

20. Preach the Word

August 1, 2010

Brian McLaren, Rob Bell and Joel Osteen have several things in common:

- 1) They all have huge followers.
- 2) They all claim to be evangelical Christians.
- 3) They all are heretics.

You already know that Brian McLaren and Rob Bell are the Emergent Church movement leaders and they are false teachers from my previous teachings. But some of you might think that I am too harsh to declare that Joel Osteen is a heretic because he is a brother in Christ after all. I am not saying that he is not a Christian, but he does not proclaim the right message and gives false hope with a false doctrine to the people who do not know.

Here is a portion of the transcripts between Larry King and Osteen from his interview in 2005.

A. I CHARGE YOU BEFORE GOD

2 Timothy 4:1 I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom:
"I charge you" should read "I solemnly affirm." The Greek word for 'charge' here is 'diamartyromai'. This was a serious moment, and apostle Paul wanted Timothy to sense the importance of it. It was serious, not only because Paul was facing the imminent death, but even more because both Paul and Timothy would be judged one day when Jesus Christ appeared. It would do us all good to frequently reflect on the fact that one day we will face God and our works will be judged.

When you got up this morning, did you think, "Today might be the day I get to see my Lord Jesus in heaven"? Whether it is by the rapture or your sudden death, would you be ready? I know that it is a whole lot of questions for us to ponder. You might have to reflect from your recent past to further back to see if there is any sin that you need to ask God to forgive. But if He tarries, would you live the life that would glorify Him or satisfy your carnal desires?

For this very reason, it should encourage us to do our work for the Lord more diligently and faithfully. It would also deliver us from the fear of man, because our final judge is God, not men.

The day will come one way or another when we will stand before the Lord who knows all things including the hidden motives in our hearts. He will not only evaluate the end results, but also our motives that no one knows.

He will judge the living and the dead. No one can challenge His verdict. There will not be any technicalities, loopholes or appeal processes. His words will be final.

B. PREACH THE WORD

2 Timothy 4:2 Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.

The Greek word for 'preach' is 'kerysso'. The definition of it is 'always with the authority of herald which must be listened to and obeyed'. A herald or messenger

can not and should not add or subtract any word from the message that comes from his master. The messenger must proclaim its contents without his own editorial.

Timothy was to herald God's Word with the authority of heaven behind him. The Word of God is not negotiable, nor relative for people to pick and choose.

It is a pity and damnable thing that many churches have substituted other things for the preaching of the Word, things that may be good in themselves, but that are absolutely bad when they replace the proclamation of the Word of God.

Joel Osteen's sermons are nothing short of sweet cookies for the pew sitters. In other interviews, he readily admits that he does not want to talk about anything negative; sin, hell, the wrath of God onto the unbelievers at the end time are not part of his vocabulary; he just wants people to feel good and to feel good about themselves. The sad part of this is that he then should have become a secular counselor who uses the Bible occasionally, not a preacher.

God has ordained preaching and teaching as a primary function of the church. And pastors are called to preach and teach the Word of God.

Timothy should be diligent and aware of using every opportunity to preach the Word, when it is a good time as well as when it is not. There are times when I really didn't feel like teaching some of the particular things mentioned in the Bible for many reasons. But to be obedient to the Lord as a faithful herald of God's Word, I had to preach and teach everything with diligence that the Lord laid before me.

If I try to please people so that they can continuously come back, I would teach the same kind of things like Joel Osteen. It might make you feel good for now, you would be spiritually hungry again and again. I might please you and have a bigger church, but I would be disobedient to the Lord. Between you guys and the Lord, I'd rather please Him.

Preaching must be marked by three elements: "*Convince, rebuke (warning), exhort (appeal)*". To quote an old rule of preachers, "He should afflict the comfortable and comfort the afflicted." If there is conviction but no remedy, we add to people's burdens. And if we encourage those who ought to be rebuked, we are assisting them to sin. Biblical preaching must be balanced.

God's herald must preach the right doctrines with love and care for the listeners in his heart. True preaching (teaching) is the explanation and application of Bible doctrine. Anything else is just religious noise making.

Some of you may think, "Since you are the preacher here, it is for you, not us." That is true, but this very verse is the qualification for selecting a pastor/preacher for you.

C. THEY WANT HEAR WHAT THEIR HEARTS DESIRE

2 Timothy 4:3-4 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; 4 and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables.

Today's Christians have been spiritually malnourished with a steady and unrelenting diet of "judge not, that you will not be judged...", tolerant, inclusive "spiritual junk food" doctrine until they are completely void of any spiritual discernment.

Matthew 7:1-3 "Judge not, that you be not judged. 2 For with what judgment you judge, you will be judged; and with the measure you use, it will be measured back to you. 3 And why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye, but do not consider the plank in your own eye?"

When you read v1 in context, you will quickly find out that Jesus was talking about hypocrites' attitude – looking down on others while they themselves have sins.

Let's face it, ladies and gentlemen, people like to hear what they want to hear. They want to hear that everything will be fine with them; they want to hear that they will have a lot of money – not necessarily enough money to pay bills – just a lot of money to do whatever their carnal hearts desire; they want to be served, not to serve like Christ teaches in the Bible.

Since I named Joel Osteen as a heretic, am I saying that the people who attend his church are not saved and they are into a cult? No, I didn't say that. But I said that he is a heretic and not teaching the right message of the Gospel of Jesus Christ and its full contents. Obviously, his 45,000 people congregation doesn't mind having him as their pastor.

It is not only Osteen's church, but also many others who claim Jesus as their Savior, yet they want what they want over the truth of God. As I've said many times before, our God of love is the God of holiness; our God of forgiveness is the God of righteousness who will not wink at our sins. According to my Bible and your Bibles on your laps, you CAN NOT have His forgiveness without a true repentance.

I have no desire to make you guys become comfortable with your sins. I'd rather see that you become convicted by the messages from the Holy Spirit through my teachings that you may confess your sins and make your relationship right with the Lord and become more mature Christians.

I am going to list a few heresies you will find amongst so-called Christian movements:

- **The Word of Faith Movement:** It is not a denomination and does not have a formal organization or hierarchy. Instead, it is a movement that is heavily influenced by a number of high-profile pastors and teachers such as Kenneth Hagin, Benny Hinn, Kenneth Copeland, Paul and Jan Crouch, Fred Price and Crepo Dollar.

They believe Scripture promises – health and wealth. Laws supposedly governing the faith-force are said to operate independently of God's sovereign will and that God Himself is subject to these laws. This is nothing short of idolatry, turning our faith – and by extension ourselves – into god.

- **Emergent Church Movement:** It is a loose-knit association of churches that have decided that there is value and virtue in uncertainty about Scripture. They have a very liberal view of Scripture. They believe that Jesus is not the only way in which a person might be saved. They believe that Christianity should validate other world religions. They believe that other religions also lead to the same God.

- **Seeker Sensitive Movement:** A seeker-sensitive church can portray itself as friendly and demonstrating Christ is love, it also brings a great danger to the church. The biblical importance of the message is often overlooked and the emphasis is to meet the emotional needs of people. The message is usually cut for short-attention span people so they will not be forced to sit any longer and listen to an extended preaching of God's word.

For most, church becomes more of a counseling session than an actual intimate time with our Father. The church is becoming more of a how-to-better-your-life situation and it doesn't focus on the meaningful word of God. The focus on the seeker-sensitive church is on that of the seeker and not much on God.

- **Hollywood Gospel:** Since when did Hollywood tell the truth? They never do. There is another style of gospel from Hollywood that grabs every young people's attention nowadays.

Their idea of good is the vampire who supposedly is in love with a girl. Some of you have no idea what I am talking about. And some of you have watched these kind of movies. I haven't. But for the sake of this study, I read the brief synopsis of the movie 'Twilight'. I believe that there are a few more of that kind now – 'New Moon', 'Breaking Dawn' and 'Eclipse'.

Some of you who watched these movies are thinking, "What do those movies have to do with what you've been teaching?" Very much. According to the Hollywood gospel, as long as you are a semi-good person, even if you are a mass murderer or a blood sucking vampire, you get to do whatever you want and you get to be the one who pretty much tell God, if He exists, what to do. And people cheer for the main character no matter what.

These vampire movies are so hot among young people, especially teens. Listen carefully why vampire movies should be off limit for any Christian. By the very nature of the vampire idea, it is not a human, nor from God. It started from a wild imagination of a man who came up with a mythological or folkloric being who subsists by feeding on blood of a living person. It is pure demonic and satan uses it effectively with disguises of romance and adventure in movies to bring his hidden evil agendas into people's minds subtly.

Think about it, guys, a vampire sustains by sucking blood from a person. What does the Bible say about that?

Leviticus 17:10-12 'And whatever man of the house of Israel, or of the strangers who dwell among you, who eats any blood, I will set My face against that person who eats blood, and will cut him off from among his people. 11 For the life of the flesh is in the blood, and I have given it to you upon the altar to make atonement for your souls; for it is the blood that makes atonement for the soul.' 12 Therefore I said to the children of Israel, 'No one among you shall eat blood, nor shall any stranger who dwells among you eat blood.'

What are true Christians supposed to do with this kind of Hollywood religion? Don't let them get into your eyes, life and your home. Then, someone will say, "Come on, preacher. It is just a silly movie." If that is your answer, let me ask you another question: "Would you watch that silly vampire movie if your Savior Jesus is sitting next to you?" The answer would be, "No." If so, why would you watch it when the Holy Spirit lives in you?

D. FULFILL YOUR MINISTRY

2 Timothy 4:5 But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.

Though others turned aside to fables, Timothy was to be even more dedicated to doing what God wanted him to do. Their presence was to make him more dedicated, not discouraged.

"Do the work of an evangelist" would remind Timothy that all of his ministry must have soul-winning at its heart. This does not mean that every sermon should be a hellfire-and-brimstone message, because the believers need feeding as well. But it does mean that a preacher, no matter what he is preaching, should keep the lost souls in mind. This is the reason why I give out an altar call at the end of almost every Sunday morning service.

"Fulfill your ministry" means "fulfill whatever God wants you to do." Timothy's ministry would not be exactly like Paul's, but it would be important to the cause of Christ. No God-directed ministry is small or unimportant.

E. APPLICATIONS

- 1) Even though you are not a preacher, be ready in season and out of season to give a saving message of Jesus Christ to anyone who asks.**
- 2) Do not be conned by a silver-tongue orator with a twisted gospel message. Not everyone on Christian radio and TV programs is worthy of your support.**
- 3) If anyone teaches you any other Gospel than what you have learned from the Bible, let him or her be eternally accursed.**

Galatians 1:8-9 But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed. 9 As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed.