

Articles and Sermons :: Tim Keller's False Gospel (Antinomianism)

Tim Keller's False Gospel (Antinomianism) - posted by ArthurRosh, on: 2018/1/8 14:52

Time Keller's False Gospel (Antinomianism)

Early in his career Rev Tim Keller says he encountered a cultural allergy to the Christian concept of sin. As a consequence he has spent much of his ministry attempting to redefine sin in a way that makes it less offensive and more culturally acceptable in a postmodern world.

Redefining sin

In his best seller, *The Reason for God* (2008), Keller has a 14-page chapter devoted to "The Problem of Sin". He starts by informing his reader that "the concept of sin is offensive or ludicrous to many. This is because we don't understand what Christians mean by the term." To help his reader understand the doctrine of sin Keller refers to the famous Danish philosopher Søren Kierkegaard, not to Scripture.

From his reading of Kierkegaard, Keller concludes: "Sin is seeking to become oneself, to get an identity apart from God", thereby correcting most people who "think of sin primarily as breaking divine rules".

With the support of Kierkegaard, Keller asserts that "according to the Bible, the primary way to define sin is not just the doing of bad things, but the making of good things into ultimate things. It is seeking to establish a sense of self by making something else more central to your significance, purpose and happiness than your relationship to God". But now here does the Bible say that sin is "making good things into ultimate things".

To further support this contention, Keller refers to the movies *Rocky* and *Chariots of Fire*. He says that in both movies the main characters look "to athletic achievement as the defining force that gave meaning to their lives". He says that "our need for worth is so powerful that whatever we base our identity and value on we essentially "deify". Keller explains: "Every person must find some way to "justify their existence", and to stave off the universal fear that they're "a bum" everyone is building their identity on something."

The Bible describes sin as the breaking God's law (1 John 3:4). Sin is also defined as rebellion against God (Deuteronomy 9:7), which separates the sinner from God. "But your iniquities have separated you from your God; and your sins have hidden His face from you, So that He will not hear. For your hands are defiled with blood, and your fingers with iniquity; your lips have spoken lies, your tongue has muttered perversity" (Isaiah 59.2-3).

Sin is an offense to God's holy character, revealed in His holy law "all sin is primarily against God. King David prayed: "And my sin is always before me. Against You, You only, have I sinned, and done this evil in Your sight" (Psalm 51.3-4).

The personal consequences of sin

Keller says that sin "destroys us personally", by causing a loss of self-worth and threatening our identity. He writes: "Only if your identity is built on God and his love, says Kierkegaard, can you have a self that can venture anything, face anything. There is no way to avoid this insecurity outside God. Identity not based on God also leads inevitably to deep forms of addiction." In *King's Cross*, Keller asserts: "the Bible says that our real problem is that every one of us is building our identity on something besides Jesus". He concludes that sin is something that makes us feel insecure "something that causes a loss of self-worth."

Scripture gives an entirely different understanding of the personal consequence of sin. The apostle Paul shows that all have sinned and come short of the glory of God, and therefore stand guilty before God (Romans 3). And so death reigns, "as through one man's offense judgment came to all men, resulting in condemnation" (Romans 5).

The eternal consequences of sin

In his chapter, "How can a loving God send people to hell?" Keller explains what he believes to be the eternal con

sequence of sin. He writes, "the biblical picture is that sin separates us from the presence of God, which is the source of all joy and indeed of all love, wisdom or good things of any sort. Since we were originally created for God's immediate presence, only before his face will we thrive, flourish and achieve our highest potential." He asserts: "Hell is simply one's freely chosen identity apart from God on a trajectory into infinity." In eternity, this disintegration goes on forever. There is increasing isolation, denial, delusion and self-absorption. The people in hell are miserable; they are utterly, finally locked in a prison of their own self-centredness. All God does in the end with people is give them what they most want."

In Keller's eyes, God is the Source of All Good Things. Sin is something that separates us from this Source, and this means that we do not flourish or achieve our full human potential. Indeed we feel miserable and insecure. Hell is simply our freely chosen loss of contact with the Source of All Good Things into eternity. Here we should emphasize that Keller does not mention the holiness of God, and so does not see sin as an offence against the holiness of God.

Scripture declares God's wrath against sin. "For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness" (Romans 1.18). The Bible warns that sin brings judgement and condemnation (Romans 5.18). "The soul who sins shall die" (Ezekiel 18.20), and "The wages of sin is death" (Romans 6.23). The unregenerate sinner will stand before the judgement seat of God, and it is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God (Hebrews 10.31), for the Lord shall judge. But Keller does not mention God's wrath against sin, or the certainty of God's righteous judgement and condemnation.

The social consequences of sin

In his discussion of the social consequences of sin, Keller quotes the work of Michel Foucault, a French philosopher a man who was influenced by the dialectical theories of Hegel and Karl Marx, and active in a number of left-wing groups involved in anti-racist Foucault campaigns. Keller writes that "the more we love and identify deeply with our family, our class, our race or our religion, the harder it is not to feel superior or even hostile to other religions, races, etc. So racism, classism and sexism are not matters of ignorance or lack of education. Foucault and others in our time have shown that it is far harder than we think to have a self-identity that doesn't lead to exclusion." The inference is that Christians need a self-identity that is inclusive; all forms of exclusion are portrayed as bad. But Scripture says, "Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? Therefore, come out from among them, and be separate, says the Lord" (2 Corinthians 6.14, 17).

After ten pages of human philosophizing around "The Problem of Sin", and only when discussing what he calls the cosmic consequences of sin, Keller refers to a verse from Scripture, Genesis 2:7, that says nothing about sin. He completes the chapter with two long quotes from CS Lewis. Keller writes: "Here Lewis works from Kierkegaard's definition of sin. Sin is not simply doing bad things, it is putting good things in the place of God." So Keller's redefinition of sin is based on human philosophy. His concept of sin, which downplays its seriousness in the eyes of a holy God, leads to a false understanding of salvation.

Antinomianism

In *The Prodigal God*, Keller declares that sin is more than breaking a list of rules. He confidently asserts: "Sin is not just breaking the rules, it is putting yourself in the place of God as Savior." He writes: "You can rebel against God and be alienated from him either by breaking his rules or by keeping all of them diligently. It's a shocking message: Careful obedience to God's law may serve as a strategy for rebelling against God." He explains: "If you seek to control God through your obedience, then all your morality is just a way to use God to make him give you the things in life you really want." Presbyterian theologian Richard Holst comments: "To say that 'Careful obedience to God's law may serve as a strategy for rebelling against God' is exegetically indefensible."

To which we could add, and deeply heretical, for it suggests that obeying God's moral law is not really important. In the craftiness of his writing, and in total contradiction of the most basic teachings of Scripture, Keller wants us to believe that careful obedience to God's moral law may in fact be a sign of rebellion. Here we have an example of the antinomianism that is part of Keller's false gospel.

Contrary to what Keller would have us believe, every true believer knows that we are not saved by keeping the law; yet every believer delights in God's moral law, for it is a reflection of God's holy character. The apostle Paul said: "For I delight in the law of God according to the inward man" (Romans 7.22). Every true believer strives to diligently obey God's holy law. Our Lord said: "If you love Me, keep My commandments" (John 14.15). Moreover, Scrip

ture defines sin as lawlessness. "Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness" (1 John 3.4). Our Lord Jesus fully obeyed God's law in every respect, and teaches his disciples to do the same.

Solution to the problem of sin

Keller offers his solution to the problem of sin. He writes: "We all are being pursued by guilt because we must have an identity and there must be some standard to live up to by which we get that identity. If Jesus is the Creator-Lord, then by definition nothing could satisfy you like he can, even if you are successful. Even the most successful careers and families cannot give the significance, security and affirmation that the author of glory and love can." Keller is saying that Jesus gives us an identity that helps to overcome our guilt, and that makes us feel significant and secure.

Throughout King's Cross, Keller presents Jesus as the Savior who saves us from our innate self-centeredness. In The Reason for God he says that Jesus is the source of complete fulfilment. "Jesus is the only Lord who, if you receive him, will fulfil you completely, and, if you fail him, will forgive you eternally." But Keller's gospel does not mention repentance. In Keller's mind, complete fulfilment is gaining meaningful self-identity and security that makes us feel good about ourselves, even when we fail. This is Keller's false gospel "all you have to do is receive Jesus and he will give you significance, security and complete fulfilment, and if you fail, then he will forgive you eternally. But Jesus said: "I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish" (Luke 13.3).

Redefining repentance

In The Prodigal God (2009), we learn more about how Keller has removed repentance from the gospel of Christ. He tells us that the prodigal son, "when he is literally down in the mud with the pigs, he comes to his senses and devises a plan." According to Keller, the prodigal son had worked out a business plan for repaying his father the debt. But Scripture says nothing about a business plan, on the contrary, it says that the rebellious son had come to his senses and made up his mind to confess his sin to his father. "I will arise and go to my father, and will say to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and before you, and I am no longer worthy to be called your son. Make me like one of your hired servants'" (Luke 15.18-19). The prodigal son, deeply aware of his sin against God and his father, understood his need for true repentance, and his father's forgiveness.

But Keller gives us his amended version of the parable. The prodigal son, on his way home, is surprised to see his father running to meet him. Keller interprets: "Flummoxed, he tries to roll out his business plan for the restitution. The father interrupts him, not only ignoring his rehearsed speech, but directly contradicting it." According to Keller, the father says: "I'm not going to wait until you've paid off your debt; I'm not going to wait until you've duly grovelled. You are not going to earn your way back into the family; I am going to simply take you back." According to Scripture: "And the son said to him, 'Father, I have sinned against heaven and in your sight, and am no longer worthy to be called your son'" (Luke 15.21). But Keller's amended account of the parable has excluded the message of repentance.

Indeed, Keller describes repentance as grovelling, which he regards as unnecessary and demeaning. He presents the picture of a benevolent father who simply takes the son back. No mention of sin, no mention of confession, no need for repentance. Keller expresses it like this: "God's love and forgiveness can pardon and restore any and every kind of sin or wrongdoing." No repentance is needed.

It is not difficult to see that Keller has presented a false unbiblical view of sin that leads to a false view of salvation that is without repentance. But Scripture urges the sinner to repent and turn away from his sins, and place his faith in Christ, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world.

Keller's way of salvation

In The Prodigal God Keller attempts to explain what he means by salvation. He writes that Jesus "constantly depicts the salvation he brings as a feast." He left a meal "what we today call the Lord's Supper or Eucharist" as a sign of saving grace. He elaborates further: "A meal fuels growth through nourishment. The Lord's Supper, also called Communion or the Eucharist, represents ongoing growth in God's grace. In order to survive and grow, individuals must eat and drink regularly. That's what we must do with the gospel of the grace of God."

Keller is saying that Jesus brings salvation through a feast, called the Eucharist. He states emphatically that "the Eucharist represents ongoing growth in God's grace." But he does not tell his reader that there is a fundamental difference

rence between the Lord's Supper (Protestant) and the Eucharist (Catholic). In effect, he is promoting the Roman Catholic way of salvation through the Eucharist. According to the doctrine of the Roman Catholic Church, the Eucharist is morally necessary for salvation, for the Eucharist builds up Grace (eternal life) within a person. The Catechism of the Catholic Church strongly asserts the "Real Presence" of Jesus' body in the Eucharist.

The Protestant faith has an entirely different view of salvation. Jesus said: "You must be born again" (John 3.7). A sinner is regenerated by the Spirit of God, repents deeply of his sin, turns to Christ in faith, and is born again of the Holy Spirit and adopted into the family of God. The Lord's Supper is a memorial of the sufferings and death of the Lord Jesus Christ in the symbols of bread and wine, and an expression of the unity of the Church as the Body of Christ.

Redefining the Cross

Having offered us the Roman Catholic way of salvation through the Eucharist, in *The Reason for God*, Keller explains why Christ died on the Cross. He writes: "But when Jesus suffered with us he was identifying with the oppressed of the world, not with their oppressors! God himself would come down off his ultimate throne and suffer with the oppressed so that they might be lifted up." Keller asserts that "Jesus' life, death and resurrection was an infinitely costly rescue operation to restore justice to the oppressed and marginalized".

Keller is presenting Jesus as a political savior, who is especially concerned about the world's poor and oppressed people. He asserts that God came into the world to identify with the oppressed of the world "so that they might be lifted up". He confidently asserts: "The ultimate purpose of Jesus is not only individual salvation and pardon for sin but also the renewal of this world, the end of disease, poverty, injustice!" He writes: "God hates the suffering and oppression of this material world so much, he was willing to get involved in it and to fight against it." The inference is that Christ is instigating a political rescue for oppressed people. But this is a false gospel, for Scripture says that Christ came into the world to save sinners (1 Timothy 1.15), not to lead a socio-political revolution.

Titus 2:11-14

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

<http://www.newcalvinist.com/tim-kellers-false-gospel/keller-redefines-gospel/>

Tim Keller is co-founder of Gospel Coalition that promotes this false gospel, false repentance, false salvation, false grace, false Savior.

Ephesians 4:4-6

There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

Re: Tim Keller's False Gospel (Antinomianism) - posted by MrBillPro (), on: 2018/1/8 15:20

Quote:
-----Ephesians 4:4-6...There is one body and one Spirit, just as you were called to one hope when you were called; one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

Amen Brother!

Re: - posted by TMK (), on: 2018/1/8 15:23

I understand 100% how sin is about more than rulebreaking. I can also see 100% how rulekeeping COULD be a method of rebellion against God. Pharisees were meticulous rule keepers but they were in utter and complete rebellion.

Oswald Chambers said this:

“Sin is not wrong doing, it is wrong BEING, deliberate and emphatic independence of God.”

Re: Tim Keller's False Gospel (Antinomianism) - posted by TimmyJoe, on: 2018/1/8 15:36

Total crap!

Re: Tim Keller's False Gospel (Antinomianism) - posted by JHerndon (), on: 2018/1/8 15:40

I will start by saying that I did not read your post in its entirety. However, what I did read I strongly disagree with. Tim Keller does not preach a false gospel, nor does the Gospel Coalition for that matter. Though there are things I most certainly disagree with that Tim Keller and The Gospel Coalition teach, they are non essentials that can be disagreed upon and still remain in fellowship. Sin at its core is thinking your way is better than God's way. God is the author of life. He designed it to be lived a certain way. Every command is an invitation to live life the way He designed it. Sin is missing that mark and doing what we want instead. I would also agree that it is just as much sin to break the rules as it is to pridefully keep them. Look at the pharisees. Jesus condemns them more than He does satan. I would also agree that God's judgment is giving us what we want. For example, the kingdom of Israel. Israel was suppose to be lead by God but they wanted a king. They wanted to be like every other nation. So God gave them a king and look at what a disaster that turned out to be. If we lived this life with no interest in God then in eternity He gives us what we want, separation from Him. How this looks I don't know and honestly I don't think anyone knows. There is imagery used in scripture to describe hell and it doesn't sound like a place you would want to spend eternity but what hell actually looks like know one can say for sure. All of that to say just because you disagree with someone that doesn't make them a false teacher, heretic, or a wolf in sheep's clothing.

Re: Tim Keller's False Gospel (Antinomianism) - posted by Gloryandgrace (), on: 2018/1/8 15:59

Dr Williams just doesn't like the lack of old-school reformed vernacular common in his peers but growing more and more absent in New Calvinist speakers. To me this whole article From Dr. Williams can be reduced to him denouncing Tim Keller for no other reason than he does not sound like a 16th century preacher.

I too have read and listened to Tim Keller, the article is nonsense.

It runs parallel to taking a quote from Paul...

"I am crucified with Christ, nevertheless I live, yet not I but Christ liveth in me"

And someone says "Yea that Paul was antinomian, he didn't talk one bit about obeying the law of God or his sinful nature...his teaching is false".

The whole website is devoted to tearing down other Reformed ministers, branding them false then writing articles like the one I just read...which for all its quotations and wordiness missed the gospel ministry done by Tim Keller by a hundred miles.

Re: - posted by MrBillPro (), on: 2018/1/8 16:13

Marvin, I think some Christians may tear down in order to build themselves up, not saying this is what the person that wrote this article represents. We all would like to have the complete truth and nothing but the truth preached by every pastor, but we often forget pastor's are not perfect people either. Am I trying to justify their mistakes, not at all, what I'm saying here is, I have listened to some very sound Pastor's that still say things I don't agree with. Example, I heard John Hagee say the other day, the greater need you have the bigger seed you need to sow, I don't agree with him, but I do listen to him at times. No, we should not sit and justify Pastors that just preach lies continually, but on the other hand, we should be more forgiving of the ones that do make mistakes. Like common sense in the world today, grace seems to be lost also

o in the Christian community.

Re: - posted by deltadom (), on: 2018/1/8 16:46

I have read lots of Tim kellers book his book reasons for God has a lot of heresy in it , Tim Keller also redefines sin as selfishness when the Greek hamatia specifically means missing the mark or rebelling against God , I have read 6 plus books of his , in one of his books he calls christians who believe the Bible as pharisaical Christians , I think the book was prodigal god , he has a different gospel

Re: - posted by ArthurRosh, on: 2018/1/8 17:23

It's the same false gospel that is taught in books like Grace Awakening, it is a false gospel because it is teaching false grace.

How do you know its false grace? K. P. Yohannan once said in a message about the fear of the Lord: the theme of the New Testament is grace, the theme of the OT is the fear of the Lord. If the teaching of grace does not include the fear of the Lord it is false grace. The Jews knew about the fear of the Lord that is why they understood grace. Much of the modern teaching of grace is being taught without any knowledge of the fear of the Lord.

Yes legalism is unhealthy (Judaizers were legalists teaching circumcision is necessary for salvation) but the heresy that is prevalent today in modern evangelicalism, Grace Awakening, Tim Keller, Gospel Coalition is anti-law, anti-nomos, false grace, antinomianism, it is not historical Christianity, it is aberration.

Are there any sort of laws, rules in the Christian life? Yes!

2 Timothy 2:5

The one who competes (believer) does not receive the crown (the victory) unless he runs according to the rules.

Yes there are rules, if you don't run according to the rules you will not receive the crown.

Is there strict training? Yes!

1 Corinthians 9:24-25

Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one gets the prize. Run in such a way as to get the prize. Everyone who competes goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do it (go into strict training) to get a crown that will last forever.

Yes Paul is saying Christians go into strict training! The modern evangelical messages will not teach this, but it is the apostolic teaching of the New Testament.

Hebrews 5:14

Solid food is for the mature (teleios) those whose senses (spiritual senses) are instructed (trained) to distinguish good and evil because they practice (gymnazo)

There is spiritual training (asceticism), there are rules, there is practice, Christians are spiritual athletes.

Luke 13:24

Strive to enter through the narrow door.

Strive (ἀγῶνίζομαι, Strong's G75 - agōnizomai, to enter a contest: compete in the gymnastic games)

Re: - posted by TMK (), on: 2018/1/8 17:49

Yâ€™all throw around the word heretic like itâ€™s nothing but a football. Shameful. Tim Keller is no hereticâ€™unless of course you are getting your info from heretic hunter websites where 99% of all Christians with a public ministry are branded as heretics.

Re: - posted by MrBillPro (), on: 2018/1/8 18:08

But Todd, I thought everything on the net was true. Can we please start a thread on perfect Pastors? O wait.....

Re: - posted by Gloryandgrace (), on: 2018/1/8 19:13

Arthur:

Those texts you quoted...

can be spun by your dissenters as "Arthur preaches legalism, salvation by works and a false gospel" They can say it because of the emphasis you lay upon (go into strict training). But do you believe for a second you are saved by your works? My guess, it is far from you.

All of those texts you quoted are what takes place from the outworking of God by the indwelling Spirit. Do you think Tim Keller actually believes the Christian life does not include repentance from sin? Salvation by grace? Obedience to Christ? There is nothing in his books that promotes what Dr. Williams is leading us to believe.

What I've read of Tim Keller reverberates over and over with the gospel, the cross and salvation by a sacrificial atonement. Yet, the way the article depicted Brother Keller you would think the guy is akin to a Mormon Missionary.

Used properly, movie references, using old philosophers, using atheist authors, using old pagan historians are all accessible and perfectly acceptable for the minister of the gospel.

If you do not detect that "guilt by association" subtext in that article, you can just as easily convict the Apostle Paul in Acts 17 of validating some old pagan philosopher, and accordingly condemn him for bringing in pagan philosophy in to the ministry of the gospel. But such thinking is pure nonsense and would be doing God a dis-service.

Now you would think Dr. Williams could easily find heretical teachings from Rob Bell, but no, he's going after those in his own camp who in terms of their ordination ascribe to everything a good Presbyterian would say "yea" to.

I don't see a recovery here for Dr. Williams unless it's a retraction. I don't see heresy unless it's a predisposition in the writer to view all things with colored glasses.

I've debated many many of these kind of folks. Well meaning maybe, but off the mark? Absolutely. This same spirit launches attacks at everyone not in their camp. There is in the reformed camp (that fully ascribe to) plenty of guys who will quickly call you a heretic, or false teacher for simply being Arminian in theology. While I don't agree with Arminianism; how many I have spoken to would have to lump Major Ian Thomas, Jim Cymbala, Carter Conlon, Jackie Pullinger and dozens of others whose sermons are on this website as heretics and therefore should be shunned?

I am not here picking on the reformed per-se, I am saying this kind of nonsense touts itself as representative of God's discernment and requiring all of us to part company with them.

Arthur, this very website would necessarily be condemned and branded a ministry propagating heresy and Greg among others should be reproved, rebuked and as many sermons that do not align with Dr. Williams' beliefs should be removed.

Does anyone here actually think that is God? I for one think it's devilish.

Re: Psychology or gospel? - posted by StirItUp (), on: 2018/1/9 2:33

Brothers Marvin etc

Notwithstanding the website from which the OP was quoted, is it not true that many of the "gospel" ministers of today, in stead of preaching the Word of God as it is revealed so clearly, calling sin what it is, judgement what it is, the cross what it is etc. etc., they revert to what seems more a psychological treatise than a gospel message.

I do not know either one of the ministers well and am not defending or attacking them personally at all, just considering what they write and say. They have a public ministry and are therefore open to public scrutiny and discussion.

A lot of what was quoted in the OP, if true quotes, are a reflection of the SELF centred "gospel" of our times, seeking to make the Word of the Living God palatable to the "sinner" of today, as in "seeker sensitive" churches etc. It is as if, the Gospel is all about ME and making ME a better ME, instead of being put right with a Holy God Whom I have offended by my sin and rebellion.

In the end, it is as though we are all trying to be like the Athenic philosophers of old, arguing and discussing and never coming to a conclusion...

Into this place comes a Paul with the clear message of the Word of God: There is a Creator God, the only true God, Who is everywhere present and All wise and Who requires an account from every human being, Who also sent His own Son to be Savior of the world, confirming the same by raising Him from the dead and Who commands all people everywhere to repent and believe in The Son.

As brother Bill pointed out in previous responses: Let's keep it simple, simple enough that a child can understand yet powerful because it is inspired and empowered by the Spirit of God.

The Spirit will not bear witness to our psychobabble preachers, only to the gospel itself (Himself)

God bless,

Re: - posted by TMK (), on: 2018/1/9 7:29

William-

It only takes about 10 seconds to find numerous articles by and about Tim Keller that totally contradict the conclusion the author in the original article is making. That is always the danger of lifting select passages out of a much longer work because you don't get to see the entire context of what he is saying. That being said, I personally have no issue at all with any of the statements attributed to Keller in the original article because I am experienced enough to know what he means, or what he is "getting at." The author of the article hopes people will be lazy in their thinking; that they will take the quotes or better yet HIS conclusions about the quotes at face value and leave their brain at the door (This is a favorite tactic of "heresy hunters"). He does this because he is tearing and biting at Tim Keller, for whatever reason.

Tim Keller is not preaching "another gospel."

Re: - posted by TMK (), on: 2018/1/9 8:12

Just found one obvious error in original article. The author stated: "But nowhere does the Bible say that sin is "making good things into ultimate things".

But neither does Tim Keller. What Keller ACTUALLY said was that IDOLATRY is "making good things into ultimate things."

It is hard to think of a more accurate and compelling definition of idolatry.

But the author wanted to twist and take the statement out of context by applying the statement to sin in general, which is disingenuous.

Re: - posted by Gloryandgrace (), on: 2018/1/9 19:10

Hi Brother William, thanks for the reply.

As to Tim Keller, I have a couple of his books, I've gone through a study on the "prodigal God" at my former Church. I've also listened to numerous sermons and many YouTube sermons as well. He's reformed so I try to stay up with the current Calvinists preaching now a days.

Tim directs his sermons to an audience of New Yorkers. He's not bible belt nor is going to sound like one. He's not an old-school sermonizer like Paul Washer, Steve Lawson or Others of that flavor.

Tim's audience is skeptics, atheists and humanists that abound in New York; that state, its politics and its people resonate with verbiage and 'mindsets' that are nowhere near our solar system theologically.

So, Enters Paul the Apostle speaking in Acts 17 to the Greeks and philosophers...with references to their philosophers, to their ideas without using the Pauline language used in the book of Romans.

As I see it, this is what Tim Keller is doing.

This is what the prophets did, this is what every preacher does...and should do, so that he may orient the word of God to the familiar and ordinary, speaking to where they live.

Now, I make no argument for watered-down versions of sin, repentance or the cross, but I must give place to the Spirit of God speaking as he wants, how he wants, in the way he wants through who he wants. As I said in an earlier post, granting Dr. Williams a right to vilify Tim Keller in the way he does brings this whole website, you, me and everyone into condemnation. Why? because if you agree Tim is Anti-nomian (it means Tim would be against preaching, or expecting people to live according to the laws of God)

When in fact, all that I have read of Tim Keller clearly shows him to understand the purpose and fulfillment of the law and its usage in our new covenant.

But, Tim didn't verbalize it as Dr. Williams appeared to require it.

In another recent post Todd said something along the lines of "sin is selfishness".

Now, should I attack Todd because he didn't quote the scripture where it is said "sin is the transgression of the law" in James?

Instead of attacking Todd, maybe one should ask him do you believe sin is the transgression of the law? He would no doubt say "of course". But instead, it seems Dr. Williams decided that something akin to Todd's statement was close enough to call Tim Keller's ministry, gospel knowledge and teachings all into question, then label him false.

To reduce it down Tim Keller's dissenter seems to be saying;

Tim doesn't say it like I want it said in a bunch of his books. He must not be faithful to the gospel, I think biblical truth must be articulated according to more direct quotations than 'free-wheeling it' like Tim does...conclusion, he's false.

I could be dead wrong about this, I'll await anyone who thinks otherwise.

Re: - posted by roadsign (), on: 2018/1/10 14:36

I trust that this thread will inspire many readers to google Tim Keller on Youtube and examine what he says and how he treats listeners. I'm sure you will find yourself praising God for this extraordinary giftedness in articulating our faith to skeptics, academics, and religiously elite, or seasoned saints. You will praise God for raising up such a shining star - in this culture of ours which seems to have lost its ability to think, discern, formulate effective questions or make good critical judgments (a weakness in the Christian community as well).

Re: - posted by wayneman (), on: 2018/1/10 21:36

I do not even have to click on the link in the OP to know that every article on that site is negative, joyless, grim and written for people who are addicted to a sectarian psychology. Heresy-hunter literature is always immediately recognizable by its leaden writing style.

Worse, the author makes God sound like a real pain in the neck.

Re: - posted by wayneman (), on: 2018/1/15 6:48

Youths Make Joke About Tim Keller's Baldness, Immediately Mauled By Bears

NEW YORK, NY—NYPD detectives are reportedly investigating an attack on a large band of youths who allegedly insulted pastor and author Timothy Keller, making a quip about his baldness before being mauled by two large bears.

According to witnesses, as Keller was on his morning run through Central Park, a "every large" group of young men watching him pass snickered, one of them shouting, "Hey baldy! Run, baldy, run!" toward the pastor.

<http://babylonbee.com/news/youths-make-joke-tim-kellers-baldness-immediately-mauled-bears/>

Re: - posted by StirltUp (), on: 2018/1/15 7:53

LOL!

This isn't fake news, is it? :)

Re: , on: 2018/1/15 9:08

Marvin posted...

Now, I make no argument for watered-down versions of sin, repentance or the cross, but I must give place to the Spirit of God speaking as he wants, how he wants, in the way he wants through who he wants.

I think our brother hit the nail on the head. Are we really giving place for the Spirit of God to speak. And to use the vessels that He would use to speak His truth.

Since my move into the Denver Colorado area I have found myself fellowshiping with Seventh-day Adventist. I do not hold to their view of the Law or the Sabbath. But amazingly inside the Adventist movement I have found brothers and sisters who have a deep heart passion for Christ.

These brothers and sisters have spoken to my heart as I pray that I have spoken to theirs. Ultimately it is Jesus who is at the center of our hearts. Also these Adventist brethren are aware of the urgency of the hour and of the need for Jesus to save souls.

I am very aware of some of the shortcomings of Adventist doctrine. But I'm also aware of the heart passion of some of these brothers and sisters for Christ. And their desires to see souls saved before the return of Jesus.

I can extend mercy to those the Adventist movement because of my prayer ministry to the persecuted church. When one is in a restricted nation such as Somalia. And the jihadists are attempting to hunt you down like a dog and kill you for your faith in Christ. There is no luxury in arguing over the finer points of theology.

A brother once remarked to me that when we argue over theology we have too much time on our hands.

I honestly do not know anything about Tim Keller other than the fact I heard his name. But he seems like a brother who wants to take the gospel to the Skeptics. Let me ask this. How many of us in this forum are doing what this brother is doing.

There's an Adventist brother who's giving a series of messages on Revelation here in Denver. I can sit back and judge his views of the law and the Sabbath. What this brother sees the urgency in the hour and wants to see souls come to Jesus. Before I judge him I need to ask do I have his heart urgency to see souls come to Jesus. Am I attempting to preach the gospel to the Lost.

Just some thoughts for consideration.

Blaine

Re: - posted by wayneman (), on: 2018/1/15 22:15

Tim Keller Completes Translation Of Bible Into Elven-Tongue

NEW YORK, NY—Emerging from his study after months of grueling work, pastor and author Tim Keller proudly announced Wednesday that he had finished his complete translation of the Old and New Testaments into Sindarin, the language of many Elven cultures in Middle-Earth.

Sustaining himself only on water and lembas bread for nearly half a year, Keller had reportedly locked himself into his study late last summer and began his work on the translation on a whim, just after completing one of his weekly readings of The Lord of the Rings.

<http://babylonbee.com/news/tim-keller-completes-translation-bible-elven-tongue/>

Re: , on: 2018/1/16 7:09

Over the last year and a half I have visited four different Redeemer locations (3 in NYC, one in NJ) and have heard Tim Keller (and his son and others) preach numerous times. At first the services seemed quite orderly, the music impeccable (especially at the W. 83rd St. location where the hymns are played by classical professionals, many of whom perform at Lincoln Center - world class musicians). The preaching was very articulate as well. But something was amiss...

After the first or second sermon I began to notice that ALL of the pastors were making constant references to secular media (movies, books, etc.), and not in a way that encourages discernment or separation from worldly entertainments. At the book table I saw volumes by Tim Keller (as well as John Piper)...and J.R.R. Tolkien (yes, you can buy LORD OF THE RINGS material at Redeemer). From the pulpit I have heard references to Harry Potter in a positive way (Keller has said in interviews that it is a wonderful "redemptive" story). It is clear that they were instructed by Keller to do this.

There is no separation from the world there.

A friend of mine and I took two young ladies out to lunch there a few months ago. One is in ministry, and said that she wanted to start a "happy hour" ministry where they take people out to the bar for a drink. "Christians can have fun, y'know!" she opined, saying she was going to talk to the pastor about it. Appalling.

Though I am no Calvinist (or Arminian, for that matter), I found this website by a former Redeemer attendee to be quite telling:

<http://www.newcalvinist.com/tim-kellers-false-gospel/testimony-former-redeemer-attendee/>

We are living in a VERY apostate time, especially in the western world. Our personal walk with Jesus is vital, now more than ever. There are incredible levels of deception going on in the church right now.

Re: - posted by sermonindex (), on: 2018/1/16 7:54

Quote:
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I think the brother gives a clear warning of what is some of the fruit of his teachings. Though I believe he also shares the Gospel, atonement of Christ the practical result of the gospel in our lives is holiness and change (non-conformity with the world).

James 4:4 is written to believers who were becoming friends with the world.

Of course we need to live in the world but there needs to be something distinct in our speech, attitudes, dress, way of life, something that says we are pilgrims in this earth.

Re: - posted by Gloryandgrace (), on: 2018/1/16 19:08

For those who don't know, the 'Babylon bee' is a satirical website attempting to add an 'edge' of humor to current events.

It's not the work of fine investigative journalism.

Re: - posted by Gloryandgrace (), on: 2018/1/16 19:34

Thanks alec for the link and the testimony.

The link sent me to an anonymous author making various claims, that in and of itself almost disqualifies the report whether its bad or good. How does one contact this author to validate his attendance, groups or even if he had a fiance'?

The testimonies given and the books I've read are very different.

I didn't have any difficulty with Tim Keller dealing with sin. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SDuXIGSV7I4>

I'm not attempting to whitewash errors or issues that may be present but I'm not sold on Keller being false in any way.