

**Articles and Sermons :: A Salvation That Does Not Save by Greg Gordon****A Salvation That Does Not Save by Greg Gordon - posted by LoveHim, on: 2008/3/5 20:02**

A Salvation That Does Not Save

A vital message exposing spurious preaching of the gospel

**MOCK SALVATION**

In the last days the Apostle Paul declared that there would be a segment of people that would give heed to "seducing spirits and doctrines of devils." We are living in the reality of this passage of Scripture for there are "doctrines of demons" being preached from many pulpits worldwide. But you might argue that the gospel is being preached and we should approve! My friend we must realize that there were many false gospels preached in the apostles days and there are many false gospels being preached today. God has no interest and is not required to honor such a gospel that is false. There is an epidemic of a sort of "mock" salvation being preached from many pulpits today. It is a gospel message that is not authentic. It is correct in doctrine but false in reality. It is a salvation that does not work! It is a salvation that does not save! The holy Scriptures warn of a "falling away" apostatizing from the faith of Christ. Christ spoke of a strong word of emphatic warning to his disciples: "Take heed that no man deceive you." Oh believer! it is possible for you to be deceived with a gospel that is spurious, false, and counterfeit. You might ask what is this "mock" salvation that is being spoken of? Simply defined it is a salvation that does not make men holy. It was warned about in the Epistle of Jude in this phrase: "turning the grace of God into lasciviousness." Catherine Booth in her book "Popular Christianity" speaks of this gospel and her dismay of many that follow in its deception: "Alas, many false, delusive, disappointing Christs; so I have to show that there are many make-believe, mock salvations, which only deceive, disappoint, and damn those who trust in them. As I walk about the world, and as I look at professing Christians, my soul cries: O God, make haste to help us raise up a holy people, in order to show the world what salvation really means, for they do not know. They are utterly befogged and bewildered, and I do not wonder."

**SINNERS SAVED TO SIN?**

Perhaps no other evangelical phraseology has caused more damage to true gospel preaching than this simple coined phrase: "sinners saved by grace." Thus the Scriptures read to most such as: "Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, to the sinners which are at Ephesus, and to the unfaithful in Christ Jesus." No, ten thousand times no! Rather the Holy Ghost spoke a message that did not glorify sin but rather the holiness and salvation of God in believers from sin. The deception is real and persuasive. The simple question can be asked "what have you been saved from?" Not positionally but practically. Is there any sins which Christ has delivered you from? Christ was manifested that he might "take away our sins." He spoke to the women caught in adultery "Go, and sin no more." Paul stated that we "who are dead have been freed from sin." A French infidel, answering a cavalier against holiness, said the other day, "You believe and sin, I do not believe and sin: where is the difference? It seems to me I am the better of the two." Exactly, for however true or grand a man's beliefs, of what use are they if he does not act them out? "Can faith save him?" Nay, verily, but such a faith can damn him." This is false security to believe that we can act, talk, and walk like the world and still claim salvation in Christ. Sinners are not saved to sin but rather saved to holiness and good works. We are the light of the world so that our "good works" may be manifest before men that they may "glorify our Father in Heaven," this is biblical Christianity.

It might seem strange to say that ministers of religion are "pleading for impurity and sin." Yet dear reader this is exactly what multitudes of professors preach and teach that you cannot be free from sin. That you must sin! This is an unbiblical emphasis and the Apostles and Christ always preached from the vantage point of the possibility to walk holy and free from sin. Is "Christ the minister of sin? God forbid!" Christ is the minister of holiness and righteousness in God. Hear the lament of Fox over this opposition to the truth: "But they could not endure to hear of purity, and of victory over sin and the devil. They said they could not believe any could be free from sin on this side of the grave. I bade them give over babbling about the Scriptures, which were holy men's words, whilst they pleaded for unholiness. Then I bade them forbear talking of the Scriptures, which were the holy men's words; "for," said I, "the holy men that wrote the Scriptures pleaded for holiness in heart, life, and conversation here; but since you plead for impurity and sin, which is of the devil, what have you to do with the holy men's words?" The warning of Christ is against this gospel where professors of religion are forbid

ding people to be a part of the holy body of Christ: "But woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men: for ye neither go in yourselves, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in."

Can there be preached a gospel that damns people? The warning of the last days is that "there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies." They teach the gospel of God in a way that damns and does not free people. It speaks of life and heaven yet does not offer a release of the bondage of sin in believers. The great fall ing away will damn people even though they believed in a supposed gospel: "That they all might be damned who belie ved not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness." The true Gospel will free people from the pleasure, potential a nd possibility of sin. This is not a crucial matter and not something to accept as tolerable. The extent of this modern day "mock" salvation that does not result in producing a holy people is damning people to hell. Does this seem strong? H arsh? It is better to be offended over these words and repent from this gospel rather than meeting Christ as the judgeme nt seat being found "in your sins" not "in Christ" and the freedom of sin that our precious Saviour offers. Yes! He is the Saviour from sin. Not to covering it but removing it. Catherine Booth again speaks to this contradiction of true biblical preaching: "It is doubtless better to have right opinions than wrong ones, but the best opinions will not save a man. I a m afraid there is a great deal of preaching that amounts to a mere putting of the different theories about salvation, instea d of persuading men to come to Christ and be saved." This error is subtle for it appears there is a preaching of the righ t texts and emphasis yet alas it does not bring people to the person of Christ. Mere theory will not remove sins but a enc ounter with the living Christ who died to take away sin.

## PREACHING WITH TEARS

Preaching with tears is the mark of true gospel preaching. Not just the tears themselves bear witness to the truth but are a outward manifestation of the greatness and loftiness of the gospel that actually saves a sinner from their sins. Catherin e Booth gives us her estimation of preaching that was worthless in her day. It was a preaching that did not save from sin , did not offer the sinner much except a theoretical pardon from their guilt complex: "The main idea of much of the prea ching of this day seems to be that of teaching people, instructing them, which too often results in hardening their hearts, and finding them an easier way down to perdition than they would have found without it. Unfortunately a man feels more comfortable when he has been to a place of worship and heard a fine theory about salvation, then he would if he had not been, although he may be no nearer being saved. All preaching or any other instrumentality which has not for its end the immediate salvation of the people, only leads them to trust in mere teaching, which is a mockery. You can see the want of it in the way they fail to bring men to Christ. How my heart has ached over this aimless, pointless preaching, I could n ot express." Preaching that is not impassioned with the goal of bringing people to the living God who can break the fett ers of sin is then in turn pointless preaching. Catherine Booth relates this story showing forth a example of not mere doct rinal preaching but showing the power of God and effectual working of God's Word: "Would to God there were more p reaching in the fix of a Baptist minister in a town where we are just now having a glorious work, who has been so stirred up and awakened to his responsibilities, that, on a recent occasion when he had read his text, he broke down, weeping, which had more effect than all the sermons he had preached during the years he had been in that town. His people wept too, and many of them got converted over again. I wish that a few thousands of the ministers of this kingdom could be br ought to a similar state of mind before next Sunday; what a commotion there would be in the land, and what a stir in hell, ah, and in heaven too!"

The saintly Edward Griffin who was used of God in the second great awakening and gives us a example of bringing peo ple to a Christ who is a saviour of sin. The church historian David Smithers gives us this word picture: "A hearer of Mr. Griffin in New Jersey in 1829 gives us a description of his preaching and of the love and brokenness which gave that pre aching its power. "During most of the sermon his face was wet with tears, and for nearly an hour he spoke to us with suc h tender and appealing sentences that it seemed as if his hearers must cry out in an agony of fear and trembling . . . But what a climax the ending was! It was a wonder how he endured the strain so long and that he had not given up physicall y exhausted. The mental agony, the heartbreaking sympathy, were enough to break an angel down! When he fell on his knees as if he had been knocked on the head with an ax, with outstretched arms, tears coarsing down his face, he cried out; 'Oh! my dying fellow sinners, I beseech you to give your heart to the Savior now. Give your life to Jesus Christ, do n ot put it off! Do not leave this house without dedicating yourself to His service, lest you be left at last to cry, the harvest is past, the summer is ended, and I am not saved.'"

What consolations can you offer to your hearers? Do you preach as one that has a freedom of sin and liberty in the gosp el of Jesus Christ? This statement was given by the "General Conference of the Protestant Missionaries of China" in 1 877, yet perhaps in our generation we need a release of the tyranny of sin over the Church! "How long shall this fearful r uin of souls continue? Ought we not to make an effort to save China in this generation? Is God's power limited? Is the eff

icacy of prayer limited? This grand achievement is in the hands of the Church... We want China emancipated from the thralldom of sin in this generation." May we experience this "emancipating" power that the Church of God may sin no more!

**Re: A Salvation That Does Not Save by Greg Gordon - posted by LoveHim, on: 2008/3/5 20:07**

Quote:  
-----Hear the lament of Fox over this opposition to the truth: "But they could not endure to hear of purity, and of victory over sin and the devil. They said they could not believe any could be free from sin on this side of the grave. I bade them give over babbling about the Scriptures, which were holy men's words, whilst they pleaded for unholiness. Then I bade them forbear talking of the Scriptures, which were the holy men's words; "for," said I, "the holy men that wrote the Scriptures pleaded for holiness in heart, life, and conversation here; but since you plead for impurity and sin, which is of the devil, what have you to do with the holy men's words?"

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i woke up this morning with the old quote from someone that said:

"Many will miss heaven by 18 inches, because what was in their head never made it to their heart".

that has been on my heart all day and i came across this semon. i love the paragraph that talks of george fox and the quote from above. may we never be content with hearing and learning, if we are never applying and practicing. that is my prayer for me and you all.

your brother,  
phil

**Re: - posted by Nellie, on: 2008/3/5 20:19**

If you want to read Truth, read this.

**Re: A Salvation That Does Not Save by Greg Gordon, on: 2008/3/7 9:10**

Catherine Booth said

Quote:  
-----"... I wish that a few thousands of the ministers of this kingdom could be brought to a similar state of mind before next Sunday; what a commotion there would be in the land, and what a stir in hell, ah, and in heaven too!"

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Great quotes, Greg!

How helpful it is to keep the eternal perspective ever before one's face, to temper one's own thinking about issues which can be given a lesser priority.

**Re:, on: 2008/3/7 11:15**

Great piece Greg, this is my hearts cry and my spirit for the Church. May we see this fire break out in Scotland, may we see this fire break out around the world. Time for ministers and preachers to arise from their slumbers.....Frank

Re: - posted by repentcanada, on: 2008/3/7 11:29

this is strong, hard, Gospel truth

Re:, on: 2008/3/7 12:00

Matt 6

9 Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.

10 Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.

11 Give us this day our daily bread.

12 And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

14 For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you:

15 But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses.

Salvation depends upon us believing the teachings of Jesus and following them. Our sins are forgiven when we forgive others of their sins.

When Jesus tells us that we must "be perfect, as your Father in heaven" He knowingly sets up for us an impossible task, but one that, nevertheless, we should strive towards. Who can be perfect, as God?

the point Fox was making is that, by preaching tolerance (and by inference the notion that we can continue sinning and, on our death beds, recant) ministers were putting their congregations in jeopardy. (Fox railed against the Catholic Church and the "indulgences," payments to the Church for absolution from specific sins.)

being perfect, living daily without sin, is something we should all strive for. a daily examination of our motives and practices is warranted. a daily repentance is needed.

but anybody who says that they are living entirely without sin in their lives . . . well, i think David Koresh was saying something like that, wasn't he?

how big does your ego need to be to claim that you are living without sin??

bub

Re: - posted by PaulWest (), on: 2008/3/7 12:28

Quote:

-----how big does your ego need to be to claim that you are living without sin??  
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I think there is a very real difference between the terms "without sin" and "not living in sin". The only one who was ever "without sin" was Jesus Christ, but the Holy Spirit-regenerated believer does not have to "live *in sin*" any longer, though the possibility of yielding to temptation ever looms before him while he lives on earth. This ceasing to *live in sin* is accomplished by the grace of God and faith and the power of the blood and it is not of ourselves or wrought by our strength.

There is a huge difference between those two terms.

Brother Paul

**Re:, on: 2008/3/7 12:45**

Brother Paul, a good point, indeed. bub

**Re: A Salvation That Does Not Save by Greg Gordon, on: 2008/3/7 13:48**

Quote:  
-----Salvation depends upon us believing the teachings of Jesus and following them. Our sins are forgiven when we forgive others of their sins.  
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Is this true? Our salvation depends on the forgiveness of sin Christ has towards us ONLY based on a condition of \*If we do something we get something in return\*.

Salvation IS the forgiveness of Sin.

We're discussing these principles of Kingdom Law on another thread...the \*\*\*If you will , then I will principle\*\*\*\*....stating this is legalism and not the Grace Paul Preached.

Our sins are forgiven based solely on the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ, and our faith in Him, and our identification with Him in death and resurrection Life.

How simple to teach the \*if\* factor, completely avoiding the Cross and the preaching of the Cross. This is why this false Gospel is so acceptable to so many today....a counterfeit Gospel that will not save.

We forgive because Jesus Christ HAS forgiven us.

Even the working of forgiveness in us towards someone who has offended, can only come through the POWER of Christ in us to begin with.

Katy

**Re:, on: 2008/3/7 15:08**

Katy,

also good points. the crux is this: no matter how much you profess, claim and believe in the salvation that Christ bought for us on the cross, if you go to your death holding onto hatred, holding onto unforgiveness towards others, Jesus tells us that we will be banished to eternal death.

consider the notion of the believer, on his deathbed, praying for Grace, but secretly holding onto hatred, asking God to punish his enemies. the hypocrisy of this, and anything similar to it, stinks all the way up to heaven.

bub

**Re:, on: 2008/3/7 15:57**

bubbaguy,

I guess that's why one must see themselves as a SINNER in need of a savior.

Katy

**Re:, on: 2008/3/7 16:50**

Yes, Katy, exactly. When a person starts to think that faith in God and Christ can make one be able to live without sinning again, that is a step away from the reality that all humans are fallible, save Christ Jesus. Only the Grace purchased on the cross can erase our sins from our lives. (it doesn't make us perfect, just acceptable to God.)

bub

**Re:, on: 2008/3/7 16:58**

Hi Bubbaguy,

There is genuine EVIDENCE of our faith in Christ, as we live by the Faith OF Christ...no longer I but Christ in me.

If one is still holding onto some form of hate.....

Well, I won't say they're not saved, as only God can judge such things, but they certainly will have a fruitless life in that area.

We see the man who died with Jesus at Calvary, the only thing he had to bare was his heart....no time to bare/bear fruit.

You know Bubbaguy, some things in life are so horrible, that it takes many times a mighty intervention and touch from God to be able to forgive.

If your daughter or son were raped and murdered.....do you think that would come instantly out of your own self? NO. Yet all we can say at times is Lord, I can't forgive, but YOU through me CAN. I will to do your will. Make my heart ONE with you.

Katy

**Re:, on: 2008/3/7 17:20**

Katy,

you are really hitting the mark today. I struggle everyday trying to forgive my ex-wife of the horrible things she did. and every morning I get up and have to do it over again.

AND I DON'T WANT TO!!!!

But I know that I will not receive Grace unless I do. (and I know that carrying unforgiveness in your heart will wear a person down to the bone.)

bub

**Re:, on: 2008/3/7 18:44**

Bubba, I know exactly what you mean. Been there myself.

One thing I learned, is that the Lord actually allows these things to come into our lives, and knowing we can't in any of our self forgive some horrible offense toward us, He actually uses it to conform us to His Image.

Through it we learn how to allow the Lord's Life in us to manifest the fruit of the Spirit.

Remember the saying...Lord give me patience? You know how he does that? Not by just plopping patience in our lap, but by trials and difficulties.

James chapter 1 is the perfect place to go here.

Count it ALL Joy my friend. Use everything that comes at you.

You know too, many have misquoted a scripture that needs to be addressed.

Do we give thanks for all things? Or do we give thanks IN all things.

We don't give thanks for evil, this is for sure, but we give thanks while evil lurks around us. By doing so, Giving thanks gets our mind OFF the circumstances and our mind ON Christ.

AAAAAAHHHH! This is the secret!

As we become more and more conformed to the Image of Jesus Christ, Bubba, you will wake up one morning....never struggling again with the issue of your x wife, and find yourself loving her in a way you never loved before. Not with a human love but AGAPE Love. His Love.

Love is an act of the will, not the emotions!

God Bless!

Katy