

VOWING A VOW

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FEBRUARY 10, 2013

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“IF YOU MAKE A VOW TO THE LORD YOUR GOD, YOU SHALL NOT
DELAY FULFILLING IT, FOR THE LORD YOUR GOD WILL SURELY
REQUIRE IT OF YOU, AND YOU WILL BE GUILTY OF SIN.”

Ω DEUTERONOMY 23:21

This is a scripture that I’ve never heard a sermon or teaching on but one that the Lord has called to my attention numerous times including again this morning. And I believe this will be a short teaching but one that I hope will impact your life because it’s a sad fact that so much of our *culture*—including its decline in morals and ethics—and the world has come over into the Church. Most churches today are so full of sin that God must judge them soon. When the Holy Spirit convicts you of sin, like He did David so long ago, then it’s important to not make excuses like Saul did but to immediately repent like David did.

One of the reasons there is so much sin in churches is because it's not *fashionable* to preach against sin any longer—it's not conducive to building large churches. I've learned from the Holy Spirit, however, that normally—not always—but normally a large church is a bad sign that the Spirit of the Lord is not there. Large churches can be easily seen being built through marketing gimmicks, entertainment and meeting the needs of the people.

I've not worked on the book *Another Gospel* that the Lord wants me to write for several years but for the time I've worked on it I became stunned to see that there are so *many* false gospels being preached today! One of these that appeals to most Pentecostals today is what I refer to as *The Need Centered Gospel*. And this gospel is similar to why so many marriages fail—I'll stay married to you as long as you meet my needs. Jesus, I'll stay married to you as long as you meet my needs.

I passed out a booklet at our church in Montana years ago to every family by Josh McDowell and it dealt with the fact that most Christian teenagers worshipped a god who met their needs. Their worship and following of Jesus wasn't based on the Scriptures but on whether or not He meets their needs! Now remember, these are youths from a Christian family. Now where did they get those values?

My brother and sister the early Church was not this way. Peter, Paul, James, Silas, etc., did not preach "a needs centered gospel." God did meet people's needs (not necessarily their wants though) as they worshiped the Lord on Sunday and were "about the Father's business" like Jesus was. An offshoot of the "needs centered gospel" is the "prosperity gospel" that God wants everyone to be a millionaire. It seems that many, many churches I could name and most of the "christian" T.V. networks have abandoned the gospel that Paul preached and now only talk about money and "prosperity." But as I've shared in my writings, they don't even understand God's prosperity

system. In addition, most have become dishonest and are liars and we all know from Jesus' words who their father is if they are liars. They lie to the children of God with some fabricated story about "building an altar" or some such foolishness that they claim God told them.

Interestingly, I saw a short video on UTube just last week with a Norwegian prophecy from a 90 year old woman in 1968 who predicted that this was going to happen—many churches would abandon the Lord and go after money.

Now there's nothing inherently wrong with money; as Timothy pointed out it's "the love of money" that is "the root of all evil." Now I've written and preached for years—although we don't do it because I don't see that they did it in the early church with the exception of the offering Paul received but this offering was not for him but rather for the poor Christians in Jerusalem—that I'm not against churches or ministries taking up an offering for their operation. But like all else in the Kingdom it must be "done decently and in order." That means it must be honest; no deception. No saying, "The Lord showed me last night as I was praying that there are 20 people here tonight He wants to help me with an offering of \$500." Or, "The Lord told me last night that everybody who gives \$99 tonight will receive salvation for all of their loved ones." Those are lies my brothers and sisters and the Bible says that "no lie is of the truth."

Now back to the VOW mentioned in Deuteronomy scripture above. Let me ask you a question because you might say, "That is Old Testament." Yes, it is Old Testament and we must always be able to "rightly divide the Word of Truth" as the Scriptures admonish us to do. So the question I have for you is: does that scripture apply to the Church today? Is it still a "sin" not to keep your vows or promises?

Now I believe it does because “sin” is still “sin”; adultery, stealing, etc., that are mentioned in the Ten Commandments are still sin even though the Ten Commandments were not given to the Church but rather to Israel. Still, in God’s eyes, idolatry and the other sins mentioned are still sins. But I wanted to be absolutely sure so what did I do? Well, like most questions of this nature I asked the Great Teacher of the Church who is on the earth today—the Holy Spirit.

He referred me to 1 Corinthians 10:1-12, especially vv. 6&11, and I would encourage you to read these passages entirely. Now I’ve known for years and preached it that “there are only two things that can keep you from receiving from God—sin and unbelief. I’m sure many if not most of you reading this are guilty of this “sin” of not keeping a promise or vow and this is especially grievous to the Lord when our vow is to a Five-fold minister like your pastor or to other Christian “brothers.”

If you promise to tithe to your church or be on the worship team then you had better keep that commitment or else ask to be released of it or you are guilty of sin. Don’t treat this lightly; repent today and ask forgiveness of those you broke your promises to and you will see a change in your life because:

“But unto you that fear my name shall the sun of righteousness

Arise with healing in its wings ...” Ω Malachi 4:2