minister to those lost in sexual sins. Nor are Christians to become drunkards, that drunkards might better identify with them. Nor sodomites, that we might minister to sodomites. Nor murderers, that we might be more acceptable to murderers! Rather, to them that are under The Law, we are to observe The Law, that we might have better opportunity to witness to Jews. To those that are not under The Law, we are to be in like manner, that we might win them for CHRIST.

Why? As Saint Paul says, so should we - "For the sake of The Gospel!"

XVII. ENTRY 10/07/2006 AD - I CORINTHIANS 3:18-20 –The World's Wisdom

So we see that we are not to compromise The Gospel in order to please men, but rather to please GOD. The Reverend Charles Spurgeon had this to say:

“Pray without ceasing, and preach the faithful Word in clearer terms than ever. Such a course of conduct may seem to some to be a sort of standing still and doing nothing, but in very truth it is bringing GOD into the battle; and when He comes to avenge the quarrel of His covenant, He will make short work of it. ‘Arise, O Lord, plead Thine own cause!’”²⁰

Spurgeon saw in his age that The Church was not being true to preaching The full Gospel of CHRIST. He calls on his fellow clergymen to be faithful to The Word of GOD in all times– needful especially in times of increasing apostasy and heathenism – to save men’s souls. For them will The Almighty Himself enter the battle against evil and paganism to convict the hearts of men of their sins before His very Presence!

I CORINTHIANS 3:18-20

18: Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you seemeth to be wise in this world, let him become a fool, that he may be wise.

²⁰ 2, MacArthur, Ashamed of The Gospel, quote of The Reverend Charles Spurgeon from his publication, The Sword and The Trowel, 12/1887, page 607 from article entitled, “Restoration of Truth and Revival.” Ashamed of The Gospel, p 105.

19: For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with GOD. For it is written, He taketh the wise in their own craftiness.

20: And again, The Lord knoweth the thoughts of the wise, that they are vain.²¹

The wisdom of this world and the foolishness of The Gospel are not compatible. One can not preach both the philosophies of the minds of men and The saving Word of GOD at the same time. For the wisdom of man can not convict the soul of its sin, nor bring the sinner to his knees in humble repentance before The Cross, nor stir a man's heart to see the spiritual light of The Only Loving Savior as He truly is. Infecting The Gospel with man's wisdom diverts the soul's conviction of its sin, keeps the sinner standing on his legs in proud haughtiness before the Cross, and stirs only a man's mind to blindly discern CHRIST at best with mere intellectual ascent.

This is why Saint Paul tells the Corinthian Church to cast away the wisdom of man's philosophy assaulting their salvation and Christian walk. Instead, He urges them to embrace The Gospel fully, knowing that hard-hearted men lost in this fallen world see salvation in The Messiah JESUS CHRIST as mere foolishness. Paul observes however that GOD catches the hard-hearted worldly man in his own vain imaginations, making his fleshly wisdom which is apart from The Creator as the Tower of Babel, confounding the haughty vainglorious thoughts of their minds!

XVIII. ENTRY 10/08/2006 AD - PSALM 33:3-5 – The Word of The LORD is Truth

Has mere human wisdom solved any of the problems of men? Can the philosophies and science of men without GOD's Truth really deliver mankind from suffering, violence, war, poverty, hunger and evil? And can such flawed works of men's minds actually improve The holy Gospel of our Lord, the better to market it to lost and sin-sick people? MacArthur declares the answer to all these questions is a firm NO:

PSALM 33:3-5

3: Sing unto Him a new song; play skilfully with a loud noise.

4: For The Word of The LORD is right; and all His works are done in truth.

5: He loveth righteousness and judgment: the earth is full of the goodness of The LORD.²²

“...why not express... [The Gospel] in ways that appeal to the human mind? Paul answers... [that] such an approach makes The Cross of CHRIST void... There is no way to make it otherwise and be faithful to The Message [of CHRIST]. ...it is impossible to elevate human wisdom without lowering GOD's Truth. Human wisdom caters to self-will, intellectual and social pride, fleshly lusts, and the desire for independence from GOD. Human wisdom and The Gospel are therefore constitutionally incompatible. Try to combine the two, and Paul says you render The Gospel null and void.”²³

²¹ 1, KJV, I CORINTHIANS 3:18-20.

²² 1, KJV, PSALM 33:3-5.

²³ 2, MacArthur, Ashamed of The Gospel, addresses “The Inferiority of Human Wisdom,” 2nd paragraph, p 111.

XIX. ENTRY 10/09/2006 AD - ISAIAH 29:13-14 – They Draw Near In Their Mouths

The Gospel preached combined with worldly wisdom thus does not convict the heart or convert the soul unto salvation in CHRIST JESUS. Instead, it comforts the wayward and coddles the rebellious, place as it were a mere band aid of false comfort over the cancer of sin and separation from GOD.

ISAIAH 29:13-14

13: Wherefore The Lord said, Forasmuch as this people draw near Me with their mouth, and with their lips do honour me but have removed their heart far from Me, and their fear toward Me is taught by the precept of men:

14: Therefore, behold, I will proceed to do a marvelous work among this people, even a marvelous work and a wonder: for the wisdom of their wise men shall perish, and the understanding of their prudent men shall be hid.²⁴

The LORD confounds the wisdom of the human mind concocted apart from GOD's Truths, showing it before all the universe for the folly that it is. And here we see why The Church today in The West is failing to evangelize the lost, to correct error in doctrine, to exhort those within her keeping to repent of their sin, to impact society around her! The Gospel mixed with the world to better market the message may at times fill the pews, but it does nothing to minister to the hard heart and darkened soul!

XX. ENTRY 10/10/2006 AD - MATTHEW 24:25 – The Word Shall Never Pass Away

Are we as Christians and especially as clergy being true to our Lord and His holy Word when we feel we have to water down The Message of salvation in order to please men? Do we then truly trust The Scriptures as the absolute, unerring, Divinely inspired Word of GOD? And if not, how can we hope to evangelize the world with a message that we doubt? Christopher Columbus in his "Book of Prophecies" addressed this question:

"...since things generally came to pass that were predicted by our Savior JESUS Christ, WE SHOULD ALSO BELIEVE THAT His particular prophecy will come to pass. In support of this, I offer The Gospel text, MATTHEW 24:35, in which JESUS said that all things would pass away, but not his marvelous Word. He affirmed that it was necessary that all things be fulfilled that were prophesied by Himself and by the prophets."²⁵

The clergyman who feels the need to combine worldly philosophies and gimmicks from the fallen minds of man with the perfect and infallible Word of GOD to make It more marketable to corrupted modern society is really saying that he does not fully trust The Almighty or The Holy Bible. But The Word of GOD is indeed to be fully relied upon for evangelism, not needing any worldly adjuncts of worldly wisdom to make it more marketable to sinners!

²⁴ 1, KJV, ISAIAH 29:13-14.

²⁵ 3, Federer, GOD and Country, Quote from Christopher Columbus' "Book of Prophecies." America's GOD and Country Encyclopedia of Quotations, 2nd paragraph, p 114.

MATTHEW 24:25

35: [JESUS CHRIST said,] Heaven and earth shall pass away, but My Words shall not pass away.²⁶

Christopher Columbus reminds us that, although earthly things will pass away, The Word of GOD stands firm forever. And all the prophecies fulfilled in The Deliverer The Son of GOD are proof of the absolute reliability and perfection of Holy Writ! AMEN

²⁶ 1, KJV, MATTHEW 24:25.

XXI. REFERENCES

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3. "America's GOD and Country Encyclopedia of Quotations." William Federer. FAME Publishing, Coppel, Texas. 1994.