

The Gospel Message: How "Purpose Driven" Easy Believism is Damning Souls

What exactly is God commanding the unsaved sinner to do? You might think that the answer to that question is obvious, however, among those who claim the name "evangelical" there are two very different answers.

Easy-Believism's False Answer

Imagine for a moment that you are an unsaved person who is beginning to think about eternal things. You look back on your life and think of your failed marriage and the resulting divorce. You diligently followed all of the cultural norms. You slept around before marriage; you encouraged one of the accidental pregnancies to be terminated. After all who needs to bring an "unwanted child" into the world? You lived with your girlfriend before marrying. You smoke a little pot on the weekends. You drink but only get drunk on holidays.

You got your education at a local university and diligently worked to please your boss. You neglected God, the wife and kids if they got in the way and have been promoted and handsomely rewarded financially as a result. You take your one or two expensive vacations a year and try to keep the credit card debt in check. You view "a little pornography now and then." But you are a good old boy and have a few good friends who live no differently than you do.

Lately as a result of the fact that your second marriage is failing you have sensed the nagging and growing need to find out about this "God thing." After all, that kidney stone you suffered with finally passed and you sure thanked God that was over. Maybe you should find out more about God, death and so forth.

You figure that you will go to one of these new "contemporary" churches that you saw a news documentary about. What will you hear?

All too commonly what a sinner hears when they enter a marketed, purpose driven, user-friendly, seeker sensitive church is a message that will send you to hell. Remember, *"a half truth presented as the whole truth, is an untruth."*

For example, let's say you asked me what was in a glass on the table because you were very thirsty. I answered that there was water in the glass. You take one drink and then spit it out immediately realizing that it was a glass of bleach. Furious, you turn to me and demand an

explanation. I look at you blankly and explain that bleach is largely water with some other chemicals. I told you that the glass contained water. So what is your problem?

The problem is that I told you a partial truth and presented it as though it was the whole truth. This is exactly what is wrong with the purpose driven, seeker sensitive, easy believism movement. A wicked sinner enters one of those churches and is told, "God loves you!" "God is love!" "God is merciful!" "God is gracious and forgiving!" All you need to do is "Ask Jesus into your heart." Just "accept Christ." "Let Jesus be your Savior." All you need to do is pray, "Jesus I receive you into my life."

The Bible's True Answer

There is truth in the above! The problem with easy believism is not that there is no truth in what these churches say, but that they are not telling sinners that whole story. The true gospel message has a hard side and a soft side. No-Lordship churches only tell "seekers" the soft side! If you have been attending one of those "user-friendly" churches ask yourself, when the last time you heard a clear and full teaching on the following topics:

- The holiness of God
- The depravity of man
- The righteous judgment of God
- God's hatred of sin
- The anger and furious wrath of God
- A literal burning hell
- Judgment Day
- The necessity of personal holiness
- That God requires repentance to be saved
- And so much more

Purpose driven churches are able to avoid all of these kinds of "hard sayings" because they refuse to preach to seekers the Bible expositively – verse by verse, chapter by chapter and book by book. They offer Christ as Savior, but do not demand that he be Lord. They speak of "faith", but the faith they speak of is, in the last analysis, nothing more than intellectual assent to a list of historical facts. They studiously avoid mentioning, defining and applying repentance.

Jesus taught, "If anyone desires to come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me" (Luke 9:23). Jesus was speaking of salvation, not of a second step of

"discipleship". Salvation means becoming a disciple. You cannot become a Christian without at the same time becoming a disciple.

How do we know? Let's look at the context of Jesus' words. "For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will save it. For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world and is himself destroyed or lost? For whoever is ashamed of Me and My words, of him the Son of Man will be ashamed when He comes in His own glory, and in His Father's, and of the holy angels" (Luke 9:24-26).

A partial truth presented as the whole truth is an untruth!