

CHRISTIANITY IN TROUBLED TIMES

“Destructive Heresies”

Scripture Reading: 2 PETER 2:1-3

-) **SLIDE 7.** Scripture reading.
-) **SLIDE 8.** Today’s message is titled, “*Destructive Heresies.*”
-) Today I want to pick up where I left off last week. Last Sunday I said that when the church fails to be the church, evil cannot be restrained within that society. And that is exactly what we have in America today.
-) **SLIDE 9.** And the church fails to be the church when 1) preachers/teachers fail to preach sound doctrine and 2) the people want their itching ears tickled with their own desires. Then God removes His restraining grace and allows the people to go their own way. It’s at this point when the church looks no different than the world.
-) It’s amazing how these two groups of people manage to find each other. The people want to hear what their sinful human condition craves. And the false teachers are more than happy to give the people exactly what they want to hear. The people get their ears tickled and the teachers get their greed satisfied. Greed in the form of money, attention, or power and authority.
-) Today, in America and around the world, the “*church*” is failing in its mission to be God’s true representatives. But not all church is the church (5%). Right? Professors and possessors.
-) **SLIDE 10.** Today I want to talk specifically about these destructive heresies these false teachers are propagating. What is a heresy? Heresy is “*an opinion or doctrine contrary to church dogma.*” Explain.

-) This morning I will be showing you 6 different YouTube clips from four of America's leading televangelists. Each clip propagates a different heresy. We'll identify the heresy, and then Biblically show why their words are heretical. I want to show you firsthand what the "church" looks like out there.
-) **SLIDE 11.** Joyce Meyer – "*He was no longer the Son of God.*"
-) **SLIDE 12.** This is the doctrine of **IMPUTATION**. God as judge assigned the responsibility of our sin to Christ, making it possible for Him to be punished justly for that sin. If Jesus ever quit being the Son of God, then we have no hope. Receiving stolen goods. Jesus bore our sin.
-) **SLIDE 13.** Kenneth Copeland – "*Adam was God manifested in the flesh.*"
-) **SLIDE 14.** Adam was not God manifested in the flesh. If he was, then the temptation of the serpent in GEN 3:1 to "*be like God*" would not have been so tempting. Mormonism. "*As man is, God once was. As God is, man can become.*"
-) **SLIDE 15.** Joyce Meyer – "*Jesus was born again.*"
-) **SLIDE 16.** To say that Jesus had to be "*born again*" means that He was at some point in time not God. This verse is telling us that as a result of Jesus being the first One to rise bodily from the grave, He now has total supremacy over all things.
-) **SLIDE 17.** The resurrection of Jesus is the promise that all who are in Christ will also raise from the dead to eternal life.
-) Why do these word-faith teachers insist on humanizing God? Simple. Because they want to deify man.
-) **SLIDE 18.** Kenneth Copeland – "*I am.*"
-) **SLIDE 19.** I believe this heresy speaks for itself. Jesus claimed "I AM" in JOHN 8 and the Jews wanted to stone Him for saying that. The Jews understood the significance of the phrase "I AM."

-) **SLIDE 20.** Only God is entitled to that attribute.
-) **SLIDE 21.** Bennie Hinn – “*Little gods.*”
-) **SLIDE 22.** (v7) “*But you will die like mere men; you will fall like every other ruler.*” This passage is saying that God has appointed men to positions of authority in which they are considered as gods among the people. They are to remember that, even though they are representing God in this world, they are mortal and must eventually give an account to God for how they used that authority.
-) **SLIDE 23.** But it goes back to the temptation in the garden.
-) **SLIDE 24.** Review. 1) Jesus was no longer the Son of God – Joyce Meyer. 2) Adam was God in the flesh – Kenneth Copeland. 3) Jesus had to be born again – Joyce Meyer. 4) Kenneth Copeland claims “I am.” 5) We are little gods - Bennie Hinn.
-) Do you see a common thread here? Let’s make God in our image. Let’s make God exactly what we want God to be. And let’s make humanity exactly what we want humanity to be. Folks, this is idolatry. This is heresy.
-) **SLIDE 25.** Joel Osteen/Larry King – “*God judges the heart.*”
-) **SLIDE 26.** I am convinced that all of us are giving golden opportunities to share the gospel at some point in our Christian walk. Some have more opportunities and some opportunities are more golden than others.
-) Larry King gave Joel several opportunities to proclaim the truth of the Scriptures, but Joel failed repeatedly. Why? Because he refuses to preach sin and judgment. He says he believes the Bible yet refuses to stand up for the Bible.
-) **SLIDE 27.** Review.
-) **SLIDE 28.** These four individuals make a tremendous impact on people in America and around the world.

-) People believe what they say. It's a combination of the itching ears of the people and the greed of the false teachers.
-) **SLIDE 29.** The Bible gives teachers a warning in JAMES 3:1. A stricter judgment. I would not want to be in the position of leading unsuspecting individuals down a path of false teaching and heresy. And you wonder why God is allowing us to go our own way.
-) **SLIDE 30.** These four all deny God and Jesus in some way. Joyce Meyer teaches Jesus ceased to be God. Kenneth Copeland claims equality with God. Bennie Hinn says that we are little gods. And Joel Osteen denies Jesus as the only way to the Father. They fulfill exactly what Peter teaches in this Scripture text.
-) Why is America a substitute society? I promise you some of the reason is because those who are to present the truth in righteousness are suppressing the truth in unrighteousness.
-) **SLIDE 31.** HEBREWS 10:31. "*It is a terrifying thing to fall into the hands of the living God.*" This verse speaks for itself.
-) Next week we will look at the extreme in false doctrines and ridiculous practices and antics presently being propagated in the church. Again, I'll be showing a few YouTube clips of what some people call "church." Come back. It's going to get a little bizarre.

What you win them with, is what you'll win them to.

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