



Scriptures and Doctrine :: How To Be A Popular Preacher Today

How To Be A Popular Preacher Today, on: 2006/12/8 7:25

Joel Osteen, pastor of America's largest church, is a living example of how to be a popular preacher in this apostate age. The key is to preach a positive message that doesn't deal plainly with sin, repentance, and judgment.

About 38,000 people attend his Sunday services in Houston, and his sermons are broadcast in more than 200 markets in the United States as well as on major networks in Canada, Europe, Australia, Asia, and the Middle East. He fills massive arenas throughout America, and his 2004 book *Your Best Life Now* has sold 4 million copies.

Recently he was in Tampa, Florida, and the St. Petersburg Times ran a front-page report on the meetings entitled "God's Cheerleader." There is no way that a major secular newspaper in America today would run such an affirmative report on a preacher who is faithful to the Word of God.

Notice how Osteen's message is described: *"Osteen's easy-going, all-inclusive gospel has made him a spiritual rock star . He's unrelentingly positive, more Norman Vincent Peale than Pat Robertson. His deliberately nonjudgmental sermons . . . have made him into a bestselling author who is even popular among agnostics and atheists. Osteen's positive messages--recent sermon topics include 'Having Confidence in Yourself' and 'Stop Listening to the Accusing Voices'--have helped make him a religious everyman. He touts a loving God. There is no condemnation. No talk of judgment or damnation"* ("God's Cheerleader," St. Petersburg Times, Nov. 26, 2006, p. 10A).

Osteen is no doubt sincere in what he is doing, but he is sincerely and terribly wrong. The Lord Jesus Christ was a fire and brimstone preacher, and every God-ordained preacher is commanded to preach the Word with reproof, rebuke, and exhortation" (2 Timothy 4:2).

The Scriptures warn that many will turn away their ears from the truth in the last days and after their own lusts will heap t o themselves teachers, having itching ears (2 Timothy 4:3-4). Sadly, that is exactly what America's favorite pastor is doing. He is scratching the itching ears of those who have rejected the plain teaching of the Bible and desire, instead, a new type of Christianity, one with a smiley face, one that allows them to live pretty much as they please, to follow their own lusts, and still feel that they are right with God. Significantly, Osteen's nickname is the "smiling preacher."

Krispy

Re: How To Be A Popular Preacher Today, on: 2006/12/8 7:34

Ooops! I meant this to go in the lounge!

Krispy

Re: How To Be A Popular Preacher Today - posted by enid, on: 2006/12/8 8:27

I don't doubt maybe people who attend Joel Osteen's church might visit this website.

Let's hope they do.

The fear of God seems to have disappeared from many Christians.

With leadership like Osteen's, you don't wonder why.

He is popular with people because he is a man pleaser instead of being a God pleaser.

I've listened to bits of his messages online, all positive thinking, a bible mention, but no substance, no godly fear and definitely no anointing.

What should be church is little more than a social club. Everybody meet for the Sunday morning entertainment.

How can these people take God's name in vain and suppose they will escape the wrath of God?

As it is, for them, God is love, and love alone, no wrath, an judgment and no hell.

The falling away is here. We can see it with our own eyes. We can touch it.

Let us not live as though we live in the night, but in the light.

God bless.

Re: - posted by Yeshuasboy (), on: 2006/12/8 8:44

I, as well, nod in agreement to Leonard Ravenhill's quote: "If Jesus had preached the same message that ministers preach today, He would never have been crucified."....

Also, I can't recall at the moment who the wise soul was that said something like, "When you change the Message, you change the people." Some churches are rapidly growing today because the Word of God has been watered down just enough to not come across as being "offensive" to those in attendance.....I think is where someone coined the phrase "seker-sensitive"....But then on the left, or right, you have the "militant" style, those that preach the Word but with a "different" spirit usually manifesting pride, covetousness, etc, and justifying it all in the name of Jesus.

I know for me, I must be on constant guard lest I be led astray...and this is done in honest humility by the grace of God.

All my thoughts must be taken captive, while "beating" my body daily and making it my slave.

But indeed, the blind are leading the blind into the ditch.

I wonder how many people were considered to be "nice" that weren't saved with Noah and his family, but the flood swept away. There are many "nice, smiling people" in the world who couldn't care less about God, nor that eternal salvation is offered in Christ Jesus.

Please pray for me that all of my life be a faithful witness of the love and righteousness of Christ Jesus....to be the salt and light God desires and commands me to be.

For to compromise with sin is to compromise with the enemy of God. "For his sin aims at God's honor and glory, seeking that his shot will take away from His honor and glory, while adding it to himself" -William Gurnall

"Thus saith the Lord, What iniquity have your fathers found in me, that they are gone from me, and have walked after vanity, and are become vain." - Jer 2:5 (kjv) Read this chapter two of Jeremiah for the hundredth time friends and see the heart of God personified...and let us weep over this and draw near the One true God while He is near.

Thanks for the post brother,

Maybe many of today's "preachers" aren't reading the Old Testament books anymore which were given to us as great blessings to heed the prophetic warnings that most Israelites of old chose to ignore, doing this to their own destruction.

Don't want to get off topic to your post....

Be led by His Spirit this day,
richie

Re: How To Be A Popular Preacher Today - posted by nsteblay, on: 2006/12/11 6:41

2 Corinthians 13

11 Dear brothers and sisters, I close my letter with these last words: Be joyful. Grow to maturity. Encourage each other. Live in harmony and peace. Then the God of love and peace will be with you.

12 Greet each other with Christian love.

13 All of God's people here send you their greetings.

14 May the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

Re: How To Be A Popular Preacher Today - posted by EVAVGELIST (), on: 2006/12/12 5:15

It is so sad when you hear people speak corrupt communication concerning your brothers.

I have read posts where people say, "A real Christian would not do it that way." By the statement alone it is inferring they are not Christians and therefore, they are taking God off the throne and placing themselves on the throne to judge peoples salvation. THIS IS GODS JOB. Do I preach like Joel Osteen? No, not even close. I probably preach the total opposite, but he is still my brother in the Lord.

Galatians 6:1-3 1 Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted. 2 Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ. 3 For if a man think himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself.

Matthew 7:1-2 Judge not, that ye be not judged. 2 For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again.

KrispyKrittr, If you pray for Joel as much as you post negative comments about him, he would probably be the next Billy Graham.

Josh

Re: How To Be A Popular Preacher Today - posted by Yeshuasboy (), on: 2006/12/12 6:26

Quote:

KrispyKrittr wrote:

The Lord Jesus Christ was a fire and brimstone preacher, and every God-ordained preacher is commanded to preach the Word with reproof, rebuke, and exhortation" (2 Timothy 4:2).

Joel Osteen got into much trouble this past year when interviewed by Larry King...so much feedback poured in after that interview that he was compelled to post an apology on his website.

The interview is out there in the cyberworld somewhere if one wants to search for it. Besides that, I myself have never been led to study under this person. Really not lead and not interested.

I witnessed that interview though...it is something to see...

God bless you,
Richie

Re: - posted by Yeshuasboy (), on: 2006/12/12 7:50

Quote:

Yeshuasboy wrote:

Joel Osteen got into much trouble this past year when interviewed by Larry King...so much feedback poured in after that interview that he was compelled to post an apology on his website.

The interview is out there in the cyberworld somewhere if one wants to search for it.

In case you were not aware of this event...here's a few links I quickly came across that seemed interesting:

(<http://transcripts.cnn.com/TRANSCRIPTS/0506/20/kl.01.html>) The Actual CNN Transcript Of Interview

(<http://www.av1611.org/osteen.html>) Joel Osteen, True or False Article

(<http://www.rapidnet.com/~jbeard/bdm/exposes/osteen/king.htm>) <http://www.rapidnet.com/~jbeard/bdm/exposes/osteen/king.htm>

(<http://pewview.mu.nu/archives/094146.html>) Americans Comment On Interview

All these links were quickly found on a Google search.....Of course, there are many other "Discernment" ministries out there

eir that are useful in equipping God's children with info concerning today's false teachers and doctrines of devils. I would also caution using discernment when using these ministries as research tools. I have come across bias reporting over the net a few times. Be on guard, and be led by the Spirit.

The Lord guide you this day,
richie :-)

Re: - posted by murdog (), on: 2006/12/12 8:47

Members,

I don't regard these false ministers as my brethren. They are damning untold numbers of people to hell with their lies. Their converts use Jesus to serve them, not the other way around.

"They must be silenced, because they are ruining whole households by teaching things they ought not to teach--and that for the sake of dishonest gain. Titus 1:11

Murray

Re: How To Be A Popular Preacher Today - posted by brentw (), on: 2006/12/12 10:39

I think the question is: are the people in his church becoming more holy, more like Christ??

Re: How To Be A Popular Preacher Today, on: 2006/12/12 11:41

"Now, John answered Him, saying, 'Teacher, we saw someone who does not follow us casting out demons in Your name and we forbade him because he does not follow us'.

But Jesus said, "Do not forbid him, for no one who works a miracle in My name can soon afterward speak evil of me. **For he who is not against us is on our side**".

Mark 9:38-40

Those are Jesus' Words, not mine.

neil

Re: - posted by murdog (), on: 2006/12/12 15:33

I know that you cannot tolerate wicked men, that you have tested those who claim to be apostles but are not, and have found them false. Revelation 2:2

But there were also false prophets among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you. They will secretly introduce destructive heresies, even denying the sovereign Lord who bought them--bringing swift destruction on themselves. 2 Peter 2:1

As I urged you when I went into Macedonia, stay there in Ephesus so that you may command certain men not to teach false doctrines any longer. 1 Timothy 1:3

For such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, masquerading as apostles of Christ. 2 Corinthians 11:13

At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other, and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people. Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, Matthew 24 10:12

Murray

Re: - posted by EVAVGELIST (), on: 2006/12/13 0:52

In today's world it seems like so many people want to be pulpit police officers.

Genesis 50:19 19 And Joseph said unto them, Fear not: FOR AM I IN THE PLACE OF GOD?
It seems like today people want to be in the place of God.

What do they preach? If you want to convince someone that they call themselves true Apostles and you found them liars, PROVE IT. Show me what they teach, show me what Scripture they disobey and show me all the false doctrine. Lastly back up all your claims with the BIBLE.

EVERYTHING ELSE IS JUST NAME CALLING. BLA BLA BLA

Evangelist

Re: - posted by AshleyJnr, on: 2006/12/13 6:07

Hmm..

Just wondering, is possible that false prophets will not actually seem to disobey scripture?
Isn't it likely that they may just leave the bits that they do disobey out??

Re: - posted by murdog (), on: 2006/12/13 8:12

Evangelist,

I do not apologize for wanting to sit under sound doctrinal teaching.

Are you not aware of the teachings that are propagated by the modern day preachers as scriptural? Or the things they leave out in their sermons such as sin, repentance and hell?

I am not calling anyone names. It does concern me that these men and women are willing to exchange the souls of men for money and comfort in the here and now.

I am referring to people who teach the prosperity gospel or just a watered down gospel. And both are no gospels at all.

"But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach other than the one we preached to you, let him be eternally condemned!" Galatians 1:8

Murray

Re: - posted by Yeshuasboy (), on: 2006/12/13 9:30

Larry King: What if you're Jewish or Muslim, you don't except Christ at all?

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

Ya know, in all honesty, I really hope that this man repents of saying such cowardly foolishness. Could you imagine Paul, Peter, John, etc. saying such words?

How can you teach that kind of doctrine and call yourself a Pastor or even a Reverend?

However...there was another man who was one of the pastors at the Toronto Vineyard who recently wrote an article and posted it on the net, apologizing for his involvement with that movement. And I say, Praise God for granting him repentance :-D ...for He came calling sinners to repentance...Praise God...alot of religious folk think they're pretty good people.. Well, only God is good (Luke 18:19)

Praise God,

richie

Re: - posted by Chariot, on: 2006/12/13 9:58

Quote:
-----In today's world it seems like so many people want to be pulpit police officers...back up all your claims with the BIBLE...EVERYTHING ELSE IS JUST NAME CALLING, BLA BLA BLA

Hello Evangelist,

There seems to be a subtle inconsistency about your post, in that you do exactly what you set out for others to prove there not doing - name calling. Aren't we told that false teachers will arise and that they are to be marked? I agree that great pain and care should be taken to ensure that this is done in a godly way

But i digress. There are legions of sites that 'police the pulpits,' - admittedly some better than others - toiling, with extensive citations from the preacher in question, to determine that a false gospel, teaching, or anything else that needs to be marked is done biblically. If you don't agree with what they find or the conclusions they draw, that is another story.

I've often wondered, is not the rise in discernment ministries a direct correlation of the growing tide of false doctrine being drummed from the pulpits and over the airwaves?

I believe that what Olsteen teaches has done untold damage to the body of Christ. His message is overly tailored to blunt the double-edged SWORD. If you would like proof i would be happy to direct you to the many sites specializing in this. A few saints on this thread have already done this however.

God Bless
Rob

Re: Richie of Kamloops, on: 2006/12/13 13:15

Brother,

let me preface this by saying that I'm not a big fan of Joel Osteen, just so you know, not a big fan of Toronto and the stuff that's going on up there, and in all honesty, I'm not a big fan of some posters around here, may God bless them all.

But your going wrong in your posting by calling a man "cowardly", and in essence a "fool(ishness)".

Didn't you pick up that Larry King's question was a "bait" question? This is a secular program with a secular audience, and they are just looking for the opportunity for a Christian "pastor", "preacher", whatever you want to call him, to pronounce judgement and hellfire on a secular audience, so they can turn around and say, "see! This is a "christian".....and THIS is the Gospel?

The first words uttered by Jesus at the start of His public ministry was "Repent, the Kingdom of Heaven is near you". Repent, as you know can mean "turn", "turn away"...and that "they" turn to God and be healed, and another way to use "heal" is "to be saved".

The Good News, the Gospel is "repent, the Kingdom of Heaven is near you". GOOD NEWS. to Larry, I would explain, that at the curtain leading into the Holy of Holies was ripped in two, and that everyone, throughout the world can now enter into the Holy Of Holies....the "Kingdom of Heaven is near you".

It means if your god is money, turn away from this God and turn to Jesus, because the god that is money will fail you, if your god is feeding the flesh, turn from this repent, BECAUSE the Kingdom of Heaven is NEAR YOU, and it is joy and peace everlasting, it is eternal life.

Joel used the words "very careful", he didn't say "afraid". Now Richie, you ever been in front of a secular audience? You have to be careful about the words you choose, you have to speak with unction, to use the Word, to make people ENVIROUS of so great a salvation, make them ENVIOUS of the JOY we have IN CHRIST.

It's a tightrope, especially in front of a 21st century media soaked secular audience. I saw James Dobson being interviewed by Larry King, and I wasn't that pleased, for reasons that I will keep private, but Larry didn't pose such a question to him, they talked about political stuff and the so-called "culture wars", which, in my opinion have nothing to do with the Gospel.

In fact the 109th Congress, this last session did nothing except hyperventilate about Terry Schiavo, stem cell research and the same sex marriage debate. "Culture Wars", that was it.

You speak of what Paul would have said, what do you think what Paul meant in First Corinthians 19 thru 23?

"To those not having the law, I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law) so as to win those not having the law".

"To the weak, I became weak, to win the weak".

you can read thru that Passage yourself, and pray on it, if you so desire.

But they, the secular audience out there is weak, some don't even believe in God, or that the Bible is the Word of God, it's like pearls to swine, and if a guy goes out there Holy Ghost guns blazing and calls down hellfire, in a question that is a "bait" question, he is doing Christ no service.

Mind you and I will say this again, I am no follower or fan of the ministry of Joel Osteen, but I'll tell ya what, and this thread is perfect example: in my Bible, on the upper margin of page 1768, I wrote "sermonindex" above this verse of Romans:

"Therefore, let us stop passing judgement on one another. Instead, make up your mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in your brother's way".

Romans 14:13

(in context Paul is speaking of those who eat meat or not, on both sides of this passage, you can look at that yourself)

okay, I'm done. May God bless you today is my prayer. neil

Re: - posted by roman, on: 2006/12/20 1:51

Quote:
-----You speak of what Paul would have said, what do you think what Paul meant in First Corinthians 19 thru 23?
"To those not having the law, I became like one not having the law (though I am not free from God's law but am under Christ's law) so as to win those not having the law".

"To the weak, I became weak, to win the weak".

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But they, the secular audience out there is weak, some don't even believe in God, or that the Bible is the Word of God, it's like pearls to swine, and if a guy goes out there Holy Ghost guns blazing and calls down hellfire, in a question that is a "bait" question, he is doing Christ no service.

Leonard Ravenhill said something like this (sorry can't quote verbatim) "If Jesus preached what these preachers preach today He would not be crucified." In the same way I would say "If Paul preached this type of message to Gentiles & Jews, he would not be persecuted."

The way I see this presentation of the gospel is not of being like them (as stated above) but it's more of "fear of man." Fear of how people will react ... fear they will be hurt ... fear they might turn away from Christians or Christianity.

If Paul had become like the Gentiles & Jews in this manner of preaching the gospel, they would have not persecuted & ev

en desired his death. What's offending in saying "Jesus the Way, the Truth & the Life no one comes to the Father except through Him." It is offending to the people who are perishing.

No matter how you speak the word of God in love, people will still be hurt because they can not accept the truth. The same way people were hurt in the preaching of Jesus & Paul. If we preach the Word in love & purity and people get hurt, I believe we have clean hands before God. But if we hurt them because of our fleshly preaching, then we are accountable to God; much more if we coat the gospel.

The Word of God is a sword.

Hebrews 4:12 (KJV) For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged 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.

Revelation 1:16 (KJV) And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp two edged sword: and his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength.

"Lets have fear of God and not fear of men."

In brotherly love,
roman

Re: - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2006/12/20 2:48

I just wrote a article on this same topic:

THE CHURCH THAT WOULD NOT SUFFER! by Greg Gordon

https://www.sermonindex.net/modules/newbb/viewtopic.php?topic_id=13855&forum=16

Here is a excerpt:

Quote:

-----ANCIENT AND MODERN

To any careful observer of the church in our day we realize there is a great disparity between the modern day example and the apostolic original. Here is an anonymous article written in the 1700's depicting some of these disparities very vividly. Oh for a reviving of the true apostolic spirit in the Church is the crying need of our day, or perhaps the only answer for the Church in this day:

Â“Ancient and modern preachers. The difference between ancient and modern preachers taken from the Scriptures. If any think me to severe to the Clergy, let them study the examples of Christ and his apostles, and compare the picture.

Ancient: CHRIST call'd his preachers to renounce their wealth, And set a glorious pattern in himself, Who, tho' he did possess all things in store, Yet for our sakes, became exceeding poor.

Modern: Some preachers now, large salaries do fix, So that, by preaching, they may now grow rich, So far departing from their blessed Lord, They worship mammon and a golden god.

Ancient: CHRIST told them, to be wise, they must be fools, And that not all the knowledge of the schools, Could ever teach one soul the way to heaven, That this is only by his spirit given.

Modern: But now, some go unto the schools of men, Expecting heavenly wisdom to obtain, And that, by reading books, they may acquire The holy spirit

it, the baptismal fire.

Ancient: CHRIST charg'd his followers, titles to contemn And, often faithfully, admonish'd them Not to be called RABBI, learned, wise, But all ambitious selfishness despise.

Modern: Now, some are call'd Archbishops and Prelates, Reverend Doctors, learn'd, wise, and great, The reverend parson, and master of arts, Old pharisaick pride, in all its parts.

Ancient: CHRIST told his followers, to be meek and mild, As low and humble as a little child, That they must not aspire to lofty seats, But must come down and wash each others feet.

Modern: Now some, in garments long, do love to stand, With college flourishes, they wave their hands, Read their writings, and then call it preaching, Old orthodox apostolick teaching. Now money, schools and books supply the place, Of humble love, and sanctifying grace, When money fails, these teachers often flee, The reason is, because, they hirelings be. When any now, are call'd of GOD, to teach, And by his spirit, are sent forth to preach, These learn'd scholars soon, will them degrade, Lest their cheap preaching should spoil their trade.

Ancient: CHRIST told his followers that they must expect, The world would hate them treat them with neglect, That as they hated him without a cause, So they would hate his followers and his laws. Fools in the eastern of the world.

Modern: No, say some modern preachers, 'tis not true, The world will love us and respect too, We are commanded for to live in peace, We will not then disturb their carnal ease.

Ancient: CHRIST told them, a distinction they must make, That they, the sheep and goats, must separate, That, as the sheep were separate from wolves. They must not be by worldly maxims rul'd.

Modern: No, say some teachers, this is a mistake; Therefore, we now will join the church and state. Tho' this is very far from GOD'S design, This jargon union, they attempt to join.

Ancient: CHRIST oft declares, the help of man is vain, And, that except a man be born again, And that except we all converted be, GOD'S kingdom we can never, never see.

Modern: Some hold, that there is yet some power in man, And that by creeds, and modes, and forms he can, Profess, confess, and plead, and, by degrees, The holy, angry, jealous GOD, appease.

Ancient: CHRIST says he is the way, the truth, the life, That, our of him, we have no strength or light. We have no faith, no hope, no might, at all. He is our joy, our hope, our all in all.

Modern: Why then, among the herdsmen, is such strife, When all of them can't bring a flea to life. Striving, both night and day, to proselyte, And yet cannot make one hair black or white!

Ancient: CHRIST'S followers, of old, were of one heart, Did, with their worldly int'rest, freely part; Neither did any say, ought was his own; It all in common stock was freely thrown.

Modern: Some christians now, so selfish they are grown, It is with trouble, we can get our own, And sometimes are obliged to complain, Unto the laws, our rights for to obtain.

Ancient: Christians all took their names from CHRIST, their head, All party names, from them, entirely fled, No Parthians or Medes with them were known, No other names, but christians, they would own.

Modern: Christians are so divided, in our days, The want of true religion it betrays, Presbyterian, Churchmen, Baptist, Quaker, Methodist, Universalist, and Shaker. It makes me almost sick, To see the names I've writ, My pen I now will quit, And will not waste My paper.Â”

Re: Us, them, further introspection - posted by crsschk (), on: 2006/12/20 9:12

As it relates to this post and it's heading in particular ...

To be fair and honest with ourselves is there not much repenting needed by way of unexamined motives .. namely our own?

For all that is wrong, needs to be addressed and even rightly so, still, something underneath all this is troubling ... that it is not troubling. Something of a smugness that could just as easily be termed "How to be an armchair religious critic"?

The point to drive at is where is our confession and admittance? Not by way of contrast or comparison but by way of being embittered rather than broken. Too often it seems too easy to hold ourselves above it all, forgetting ...

Must be said as the want is almost always one to launch to conclusions ... *This is not to say* It is a purposeful distraction from the problem of popular preaching and it's ill's, the destructive ... heresies that they are, all these things are true in great measure ... But I do wonder more at the overlooked aspects, our compulsions our real reasons, are we truly grie

ved or just spouting off? It may be so, it just rarely seems to break the surface, sounding more like critics than mourners.

Just food for thought saints.

Re: - posted by Yeshuasboy (), on: 2006/12/24 4:30

Quote:

bartle wrote:
Brother,

But your going wrong in your posting by calling a man "cowardly", and in essence a "fool(ishness)".

First Neil: I did not say the man was cowardly and in essence a fool. You, Neil, have twisted my words. Re-read what I did say, and please do not twist the words of others for whatever are your reasons.

Didnt you pick up that Larry King's question was a "bait" question? This is a secular program with a secular audience, and they are just looking for the opportunity for a Christian "pastor", "preacher", whatever you want to call him, to pronouce judgement and hellfire on a secular audience, so they can t urn around and say, "see! This is a "christian".....and THIS is the Gospel?

Seems to me by your above quote you are "assuming" things, since these things never happened in the interview. Shall we not stick to the facts even i f we donot agree?

The Good News, the Gospel is "repent, the Kingdom of Heaven is near you". GOOD NEWS. to Larry, I would explain, that the curtain leading into the Holy of Holies was ripped in two, and that everyone, thruout the world can now enter into the Holy Of Holies....the "Kingdom of Heaven is near you".

...It was Joel Osteen's interview was it not?

Joel used the words "very careful", he didnt say "afraid". Now Richie, you ever been in front of a secular audience? You have to be careful about the w ords you choose, you have to speak with unction, to use the Word, to make people ENVIOUS of so great a salvation, make them ENVIOUS of the JO Y we have IN CHRIST.

Look Neil...You seem to be going off abit on some tangent other than the original post...just my opinion. I'm in front of a secular audience the most part of every day Neil. I work in an "extremely" Christ-despising environment. My life, Christ through me, is more of a witness than my words are; although, if I sin in conversation then my words are a witness against me. I get, as you say, "bait questions" tossed at me all the time as well. It's apart of my life. ..just the way it is. The Pharisees did the same to Jesus, no? It happens all the time to His children who live out in the world and are commanded to be seperate from them.

You speak of what Paul would have said, what do you think what Paul meant in First Corinthians 19 thru 23?

I never said what Paul would have said Neil...again, you are twisting my words.

But they, the secular audience out there is weak, some dont even believe in God, or that the Bible is the Word of God, its like pearls to swine, and if a guy goes out there Holy Ghost guns blazing and calls down hellfire, in a question that is a "bait" question, he is doing Christ no service.

Don't even know where you're going with that paragraph either...But I must say, I've met more stronger-willed unbelievers than those that profess Chri st as Lord.

Mind you and I will say this again, I am no follower or fan of the ministry of Joel Osteen, but I'll tell ya what, and this thread is perfect example: in my Bi ble, on the upper margin of page 1768, I wrote "sermonindex" above this verse of Romans:

"Therefore, let us stop passing judgement on one another. Instead, make up you mind not to put any stumbling block or obstacle in your brother's way"

Romans 14:13
.

Now, I want to say something about myself Neil, because if you knew me, which you don't, I believe you would have a b etter understanding of where I was coming from. I will, again, be very clear on this....I choose to "call a spade a spade", and I do it to myself all the time. I have made choices based on fearful expectations in the past...things that I said which were cowardly and foolish at the time because I was fearful of man. Let's say it like it is...If something is wrong, it's wrong; if it's sin, it's sin. If I make excuses for my behavior, my words, etc...what good will that do? God commands me to practi ce certain things that I donot fall into temptation and sin. And if I choose to neglect what He wants me to practice (taking thoughts captive, prayer, etc) what will happen? BACKSLIDING, APOSTOSY, PERDITION...No?

We must be filled with Godly sorrow for our sins like David and Peter were and not worldly sorrow like Saul was and Jud as. Now I'm getting off topic.

I still believe Neil that men that call themselves Reverend and Pastor and donot say that salvation is through Christ Jesu

s alone, saying something else, are speaking from a different spirit and are deceived. They bear false testimony and therefore bear false witness. They must repent, as I have to repent, as you...the true body is called to repentance and faith in Jesus Christ as Lord.

There are many other things I could say in regards to all of this, but I think in all seriousness, "it" speaks for itself.

A Jewish brother in the Lord has written an insightful paper on judging righteously and unrighteously...

(http://www.moriel.org/articles/sermons/judge_not.htm) Judge Not By the grace of God, I learn when my heart is open to submitting to God and His ways.

Joel Ostten had time to prepare for his interview with Larry King. "My" opinion is that he should have been more prepared in the power and in the grace of Christ Jesus.

And this I do know: I can learn by the mistakes of such men as these, or I can follow them. I rather take heed lest I make the same mistakes.

Always, always desiring prayer from the Body of Christ...

richie

(PS. Still learning to use the "quote" function properly...)

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