

“Come close to God and He will come close to you”. James 4:8 Amplified

Derailed by the “Disneyland gospel” -a word from Pat

Someone said that today’s Gospel is “a distant morphed cousin to Biblical Christianity”. I believe in many cases the content of what is being proclaimed in our churches today is more like the “Disneyland gospel”. However the Kingdom of God, is not a “magic kingdom”, where people go to be entertained, to escape the routine, drudgery and often harsh realities of this present life. The question for us now becomes, “Do we want to escape the realities of the Kingdom of God?”



The Disneyland gospel is a self-centered, costless, no-suffering or sacrifice gospel without any thought of eternal consequences. However, the True Gospel of the Kingdom of God is vastly different. Let me point out five (5) areas that describe the “Disneyland gospel”.

NO HELL....Jesus Christ taught and preached much about the reality of hell. He said in **Luke 12:5** “But I warn you whom to fear: fear the One who after He has killed, has authority to cast into hell.” He described hell in **Matthew 18:9** as “the fiery hell”; in **Mark 9:43** as “the unquenchable fire.” Some have softened hell as just eternal separation from God, but no torment! Harvey Cox, Jr., a professor at Harvard University School of Divinity, although a liberal, made this statement regarding hell: “There has been a shift in religion from focusing on what happens in the next life to asking, ‘What is the quality of this life we’re leading now?’ You can go to a whole lot of churches week after week, and you’d be startled to hear a mention of hell.” Let me say this, “no one ever experienced true inward conversion without having a revelation of sin and eternal damnation—in a literal Hell.”

NO COST...Jesus spoke clearly of cost, “For which one of you, when he wants to build a tower, does not first sit down and calculate the cost to see if he has enough to complete it?” (**Luke 14:28**) AW Pink stated, “It is true that the salvation that Christ provides has no price and that those Father has given the Son can freely come and purchase the water of life freely without cost (**Rev. 21:6**). But it is a great falsehood to say that coming to Christ lays no claim upon a man. It is but a lie to proclaim a gospel that doesn’t even scathe the flesh of men!” Pink continues, “*Salvation that leaves a man wedded in sin is a lie.*”

NO SUFFERING...**Phil. 1:29** - For to you it has been granted on behalf of Christ, not only to believe in Him, but also to suffer for His sake. The **Amplified** version says “that we have been granted the privilege to suffer for Him”. What would the prophets say, most of who were martyred; or the apostles who were killed in various ways, or the Apostle John say who was banished to the island of Patmos? What would Stephen say who was stoned to death or Paul who was beaten, stoned, shipwrecked and in all kinds of dangers (**2 Corn. 11:24-28**) in addition to having suffered the loss of all things (**Phil. 3:8**). When the Lord was giving instructions to Ananias about His calling of Paul, He said: “For I will show him how much he must suffer for My name’s sake.” (**Acts 9:16**) There simply is no pattern for a *suffering-less gospel* and if we preach it, then people will be derailed when hardships, trials, and troubles come into their lives.

Author Jim Corbett made this statement: “**Many want their comfortable world to remain comfortable.** They would rather fight for their personal well-being than fight for the plan on the heart of God to be fulfilled.” We may encounter suffering in fulfilling God’s plans and call upon our lives, but life is not about our personal fulfillment, *rather it is about God’s plans being fulfilled.* Let me say, too, that all suffering is

Continued - “Disneyland gospel” -a word from Pat

not from God. If there are troubles that come upon us due to the consequences of our own sin let us not think that this is suffering “*for His sake.*”

NO SACRIFICE... There has always been a pattern of sacrifice in the Word of God; from Abel (**Heb. 11:4**) to Jesus who was offered as a sacrifice for our sins. (**Hebrews 9:26**) What would Abraham say to a gospel with little or no sacrifice when he was required to leave all and later to offer up his son? We are exhorted in **Romans 12:1** “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service”. Paul said that he had “been crucified with Christ” (**Gal 2:20**) and that it was no longer **he** that lived. In other words, Paul knew it was about crucifying his flesh and his will; giving up his life so that Christ’s life could exude through him. You can see this in Paul’s writing to the church in Corinth. “So I will very gladly spend for you everything I have and expend myself as well.” (**2 Corn. 12:15**) Paul lived a life of sacrifice!

NO RESPONSIBILITIES... For the most part I believe that we have embraced a “*rights based*” gospel rather than a “*responsibility based*” gospel. We will be derailed if we only look at the gospel through the lens of our “rights”. We must take responsibility for our sins.

“Our culture has done us no greater injustice than training us to avoid taking responsibility for our own issues” -Beth Moore

In addition, we have a responsibility to the lost. Jesus’ last instructions before ascending to Heaven were, “Go ye into all the world.” (**Matt 28:19**). We have a responsibility to other believers! We are still asking the age old question that Cain asked, “*Am I my brother’s keeper?*” Just look at all the scriptures that say “**one another.**” In addition, the gifts of the Holy Spirit are for the edification of the church (**1 Corn. 14:12**). We also have responsibility to steward our talents, giftings, finances and time of which we will certainly give an account.



In conclusion let me say that only that part of our lives and faith that is built on the “**True Gospel**” will stand in these perilous times and uncertain days. Our faith will be derailed if built on anything less.

On Christ the solid Rock I stand, all other ground is sinking sand!

DEVOTIONAL RESOURCES

Pat and I would like to recommend a couple of morning daily devotionals from the internet that have truly encouraged and challenged us. You can sign up for them so that they will send them to your email every morning. David Wilkerson, Pastor of Time Square Church in New York City is a man who always has a timely word, doesn’t compromise the Gospel, and listens to Holy Spirit before he writes anything. These devotions can be found at www.davidwilkersontoday.blogspot.com/

Another devotional we recommend is from authors Jim and Merry Corbett. This couple has a daily devotional that speaks direct messages from the Heart of the Father. Click on his website and sign up to receive these devotions daily at www.covenantsupportnetwork.com

EG = Expect God! -a word from Gary

John the Baptist preached one central theme during his short time on this earth. **Mark 1:3** 'Prepare the way for the Lord's coming! We as believers must continue to prepare our hearts and our families. This *karios time* of preparation and action will help prepare us for the great shaking that continues in the body of Christ. The Lord wants no obstacles that would hinder our progress. **Isaiah 57:14 NASB** - And it shall be said, "Build up, build up, prepare the way, Remove every obstacle out of the way of My people."

We must be like an expectant mother in her last month of pregnancy. She is uncomfortable but knows that at any time the birth pains will come. She has prepared herself to accept the timing of her unborn child; yet she is confident that **"all is well"** because she has mentally and physically prepared for this event with a confident expectation of success. Lord, make us expectant with promise because it's Christ in us which is the hope of glory!

Our hearts and minds must be prepared and expecting the "soon coming of the Lord". Yes, our soon-coming King could come any time so we must strive to be like the five wise virgins in **Matthew 25** who were prepared and expecting their Bridegroom! With the increase in turmoil that we are observing in our world, shouldn't we say it's *high time* to expect God to show up.

Maybe today!

Author Jim Corbett speaks of his family's theme for living during these last days of grace which is **"Maybe today"**. Maybe today the Lord will open our hearts wide to His individual kingdom assignment for our life! Maybe today we will receive our **physical and emotional healing!** Maybe today the Lord will **expose the stronghold** that has kept us in **"neutral"** for many years! Maybe today we can **walk in love, walk in Holy Spirit power** and not our own carnal strength! **Maybe today!** I believe as each of us muse these **"words of life"** we will come to see and expect the Lord to move in our midst! We will not only expect but experience His Presence every day for every situation. **The church of Jesus Christ is not living in expectation!** Many bewildered believers trudge through their daily life without direction, without expecting the Lord to show Himself strong to them! I pray the Lord will give you an **expectant heart**, one that continues to believe God for the impossible for with God nothing is impossible!

Let's just see what the Lord will do!

Another theme of expectancy is, **"Let's just see what the Lord will do!"** A good pastor friend of mine has been proclaiming and declaring these words for several years, and the Lord is blessing his church and his ministry! But, many believers have become discouraged, frustrated, and bewildered as they observe only what **"man can do!"** **John 15:5** – Without me you can do nothing. So, break out of this **"man box"** and see what Holy Spirit can accomplish! Remember Holy Spirit is the most powerful force in the universe! Let God release His power and anointing in and through our lives! **Be expectant!**

EG = Expect God! Expect God to come through for you!

Ephesians 5:15-20 NLT —*So be careful how you live. Don't live like fools, but like those who are wise. 16 Make the most of every opportunity in these evil days. 17 Don't act thoughtlessly, but understand what the Lord wants you to do. 18 Don't be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life. Instead, be filled with the Holy Spirit, 19 singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs among yourselves, and making music to the Lord in your hearts. 20 And give thanks for everything to God the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

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Please continue to check our [website](#) for current updates to our ministry schedule. We send out our newsletter once per quarter and not all scheduled ministry dates are printed in this publication.

Psalms 39:4 AMP - Lord, make me to know my end and [to appreciate] the measure of my days — what it is; let me know and realize how frail I am [how transient is my stay here].

MINISTRY NEED

Last week my five-year-old laptop computer gave up the ghost! I'm grateful this computer was so very good to me; allowing me to create quarterly newsletters, publish ministry notes, create Power Point presentations for ministry, and faithfully publish the correspondence necessary for the ministry. [A new laptop is urgently needed and I'm asking for your financial assistance to help purchase another one.](#) This new computer will cost between \$700-\$800. Please indicate "new computer" on your donation and we thank you very much for your prayers and financial support. May the Lord richly bless you for your generosity!



Autumn 2010 Ministry Schedule

July 25th—Portland International Church—Portland, OR

August 8th—Morningstar Worship Center—Scappoose, OR

August 15th—The Church—Salem, OR

August 16th—Eastside Church—Portland, OR

August 22nd—Lakeside Assembly of God—Lakeside, OR

September 12th—Harvest Rock City Church—Ontario, OR

September 23—Parkway Christian Center—Grants Pass, OR

September 26th—Rohnerville Assembly of God —Fortuna, CA

October 10th—Coulterville Christian Fellowship—Coulterville, CA

October 15th-17th—Bethel Christian Center—Fresno, CA

October 22nd-24th (PAT) - Ladies Conference @ Sherwood New Life

October 24th—27th—Bethel Church—Pendleton, OR



Gary and Pat