

Materialism

I have read a few books lately and some of them were a reality slap to me. I have been listening to the prosperity doctrine for a long time now, about 10 years, people like Savelle, Copeland etc etc.... It was good listening to those guys they are a wealth of knowledge. But it never seemed to sit right with me here in Australia how churches were preaching it here and I could never figure out why, until I started reading some more books again (I am a closet book worm). I have watched some people over the years that preach prosperity, now that I look back to their lives, have gone from preaching prosperity to help people, to preaching prosperity to help themselves!

Now I am not only talking about Pastors here but also friends and acquaintances of mine that I know. A particular book I read quoted this as deciding the factor of your life if you are in God's prosperity or materialism. The Author said look at two things about your finances - **1.** Does my money Glorify God? **2.** Does my money advance the kingdom of God? Or the opposite says does my money Glorify me and advance only my kingdom? **Mat 13:43-49** tells us "*Then will the righteous (those who are upright and in right standing with God) shine forth like the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Let him who has ears [to hear] be listening, and let him consider and perceive and understand by hearing. [Dan. 12:3.] 44 The kingdom of heaven is like something precious buried in a field, which a man found and hid again; then in his joy he goes and sells all he has and buys that field. 45 Again the kingdom of heaven is like a man who is a dealer in search of fine and precious pearls, 46 Who, on finding a single pearl of great price, went and sold all he had and bought it. 47 Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a dragnet which was cast into the sea and gathered in fish of every sort. 48 When it was full, men dragged it up on the beach, and sat down and sorted out the good fish into baskets, but the worthless ones they threw away. 49 So it will be at the close and consummation of the age. The angels will go forth and separate the wicked from the righteous (those who are upright and in right standing with God)*

I have heard people say they are the righteousness of God because the Bible says so.... But wait a minute, the Bible does stipulate that we are righteousness of God that we are the sons of God **IF** we are led by the Holy Spirit **Romans 8:12-15**. We need to take a good long look at our life and ask ourselves honestly "Am I led by the Holy Spirit or by something or someone else?"

My Pastor is currently preaching on a series called "Kingdom Living", his very first sermon on it was on "Righteousness and Holiness", something I have not heard for a very long time preached, then his very next sermon was on Prosperity and the first words out of his mouth were "I apologise on behalf of God for all of you have been ripped off by a church or Pastor by listening to prosperity messages that were only to entice you out of your money". To say the least I nearly fell off my chair, he actually apologised three times and **with sincerity**. It made me think of another verse that says in **1Tim 6:3-9** *If any man teach otherwise, and consent not to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness; 4 He is proud, knowing nothing, but dotting about questions and strifes of words, whereof cometh envy, strife, railings, evil surmisings, 5 Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself. 6 But godliness with contentment is great gain.*

Materialism Continued.....

For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. 8 And having food and raiment let us be therewith content. 9 But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition.

I look around me at times, I see people hungry, I see people without the basic necessities of life and yet we have more than enough ourselves. What ever happened to the verses where the disciples sold all they had and everyone had everything in common **Acts 2:44-47** and **Acts 4:32**, no man went without. What about the 7 Elders in **Acts 6** who were appointed to distribute the funds of "the church" **to the needy** so that the apostles could continue on with the work of the Lord?? Am I judging here? NO, I am not judging others but I am creating a foundation for you and I to take a look at our lives and judge ourselves. We hear a lot of what Paul says throughout the Epistles, but rarely do we hear what Jesus says in the Gospels. If you have 2 coats and see your brother without, give him one of yours, if you see someone hungry feed him, someone naked clothe him? What happened to the "old fashion" Gospel?

Have we been deceived? Yes, by the devil not man. Today we have the attitude of the church is just a "fast food outlet" for spiritual burger and fries (would you like an upgrade on that sir). We have become numb to the needs of those around us, we go to church on a Sunday and think "I have done my

duty for the Lord”, then we go home and watch Oprah or we throw on the radio and listen to the godless music of B105 or the likes. I feel like screaming “God what has gone wrong”? The Bible says that in the last days even the very elect will be deceived **Matthew 24:24**. So what do we need to do? Get on our faces before God and repent! If this is what we have been like, if we have missed the very mark that Jesus laid, the race track that he gave us which is to preach the Good news, lay hands on the sick, feed the hungry, pray for your enemies, help the widow, the children, love your neighbour **everything that Jesus did we should be doing**, we are little Christ’s. Ask God to show you your life. If you are game enough? Be prepared to be honest with yourself and God. How much of what you do, day to day, honours God and advances the kingdom of God? When you find out and God shows you - Change for the better!

Have I got a materialistic attitude? You bet, I did have! God has shown me areas in my life and I am changing too, I don’t want to be one of them ones that stands before Jesus and have to say “*But Lord I done this in your name and cast out devils, laid hands on the sick*”. Just to hear him say “*depart from me I never knew you*”. That word “**Knew**” means intimacy, we need to have an intimate relationship with Jesus. Many people know of God or Know of Jesus, but they really don’t know them personally! I have been there, I have fallen into the trap of the devil talked about in **Luk 8:11-14 Amp** *Now the meaning of the parable is this: **The seed is the Word of God**. Those along the travelled road are the people who have heard; then the devil comes and carries away the message out of their hearts, that they may not believe (acknowledge Me as their Saviour and devote themselves to Me) and be saved [here and hereafter]. And those upon the rock [are the people] who, when they hear [the Word], receive and welcome it with joy; but these have no root. They believe for a while, and in time of trial and temptation fall away (withdraw and stand aloof). And as for what fell among the thorns, these are [the people] who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked and suffocated with the anxieties and cares and riches and pleasures of life, and their fruit does not ripen (come to maturity and perfection).*