

PREACHERS OF A FALSE GOSPEL

Today we have so many who are preaching on material prosperity, and bodily health. Many of these Charismatic/Pentecostal preachers are quoting from (3 Jn. 1:1-2). *"Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth."*

The apostle John was perhaps writing this letter from Ephesus in A.D. 90 to his beloved Gaius in this third epistle. John had wished above all things, that he prosper and to be in health. John's greeting may have implied that Gaius was physically weak though spiritual strong.

These modern day preachers teach that Christians should prosper and be in health. Even some have gone so far to say, that Christians lack faith, and that is the reason why they don't prosper and are not in health. My dear Christian reader, this is a false gospel. Just be aware about these false teachers as found in (1 Jn. 4:1). They took this verse of (3 Jn. 1:2) out of context, and have applied it their own Charismatic/Pentecostal denomination. John had written this personal letter to Gaius, not to the church.

There is nothing wrong in having riches and to be in health, as long as you recognize in giving all the glory to God, and to bless others with your riches. To missions, your local church from your tithes and offerings, and never forget the poor?

Many born-again Christians are not rich, and many are not in health. Yet some have such faith, they could move mountains. But when you hear of these Charismatic/Pentecostal preachers today, this is not the gospel of Jesus Christ. As you continue in this study, I will expose these preachers of a false gospel.

"For ye know the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, that though He was rich (before He came), yet for your sakes, He became poor that ye through His poverty might be rich" (2 Cor. 8:9).

In this verse, I have underlined might, not will become rich. Paul is talking about collections for the poor saints at Jerusalem (2 Cor. 8:1-9, 15; Acts 11: 27-30; 1 Cor. 16:1). To be spiritual rich, not just in material riches. These modern day Charismatic preachers are doing this today on TV; hundreds of them, from all corners of the world.

The grace of giving was not commanded in (v 8), but by example of other churches (v 2-5), and especially by the supreme example of our Lord Christ Jesus. He became poor for all churches, that by this poverty, they might be rich (v 9). Many churches today are rich, but many are also poor. It's in the Sovereignty of God.

If Jesus Christ was a mere man, as some contend, in which sense was He rich, and how could He make many others rich by His poverty?

He Himself possessed no property as some of these modern day preachers claim in their own false gospel; from the manger to the cross. Jesus died a poor man and was buried in a borrowed grave of Joseph of Arimathea. The answer to these questions would have to be that He was, and still more, than a mere man (Mic. 5:1-2; Jn. 1:1-2).

He created and owned the vast universes (Eph. 3:9; Jn. 1:3; Col. 1:15-18). He laid aside His form and riches, and took human form to redeem us. He became poor and died as man's substitute. He now saves all, not some, who believe (Jn. 3:16).

Those who believe, trust in, cling to, rely on Him, they become heirs of God and joint-heirs with Christ. All that God owns, are also partakes of His promises to us (Phil. 2:5-11; Jn. 3:16; Rom. 8:17-18; Col. 3:1-4; Rev. 1:5-6; 5:10; 11:15; 22:4-5).

How Poor Was Jesus?

"And Jesus said unto him (the scribe in Mt. 8:19), Foxes have holes, the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay His head" (Lk. 9:58).

The full meaning can only be grasped when we realize, that Jesus Christ (John 1:1-4, 14), who created all things, was now reduced by His own choice, for man's sake, to that of the lowest of creation.

Recently I heard of a Charismatic preacher who said that Jesus owned His own home, and He wore designer clothing, such as His talit (prayer shawl), even His tunic that the soldiers gambled for while Jesus was being crucified naked. God is going to judge this preacher at the Great White Throne Judgment, because it will be Jesus Himself who will judge, not the Father (Jn. 5:22-23; and Rev. 20:11-15). This preacher must be reading from the Reversed Version of the Bible, certainly not from the Authorized King James Version of 1611.

Some others of this false gospel, that Jesus owned His own home? Let's read from (John 1:38-39). *"Then Jesus turned, and saw them following, and saith unto them, What seek ye? They said unto Him, Rabbi, [in the Greek] (which is to say, being interpreted, Master), where dwellest thou? He saith unto them, (the two disciples), Come and see. They came and saw where He dwelt, and abode with Him that day: for it was about the tenth hour." Jesus could have been staying with one of His disciples. But to say Jesus owned His own home? (KJV)*

How Did Jesus Finance His Work?

Jesus did not appear to be a wealthy man by the worldly standards. He did not own a place He could call His own (Luke 9:58), and He didn't occupy Himself with worldly concerns such as fancy clothes and possessions. For some three years He traveled about, much of the time with a considerable entourage; and at least He organized large preaching expeditions (Luke 9-10). In part, Jesus and His disciples lived on the hospitality of the people (Matthew 10:11).

He received offerings from the well-to-do and from others (Luke 8:3). Jesus could have amassed a fortune and lived like a king from donations from the crowds that followed Him and from the sick He had healed if He had so chosen.

Jesus needed no accumulated wealth because He had complete and total faith that God will always provide for all His needs and the needs of his entourage. His every need and desire was fulfilled. What a testimony this is to us if we can only put our trust in the Lord!

Many of these Charismatic/Pentecostal preachers have private jets; some have more than just one Rolls Royce, but also Bentleys, Mercedes. There is one of these preachers whose name I will not mention, only to say he is from Darrow, Louisiana. While on TV, he has shown his own mansion sitting on a hill to millions of viewers. If you will notice, while preaching on financial prosperity, some of his members are placing cash or checks into his hands. When his hand is full, he returns to the podium by placing it into a large container. Then he returns again, as an encore while preaching on financial prosperity? Is this what Jesus taught? Now I will show you what Jesus did teach about riches.

The Rich Young Ruler

(Mt. 19:16; Mk. 10:17; Lk. 18:18-23)

Lk. 18:18

"And a certain ruler asked Him, saying, Good Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?"

The first question reveals the great mistake and the last one, the great problem of life. One cannot do anything to merit eternal life, but all may have it by confession of sin and simple faith in Christ (Jn. 3:16-20; Eph. 2:8-9; Tit. 3:5; 1 Jn. 1:9; Rom. 10:9-10).

Good Master. Gr. *Didaskalos*, means teacher.

In Mt. 23:7, let us read: *"And greetings in the markets, and to be called of men, Rabbi, Rabbi."* Rabboni in the Aramaic language and "Rabbi" in the Greek. (Jn. 20:16) and is

translated "Lord" (Mk. 10:51). A title of a teacher (Jn. 3:2). A favorite title claimed by Pharisees (Mt. 23:7).

One was made a rabbi by laying on of hands by the Sanhedrin who gave him a key as a sign of the authority conferred upon him to teach others, and a table-book as a sign of diligence in study.

The key was worn as a badge of honor, and was buried with him. Jews called John the Baptist (Jn. 3:26) and Jesus as such (Jn. 1:38, 49; 3:2; 6:25) even though they were never ordained as rabbis. Compare Jn. 20:16.

Lk. 18:19

"And Jesus said unto him (the rich young ruler), Why callest thou me good? None is good, save one, that is God."

Lk. 18:20

"Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Honour thy father and thy mother."

One thing is certain, men know right from wrong, for all have a conscience (Rom. 2:12-16). Men in civilization have the Bible, the full revealed and written word of God, and know what to do to be saved.

Lk. 18:21

"And he said, All these have I kept from my youth up."

Jesus did not doubt that the young man had obeyed the 5 commandments, for Jesus "loved him" (Mk. 10:21). He gave a commandment that the young man could not say he had kept. *"Sell all that thou hast, and distribute unto the poor."* This is equivalent of *"Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself"* (Mt. 22:37-39). The neighbors are the poor, the ones he could help and thus complete his obedience to God (Lk. 10:27-37).

Lk. 18:22

"Now when Jesus heard these things, He said unto him, Yet lackest thou one thing: sell all that thou hast, and distribute unto the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, follow me."

The poor is from the Gk. word, *ptochos*, destitute, and in want; always rendered poor except in Lk. 16:20, 22 (beggar), Gal. 4:9, (beggarly), and Jas. 2:2, (poor man).

Lk. 18:23

"And when he heard this, he was very sorrowful: for he was very rich (exceedingly so)."

In (Mt. 19:21), Jesus said to the young man, *"If thou wilt be perfect, go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me."*

To be perfect, you must renounce the world which you love, the legal righteousness wherein you trust, give to the poor, and follow Me.

Warning to rich men

(Mt. 6:19; Mk. 10:23; Lk. 18:24)

Mt. 19:23

Then said Jesus unto His disciples, Verily I say unto you, that a rich man shall hardly enter into the kingdom of heaven.

Now let us read from the gospel of Luke 12:15

Lk. 12:15

"And He said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth."

Covetousness is forbidden

(Ex. 20:17; Mt. 6:19-21; Rom. 13:9; Eph. 5:3; Heb. 13:5; 1 Jn. 2:15-17)

Hatred of it is a qualification of leaders, civil and religious (Ex. 18:21; 1 Tim. 3:3; Tit. 1:7; 1 Pet. 5:2).

It will damn the soul (1 Cor. 5:11; Eph. 5:3-5; 1 Tim. 6:9-11; 2 Pet. 2: 3. 14). It must be killed out entirely (Col. 3:2-6).

In Lk. 12:16-21, illustrating that life does not consist of earthly possessions (v15; 21-32).

10 Reasons Why It Is Hard for Some of the Rich to Inherit Eternal Life

1. Their oppressions of the poor to make themselves rich (Neh. 5:1-13; Jas. 2:6-7; 5:1-7; Pr. 18:23; Jer. 22:13-19).
2. Their lack of trust in God (Job 21:7-15; Ps. 52:1-7).
3. Their trust in riches (Job 31:24-28; Ps. 52:1-6; Pr. 18:11; 1 Tim. 6:17).
4. Their pride over success (Ps. 52:1-6; 73:3-9; Pr. 28:11; Ez. 28:5; 1 Tim. 6:4-19).
5. Their sinful pleasures (Jer. 5:7-9; 27-31; Amos 6:1-6).
6. Their boastings (Jer. 9:23; Dt. 8:17-18; 1 Tim. 6:4-19).
7. Their unwillingness to share with the destitute (Mk. 10:17-27; Lk. 18:22-26; 1 Tim. 6:17-19; 1 Jn. 3:17).
8. Their covetousness for more riches (Lk. 12:15-21; 16:13-31).
9. Their high-mindedness (1 Tim. 6:17-18; Jas. 1:10; Dt. 8:17).
10. Their refusal to obey God (Mk. 10:21-22; Lk. 12:15; 1 Tim. 6:17-18; Mt. 6:19-21; Pr. 23:4).

Warnings to the rich

(Dt. 6:10-12; 8:10-18; 31:20; Pr. 23:4; 27:23-24; 28:8, 20-22; 30:8-9; Ecc. 5:9-19; 6:1-2; Isa. 5:8; Mt. 6:19-21; 13:22; Mk. 4:19; Lk. 12:15; 1 Tim. 6:4-19).

God gives riches so men must recognize Him. He can also take away (1 Sam. 2:7; Dt. 8:17-18; 1 Tim. 6:17-18; Gen. 24:1; 1 Ki. 3:12-14; Job. 42:10).

We must not think a rich man as being able to get salvation on the same basis as they get most everything else, for salvation is on a different basis. God does not respect them any more than the poor. They have to meet the same conditions as others, and this is why it is hard for them, and why so few pay the price to get saved. Let's now return to Mt. 19:24

Mt. 19:24

"And again I say unto you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle, than for a rich man to enter into the kingdom of God."

Eye of a needle

(Mt. 19:24; 23:24)

Many stories have been told to indicate that the "eye of a needle" is a small postern gate that was opened at night when the city gate had been shut, and that a camel could get through it, provided it had been fully unloaded. It's a nice story but not true in biblical terms.

The eye of a needle is a surgeon's needle. Gr. *rhaphis*, from *rhapto*, "to sew," occurs in Matt. 19:24; Mark 10:25. The point was that the camel was the largest animal with which people of the day were familiar. Jesus was using the term much as we would use the word elephant as the largest creature in our experience. Jesus may also have used the camel as an illustration because it was ritually unclean. The New Manners & Customs of Bible Times by Ralph Gower.

Note: The idea of applying "*the needle's eye*" to a small gate seems to be a modern one; there is no ancient trace of it. The Lord's object in the statement is to express human impossibility and there is no need to endeavor to soften the difficulty by taking the needle to mean anything more than the ordinary instrument.

Mackie points out (Hasting's Bible Dictionary) that "an attempt is sometimes made to explain the words as a reference to the small door, a little over 2 feet square, in the large heavy gate of a walled city. This mars the figure without materially altering the meaning, and receives no justification from the language and traditions of Palestine. Vine's Complete Dictionary of the Bible

Mt. 19:25

"When His disciples heard it, they were exceedingly amazed, saying, Who then can be saved?"

Mt. 19:26

"But Jesus beheld them, and said unto them, With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible."

It is impossible for man to save either the rich or the poor, but God can save and has saved both classes in all ages. God is Sovereign.

This concludes this in-depth study on **PREACHERS OF A FALSE GOSPEL**. When comparing it to the **true Gospel of Jesus Christ**. There is no comparison to be found. **"All Scripture"** (2 Tim. 3:16); not just part of it.

This is what so many denominations are doing today, by taking Scriptures out of context, so they may bolster their own denominations. That is not scriptural. Just be aware of it. Test the spirits first. Do not be deceived by these false teachers of another gospel.

A few years ago, I had seen this poster on a wall of a Christian bookstore titled, **"One Life."** The more I read it, I decided to purchase it. Many times I've read it, not knowing that someday, I would be doing a study on **Preachers of a False Gospel**.

Each day, I see many Charismatic preachers that are not preaching the true gospel of Jesus Christ. While Jesus was on this earth, this Charismatic preacher would say how rich Jesus was, and that Jesus was able to travel from city to city. This other Charismatic/Pentecostal would preach from his pulpit in Atlanta, Georgia. I will not mention his name, only to say there are many like him. He also owns his private jet, luxury cars, and he does wear designer clothing. Recently, he was on the Larry King show.

Imagine, saying that Jesus wore designer clothing? Or even His talit (prayer shawl), that Jesus wore. Of course, Jesus was so rich according to this other Charismatic preacher, and that He owned His own home, maybe His own palace? They are deceiving you, by using the gospel as filthy lucre for themselves. I have made a copy of this poster **One Life** that shows you the truth of Jesus.

ONE LIFE

*He was born in a stable,
In an obscure village.
From there He traveled
Less than 200 miles.*

*He never won an election,
He never went to college,
He never owned a home,
He never had a lot of money.*

*He became a nomadic preacher
Popular opinion turned against Him,
He was betrayed by a close friend,
And His other friends ran away.*

*He was unjustly condemned to death,
Crucified on a cross among thieves,
On a hill overlooking the town dump,
And when dead, was laid in a borrowed grave.*

*Nineteen centuries have come and gone,
Empires have risen and fallen,
Night armies have marched,*

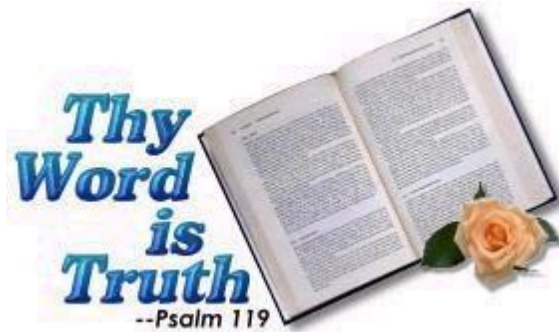
And powerful rulers have reigned.

*Yet no one affected men as much as He,
He is the central figure of the human race,
He is the Messiah, the Son of God, **JESUS CHRIST**.*

"One life will soon be past, only what is done for Christ will last"

Your humble servant in the Lord,

*Richard Beaulac
December 21, 2007*



King James Version