

## Television Evangelists Distort The Bible

'As the serpent deceived Eve in his craftiness, so your minds might be corrupted from the simplicity in Jesus. Do not accept, if anyone comes to preach another Jesus whom we did not preach about, or if you receive a different spirit, or a different Gospel ... For such men are false apostles, deceitful workers, masquerading as Jesus' apostles' (2 Corinthians 11:3, 4 & 13).

'I marvel (am perplexed) you are so quickly deserting God Who called you in the grace of Jesus, to go off and accept a different Gospel. There is not another Gospel. There are some who trouble you and want to pervert the Gospel of Jesus and the Kingdom. If anyone or an angel from heaven should preach to you any Gospel other than what we preached to you, let him be cursed. As we have said before so I now say again, if any man preaches to you any Gospel other than what you received, let him be cursed. Am I seeking the favour of men or of God? Am I striving to please men? If I were still pleasing men I would not be a servant of Jesus' (Galatians 1:6 to 10). If we were trying to please men we would not be publishing this Bible study.

The Christians who preach a watered down or false Gospel are literally 'playing with fire'. They are setting themselves up to be cursed by God Himself and if they do not repent of their evil false teaching, they could end up in the eternally burning lake of fire (Revelation 19:20). Not all television evangelists, also known as 'tele-evangelists' are doing the wrong thing but the majority are in error. When preachers, especially tele-evangelists tour around like rock stars and hold huge rallies, preaching a hyped-up, watered down, pleasure seeking false Gospel, they might be dragging thousands to Sheol. The unsaved people flock to the stadiums thinking they will be saved but after all the hype has gone, they are no better off than before. Some end up worse off, disillusioned, confused and lacking proper Christian support. They are led to believe, all they need to do is pray the unscriptural so-called 'sinners prayer' give the travelling preacher a lot of money and they will be eternally safe, but they are deceived. We cannot blame these unsaved people because they are genuinely seeking salvation. It is the wicked tele-evangelists who are to blame. They are greedy, money hungry charlatans who 'sell' the Gospel instead of freely giving it to the masses. One well-known tele-preacher refused to visit Australia unless he was paid in advance US\$1,000,000 (yes, one million US dollars) before he would even book his flight. The Australian pastor wisely cancelled the charlatans visit, and told everyone why. The Gospel was freely given to us by the Lord God Himself. It was Jesus Who paid the ultimate price. Notice what happened when a man named Simon the Sorcerer thought he could 'buy' the power of God. 'When Simon saw the Holy Spirit was imparted by the laying on of the apostles' hands he offered them money saying, "Give me this power so whoever I lay my hands on may receive the Holy Spirit." But Peter said to him, "May your silver perish with you because you thought you could obtain the gift of God with money! You have neither part nor lot in this matter for your heart is not right before God. Repent of your wickedness and ask God if perhaps the thought of your heart may be forgiven for I discern you are in the gall of bitterness and in the bondage of iniquity" (Acts 8:18 to 23). Tele-evangelists take note ... nobody can buy or sell the Gospel message of salvation. The Gospel is a free gift and since we receive the gift of eternal life freely, so we should preach the gift of eternal life freely. Repent of your wickedness! You are in the bondage of iniquity.

'We have received, not the spirit of the world but the Spirit which is from God so we might understand the (spiritual) things (Gospel, salvation, Spiritual gifts etc) were freely given to us by God' (1 Corinthians 2:12). Jesus said of the Gospel, "Freely you have received so freely give" (Matthew 10:8). Jesus said, "I will freely give to those who are thirsty from the spring of the water of life" (Revelation 21:6). 'God, Who did not spare His own Son but delivered Him up for us all, how would God not also with Jesus freely give us all (spiritual) things?' (Romans 8:32). Tele-evangelists often 'sell' the Gospel via their websites. If someone wants an answer to even the simplest of questions, they often are asked for money just to receive an answer then they are bombarded with constant requests for even more money. These tele-marketing charlatans are deceiving the innocent public and are wickedly using the Word of God for unjust gain. Jesus said very clearly we are to give the Gospel freely to anyone who asks. Here are a few examples of how these evil tele-evangelists and preachers deceive people.

Example number one, talking about themselves. When preachers teach, they should teach from the scriptures about topics written in the Bible. They should glorify God and encourage the congregation or listeners to strengthen them for the coming week. The purpose of a sermon or Bible study is to teach so the congregation can learn more about the Bible, spoken by God Himself, to equip them for God's service, to reveal God's will, to instruct in righteous living, to reprove or convict of sin (2 Timothy 3:16 & 17). Many preachers do not glorify God but they speak about themselves, their lives, their sicknesses, their problems, frequently testifying about themselves, which is wrong. They invalidate their authority to teach. This behaviour is narcissism, it is sin, the person is full of their own importance putting the vital importance of Jesus' shed blood and His sacrifice on the cross to one side to elevate themselves. Listen to what Jesus said, "If I testify about Myself, my witness is not valid" (John 5:31). If Jesus did not testify about Himself then how much more should mere mortal preachers not talk about themselves.

Example number two, shoving people over. There are times when people feel weak at the knees when the Holy Spirit touches them but there are tele-evangelists and their helpers who deliberately shove people to the floor. Any church minister or pastor who hits, shoves, kicks or hisses at people he is praying for is just showing off. That is the sin of pride. God never does that because God is not childish or foolish. That minister is relying on his own false spirituality to 'slay' people in his own false spirit. When people are pushed to the floor, God is not glorified but is being mocked.

Some people feign a touch from the Lord by falling to the floor by themselves as though it is the right thing to do. That is another falsehood usually incited by peer pressure. If the person next to them fell to the floor then they think they have to fall too. Sometimes they love to boast later on, about their wonderful falling over episode. There is no verse in the Bible that tells us falling over is a good spiritual act or necessary to receive healing. It is normal to remain standing up when receiving prayer, healing or anointing with oil. We are supposed to receive by faith not by throwing ourselves around. There are times when a demon possessed person may fall over when the evil spirit is being cast out because such a thing often drains them of their strength. That is genuine and should glorify the majesty of God. 'While Jesus was still coming towards them, the demon threw the boy down and convulsed him violently but Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit and healed the boy then gave him back to his father. They (the crowds) were all astonished at the majesty of God' (Luke 9:42 & 43). Our love of God is not measured by how frequently we fall to the floor.

Example number three, bringing the congregation almost to the point of a trance. They have the band repeat one phrase over and over again until the crowd are almost in a trance-like state. Worship is certainly of God and we are called to worship God in song. Sadly, there are many churches that have done away with genuine Holy Spirit inspired worship where the entire congregation sings in tongues in harmony and unison. Few churches do that today. Some churches have actually done away with worship altogether. Worship is of God and He inhabits the praises of His people (Psalm 22:3). What is very wrong is the way one phrase is sung repeatedly to the point where the people are brought to a stupor. That is close to hypnotism and is evil, no matter what words are being sung. That behaviour does not bring God any closer. All it does is show everyone the band is lacking in their ability to play various choruses. We are told not to repeat ourselves when we pray (Matthew 6:7) so that would also apply to songs and hymns.

Example number four, waving flags. People wave flags believing they are worshipping God. There is no verse in the Bible telling anyone to fly flags in worship. We are told to wave our hands in worship (Deuteronomy 12:6). Flag flying is worldly and has no place in the House of God. A standard or banner was set up by each family in the days of the Children of Israel to show their neighbours from which tribe they belonged or to mark their territory (Numbers 2:2) but they were never used in worship.

Example number five, constant pleading for cash and taking numerous offerings. It is right to give to God our tithes and offerings via our church or fellowship. Many people send money to Israel to help the Jewish people build their nation. Giving tithes and offerings was the method God set up as an income for rabbis, priests and ministers to increase the Kingdom of God. It is good to give. What is wrong is the way some preachers 'religiously' preach money-grabbing sermons week after week to force the congregations to give more and more. People are made to feel guilty if they cannot give any more. Those preachers misquote the Scriptures regarding tithing making the poor feel dreadful because they cannot give any more – especially if they have a family. One tele-evangelist tried to 'sell' mansions in heaven to people who were asked to send money to the organisation! That is pure greed and very evil. People are asked to walk to the front so people can see them giving. That is all a sham, a con, a scam and people are being asked to give their pearls to swine (Matthew 7:6). The Bible tells us not to allow our left hand to know what our right hand is doing (Matthew 6:3 & 4). In other words, we give secretly and God will eventually reward us openly. We should never give to tele-evangelists who live in mansions, drive expensive cars, own their own private jets and wear obscene amounts of jewellery. Those people are filled with greed when the Bible explicitly says His servants are not to be greedy for money (1 Timothy 3:8). There is one church that refuses to accept anyone new unless the new people are prepared to support their building programme. Buildings do not save souls. That is evil and opposite of scripture.

Example number six, exceedingly long sermons. Sermons are not wrong. They are the way we are taught in church. Jesus regularly preached sermons in synagogues and outdoors. The apostles preached in churches and anywhere else they had an audience. Sometimes a preacher who is determined to get his point across talks too long and often repeats himself over and over again. The way to teach and preach is to follow the example Jesus and the apostles gave to us; start with one or more relevant verses from the Bible, teach the topic, stay on track, do not give your own opinions but teach only what the Word reveals and do not include your own experiences or problems. When people listen to a sermon, they want to hear about the Bible or what God is saying, they do not want to know personal details of the speaker. As soon as a preacher claims, "I believe thus ..." we can be sure they are about to give their own opinion. When teaching from the Bible, personal opinions should be left out in favour of God's holy opinions. When the topic has been covered, stop speaking. Droning on and on is nothing more than an ego trip to gain attention. 'They think they will be heard (by God) for their much speaking' (Matthew 6:7). A long sermon is not a good sermon. Say what has to be said and finish up. Do not tell the audience you are about to close when you still have several pages of notes to go. That is being dishonest. Finish with a closing verse, a prayer and Amen.

Example number seven, carnal dancing as in a rock concert. Dancing a holy dance is very much a part of worship and the Bible describes a number of times when people danced before the Lord. What is wrong, is when people dance sexually orientated, worldly writhing, or to a drum beat or to so-called 'rap'. That is sinful and reveals the dancer is not God-fearing but is carnal. At one recent so-called 'Christian' concert a musician simulated the sex act while stroking the microphone in a sexual manner while whispering 'sweet' phrases to Jesus. That behaviour would disgust the Lord if He were there. That behaviour is not in any way connected to pure heart-felt Godly dancing. When we dance before the Lord it should be joyful, holy, spiritual, pure and almost classical in nature. 'Let us walk properly as in the day (of the Lord) not in revelling ...not in sexual promiscuity and lustful acts ... Put on the Lord Jesus and make no provision for the flesh and its lusts' (Romans 13:13 & 14).

Example number eight, ear-piercing loud music. Our worship should not be measured in decibels but in reverence. Loud music does not bring the presence of the Lord. It has the opposite effect. There is no such thing as 'Christian' rock. All rock music is carnal and has no place in the House of God. Godly, worshipful, melodious music is what brings the presence of the Lord. There have been worship sessions, especially collective singing in tongues so Godly, calm and beautiful, the angels of heaven joined in. There is no way holy angels would attend a rock-concert type of ear-shattering, bellowing music with a devil's rhythm and beat. Musicians, please consider this next time you lead worship. The Lord is not impressed by noise. He delights in sincere, heartfelt, Holy Spirit praise and worship and is actively seeking such people. Another thing to consider ... the rhythmic deep beat of drums is the same beat primitive pagan tribes use to conjure up evil spirits. That type of drumming has no place in the House of God. We all must worship God in Spirit and in Truth. 'The time will come and is here now when the true worshippers will worship the Father in Spirit and Truth, for the Father seeks such to be His worshippers. God is Spirit and those who worship Him must worship in Spirit and Truth' (John 4:23 & 24). Just because the modern world is full of the devil's unclean music, it does not mean Christian churches should copy that worldly behaviour. We need to come out from among them and be separate from the world. The Lord says, "Come out from among them and be separate. Touch no unclean thing and I will receive you" (2 Corinthians 6:17).

Example number nine, asking new converts to repeat foolish phrases to try to kick-start the gift of tongues. The gift of speaking in tongues is a wonderful gift. It is proof of the presence of God in our lives that has been likened to a down payment or deposit to eternal life (2 Corinthians 1:22; 5:5). Speaking in tongues is the evidence of the infilling of the Holy Spirit resulting in the power of God growing within us. Tongues are a heavenly prayer language given only to genuine believers. Sometimes tongues can be the language of holy angels (1 Corinthians 13:1). Receiving the gift of tongues is the manifestation of the miracle of new birth, as in being born-again. If a person has not genuinely repented, or they have unbelief, or they hold on to rebellion or stubbornness or some other sin, that person may not receive the gift of tongues no matter how many times they repeat silly phrases. The expression of heavenly prayer through the manifestation of tongues, called 'glossolalia' in modern times, is wholly a gift from God and cannot be manipulated by man's foolish and immature repetitive babbling. Tongues go hand in hand with the interpretation of tongues and the gift of prophecy, which are all spiritual gifts from God imparted to genuine believers.

Example number ten, exaggerating the truth, lying, making up fictional stories or criticising the Bible characters who were once alive as we are alive. Many Bible teachers make up fictional stories when they preach. Sometimes they pretend to be speaking to the Bible character they are referring to and make up an entire scenario around their false dialogue. Many preachers mock Bible characters, which is akin to spreading malicious gossip about someone who has passed away. Many teachers claim healings or miracles that never happened. Certainly God is able to heal and restore people to health, but when preachers claim a miracle that never happened, usually to raise money that is utterly evil. One dreadful example of claiming false healings is when one tele-evangelist had people wheeled in to his church sitting in wheelchairs. The people were supposedly healed and got out of their wheelchairs claiming their healings victoriously. The problem with that scenario was, not one of the people needed wheelchairs in the first place. It was just a sham to deceive the audience and raise money. Where is the fear of God or the respect we should have for Him when people resort to fabricating miracles?

Example number eleven, false signs and wonders. So-called 'gold dust' falling from the ceiling down onto congregations is one very deceptive action. It has already been proven, sometimes the 'gold dust' is made of plastic. Jesus never called down gold dust from heaven as a gimmick to entice people to believe in Him or to adore Him. Gold represents money and we are told, 'The love of money is the root of many evils and some have been led astray from the faith because of greed ... but you, man of God, flee these things and follow after righteousness' (1 Timothy 6:10 & 11). For that reason alone we need to reject this counterfeit phenomenon. It comes from the Hindu cult of Kundalini and is therefore caused by a false spirit. Some people claim 'angels' have dropped gold dust, feathers or jewels on them, which would be either demonic or delusional. These things are counterfeits for genuine miracles. People have been caught placing fake gems, fake gold dust and other things just before the fake 'Christian' rallies. We cannot offer strange things to God without eventually suffering the consequences. See what happened to the two eldest sons of Aaron when they did the wrong thing by offering 'strange fire' to the Lord. 'Nadab and Abihu the sons of Aaron each took his censer, put fire in it, laid incense on it and offered strange fire before the Lord, which He had not commanded them to do. Fire came forth from before the Lord and devoured them, and they died before the Lord. Moses said to Aaron, "This is what God spoke of saying, 'I will show Myself holy to those who come near Me and before all the people I will be glorified.'" Aaron held his peace' (Leviticus 10:1 to 3). We can understand Aaron was silenced by shock and grief. We must be careful not to be irreverent towards the Lord and use unholy 'fire'.

Example number twelve, false angelic visitations. There are bizarre accounts of angels appearing to some church leaders, even though we know the devil can appear as an angel of Light (2 Corinthians 11:14). Some church leaders have what they believe to be an angel that is leading them, almost like a 'pet' angel or 'spirit guide' with non-scriptural eerie names. There are people who claim to be able to see angels in the congregations but these so-called angels are silent and do nothing. Real holy angels bring with them a sense of awe and fear of the Lord and only come when the Lord asks them to (1 Chronicles 21:18). They do not appear to pastors who are walking in deception unless the angel has come to rebuke that pastor for spiritual foul play. Holy angels occasionally appear to genuine believers but it is for a specific purpose (Daniel 6:22) and they speak in our language, whatever language we speak, to relay a message

from God (Luke 1:19, 26 & 27). Sometimes angels can join in with praise and worship but they sing only in the Holy Spirit, in the language of holy angels, not in our language. Holy angels are ministering spirits sent by God to minister to His people and that is their role in our world (Luke 22:43; Hebrews 1:14). When they are sent to us by God to bring a message, they are not silent. For people to 'see' angels who stand silently, then they are not seeing angels sent from God. Either they are seeing them through their own imaginations or the 'angels' are evil spirits. Some people claim to 'see' angels everywhere. Their claims do not line up with the Bible. The mere presence of a holy angel is enough to make people fall on their faces. 'David lifted up his eyes and saw the Angel of God standing between earth and the sky having a drawn sword in His hand stretched out over Jerusalem. Then David and the elders clothed in sackcloth fell on their faces ... David could not go to inquire of God for he was afraid because of the sword of the Angel of God' (1 Chronicles 21:16 & 30). One German man claimed he was eating when an 'angel' came and removed his intestines and replaced them with a gold substance, which would have been either demonic or delusional. Other people have claimed angels took them to heaven and operated on them, which would have been demonic or delusional. God would not do either of these things. The devil was once a beautiful cherub and can appear as beautiful as an angel of light. If he can do that, so can his spiritual cohorts. We must test every spirit to see if it is from God or not. How do we test every spirit to see if it is from God? By quoting the Bible like Jesus did to repel the evil one. We can confess out loud, "Jesus came in the flesh." 'Beloved, do not believe every spirit but test the spirits to see whether they are of God because many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this (simple test) you will know the Spirit of God. Every spirit who confesses Jesus the Messiah has come in the flesh is of God but every spirit that does not confess Jesus has come in the flesh is not of God and is the antichrist spirit' (1 John 4:1 to 3). If the 'angel' is not from God it would be from the devil so we must rebuke it and send it away.

Example number thirteen, being 'drunk' in the spirit. 'Do not be drunk with wine which is debauchery but be filled with the Holy Spirit' (Ephesians 5:18). Well known tele-evangelists and pastors are holding huge meetings influenced with appalling actions of drunkenness they say is being 'in the spirit'. The scriptures tell us not to act that way, but church leaders are to be holy, sober-minded, exercise self-control, remain faithful to the Word and set a good example of Christian life (Titus 1:8 & 9; 2:2 & 7). But instead, they are behaving like unruly men, full of verbal nonsense and deceivers (Titus 1:10). One foolish pastor said he was a Holy Ghost bartender, laying hands on people imparting to them this false anointing they call 'fire'. Preachers have been filmed acting drunk on stage, laying hands on, and imparting a spirit of drunkenness and uncontrolled hysterical laughter into unsuspecting parishioners. The alarming fact is, many young people who have not known God and therefore have not been able to learn discernment are being sucked into this terrible deception. They mimic the act of smoking hallucinogenic drugs and getting 'high'. They then call it 'the glory' or 'the vibrating'. That is utter blasphemy. 'The end of all things is near, therefore be of sound mind, self-controlled and sober in prayer' (1 Peter 4:7).

Example number fourteen, talking with the dead. In some 'spirit-filled' churches, a few people have claimed to have spoken to the dead. Some of the dead are Bible characters and some of the dead are family members who have died. They base this false 'visitation' on the experience Jesus had on the mountain, when Elijah and Moses visited Him. 'Jesus took with Him Peter, James and John, and brought them up into a high mountain by themselves. He was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun and His garments became as white as the light. Behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them talking with Him' (Matthew 17:1 to 3). This experience was to strengthen Jesus for the terrible crucifixion He was about to endure and to confirm His deity to the apostles. We must remember, Jesus was around at creation so He knew these men personally long before He came to earth as our Messiah. We also must remember, nobody is dead in the eyes of God but all people who have ever been born are alive in the spirit so although these men had left the earth, they were alive in the Spirit. That experience was not for general humanity but for Jesus only. 'God is not the God of the dead but of the living for all are alive to Him' (Luke 20:38). It is only their mortal bodies that have died. The experience Jesus had does not give us permission to speak with the dead. That is strictly forbidden (Deuteronomy 18:11 & 14) and is akin to séances and mediums, both are forms of witchcraft.

We all want the miracles of God but with the miracles we need to have awe, reverence and the fear of the Lord. We cannot allow this unholy false 'fire' of tele-evangelism to continue unchecked. Let the genuine God-fearing modern-day disciples speak out against those wicked tele-preachers who are raking in millions by lies, deception, falsehoods, fake miracles and false promises that never came from God. All true believers need to stand against this wicked behaviour that is giving genuine Christians and righteous churches a severely bad reputation. There is an extreme difference between true Godly worship and wicked pagan practices. Those who worship God in Truth are the 'wheat' who will be gathered up to be with the Lord but those Christians who attend church but do wickedly are the tares or darnel, false wheat who will be bundled up and tossed into the eternal lake of fire (Matthew 13:29 & 30).

We are extremely blessed to have the sacred Bible, the Holy Scriptures given to us by the spoken Words the Lord uttered to His prophets and apostles. We are all expected to deal with God's Word with respect and reverence. It is God's Word! The Bible is the spoken Word of our Creator. He made us. He created us. Therefore we must use His holy Manual for our lives with awe, care and obedience to minister God's love and wisdom to unsaved people or young Christians – freely and without charge. 'Give diligence to present yourself approved by God, a workman who does not need to be ashamed, properly handling the Word of Truth' (2 Timothy 2:15). We must never mix paganism or heathenism with God's Word. Sadly, this unholy 'fire' is spreading throughout the world in churches that claim to be 'spirit-filled'. We need to expose their fraud for what it is – fraud, trickery, hypocrisy, falsehood. Their behaviour is false. They use the Bible in ways God never intended His Word to be used. If your church is experiencing any of these

strange things, there is only one course of action the genuine Christian can take. First warn the pastor the church is sliding into paganism and if he refuses to listen then it would be wise to leave the church. It is the beginning of trouble for that church and the leadership.

You tele-evangelists and preachers need to repent of your wickedness and iniquity, stop trying to sell the Gospel, stop influencing righteous, young Christians for evil gain. Wake up to your evil ways. Do you actually think God cannot see your wickedness spreading throughout the world and eating away at weaker Christians like an evil dose of spiritual cancer or gangrene? 'Thus says the Lord, "Can anyone hide themselves in secret places so I cannot see them? Do I not fill heaven and earth? I have heard what the (false) prophets have said who prophesy lies in My name saying, 'I have dreamed, I have dreamed.' How long will this be in the heart of the (false) prophets who prophesy lies, even the prophets of the deceit of their own heart?" (Jeremiah 23:24 to 26). 'Shun empty chatter for they will proceed further in ungodliness and their word will spread like cancer or eat away like gangrene. Some men have erred concerning the truth ... overthrowing the faith of some people. God's firm foundation stands having this seal, "The Lord knows those who are His," and, "Let every one who names the name of the Lord depart from unrighteousness" (2 Timothy 2:16 to 19).

These wicked tele-preachers know who they are and what they are doing but if they turn and repent and forego their wicked ways, God is righteous and just and will forgive them. If they do repent, then they should not have to carry the stigma of their former sin. If they are forgiven, God blots out their sin so they should not be publicly and permanently shamed. That is why we do not 'name' and 'shame' these people as much as we would like to. We are calling all tele-evangelists to stop, repent and deal honestly. Like Simon the Sorcerer, your lives are not right with God. You received the Gospel free of charge so give the Gospel free of charge. God is merciful and He will forgive but you must stop your sin. 'This is the message we have heard from Jesus and announce to you, God is light and in Him there is no darkness at all. If we say we have fellowship with Him and walk in the darkness we lie and do not tell the truth. If we walk in the light as He is in the light we have fellowship with one another and the blood of Jesus His Son cleanses us from all sin. If we say we have no sin we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins He is faithful and righteous to forgive us the sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say we have not sinned we make Him a liar and His Word is not in us' (1 John 1:5 to 10).

Amen and God bless you.

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