FALSE TEACHERS
IN THE CHURCH OF GOD

By

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All verses unless otherwise quoted are drawn from the International Standard Version (ISV). All Bible verses are italicized.

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In the name of Jesus, I pray to the Heavenly Father that you believe the truth that is written therein.
A Message to the church of Laodicea

This message is not addressed to everybody. It is addressed only to the righteous, those who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. To be précised, the message is addressed to the church of Laodicea. If you are in a church where they preach, accept and glorify earthly riches, then you are in the church of Laodicea.

“You say, "I am rich. I have become wealthy. I don't need anything." Yet you don't realize that you are miserable, pitiful, poor, blind, and naked…. I correct and discipline those whom I love, so be serious and repent!” (Rev. 3.17-20).

Fear God and listen to his voice.

All righteous people will be judged. Judgement has begun with the household of God. It is very hard for a righteous man to be saved (1 Pet. 4.17-18).

“All of us must appear before the judgement seat of the messiah, so that each of us may receive what he deserves for what he has done in his body, whether good or worthless” (2 Cor. 5.10).

“The kingdom from heaven is like a large net thrown into the sea that gathered all kinds of fish. When it was full, the fishermen hauled it ashore. Then they sat down, sorted the good fish into containers, and threw the bad ones away. That is how it will be at the end of the age. The angels will go out, cull out the evil people from among the righteous ones, and will throw them into a blazing furnace. In that place there will be wailing and gnashing of teeth (Mat 13.47-50).

We must not deceive ourselves by thinking that we are already saved if our faith in Jesus Christ is dead. On the day of the Lord’s return, the righteous people who are bad (the bad fish in the net) will be removed from the camp of the righteous and sent to the lake of fire. They will share the fate of the wicked.

Listen to the voice of the Lord and refuse to be deceived by the evil one.

We are at the close of the last days. The Lord’s return is drawing closer. The thick cloud of darkness is hovering over us, seeking to blind us all. The devil has launched his deceitful deadly attack on the beloved church of God, the church whom the Lord died for. Many Christians are falling victims to the devil's deceit.
The devil cannot deceive a believer in Christ Jesus into denying Jesus and accepting another god like Buddha, Allah or a village deity, but he can deceive the believer to accept another “Jesus”. He has infiltrated the Christian camp as an angel of light to deceive the righteous. He is causing them to believe in a “Jesus” which is not the Jesus of the Bible. Adam and Eve were still punished for their disobedience even though they were deceived. You shall also be punished if you allow the devil, the enemy, to deceive you.

The devil uses two weapons against the church of God:

1. Errors (wrong bible teachings)
2. Human appetites for worldly and bodily things

The devil has distorted the word of God and has presented another gospel that appeal to human appetites. He is sowing bad seed (the wrong gospel) in the field of God. He has many false teachers that have accepted his gospel and who are spreading it everywhere. This false gospel has spread quickly like wild fire.

“The kingdom from heaven may be compared to a man who sowed good seed in his field. While people were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away. When the crop came up and bore grain, the weeds appeared, too. The owner’s servants came and asked him, ‘Master, you sowed good seed in your field, didn’t you? Then where did these weeds come from?’ He told them, ‘An enemy did this!’ The servants asked him, ‘Then do you want us to go and pull them out?’ He said, ‘No! If you pull out the weeds, you might pull out the wheat with them. Let both grow together until the harvest, and at harvest time I will tell the reapers, “Gather the weeds first and tie them in bundles for burning, but bring the wheat into my barn” (Mathew 13.24-30).

The devil is the enemy who is sowing the bad seed (the wrong gospel) on the earth. Many people are growing up in God’s house as weeds and not as wheat. The devil is growing up a group of righteous people who do not really belong to Jesus Christ. They believe in Jesus Christ, but they do not belong to him because they are still to live according to the true gospel.

We must be careful to believe in the gospel that was given by the Heavenly Father and preached by Jesus Christ and his disciples. We must watch to reject any gospel of convenience that suits our human nature and cravings. We must be careful to belong to the true camp of the
righteous. On the day that the Lord will return, judgement will begin in his house. The weeds will be pulled up and burnt and the wheat will be carried to eternal life.

The prosperity gospel that is preached today is a wrong gospel. It is a gospel from the pit of hell. It was never preached by the Lord Jesus Christ or his disciples.

The prosperity preachers say that it is the will of God for a righteous man to be rich in earthly possessions and money. It is a gospel that sounds very nice and appealing to the human nature but is very deadly to the human soul. It gives mammon, prominence in the heart of Christians. These preachers glorify mammon. Mammon worship is practiced in the churches. This is a spiritual filth, a stronghold that must be dealt away with before anyone can think of entering the kingdom of God. If you believe in a Jesus who is not the Jesus revealed in the Bible, then you believe in vain. Such faith will not save you. It is by a faith of stern obedience to the words of Christ Jesus that we overcome the evil one.

What Did the LORD Say Concerning Earthly Riches?

Mathew 6.19-24

“Stop storing up treasures for yourselves on earth, where moths and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal. But keep on storing up treasures for yourselves in heaven, where moths and rust do not destroy and where thieves do not break in and steal, because where your treasure is, there your heart will be also”.

The eye is the lamp of the body. So if your eye is healthy, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eye is evil, your whole body will be full of darkness. Therefore, if the light within you has turned into darkness, how great is that darkness! No one can serve two masters, because either he will hate one and love the other or be loyal to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and riches!”

The words of Christ Jesus are simple and plain but very hard on our human nature, but we must choose whether we will obey his exact words or distort his word to satisfy our human nature.

The Lord Jesus said that people must not store up earthly goods. Never, not even once is it written in the gospels or New Testament, that it is the will of God for his children to be rich in earthly goods.
The human eye can have only a single focus at a time. It can only look at one direction at a time. An eye that looks at two directions at a time is an evil eye. If you try to look at God and money at the same time, then your eye is evil. You can look at only one. If you have eyes set on money, no matter how hard you try, you cannot have God. Money competes with God for the heart of man. Only one of them can rule.

Luke 12.33-34

“Sell your possessions, and give the money to the poor. Make yourselves wallets that don’t wear out—a dependable treasure in heaven, where no thief can get close and no moth can destroy anything. Because where your treasure is, there your heart will be also”.

If you have earthly riches, it means that your heart is not and can never be on God. Where your treasure is, there your heart is. This truth annoys the rich. The only way to purify your heart of mammon is to sell away the riches and give away the money to the poor as the Lord Jesus commanded. It is by selling our earthly riches that we obtain heavenly purses.

Mat 19:23-24

“It will be hard for a rich person to get into the kingdom from heaven. Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to squeeze through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to get into the kingdom of God”.

It is very difficult for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God because it is very hard for him to give up his plenty goods. It is easier for the poor man because he has very little or nothing to give away. This is why God chose to announce the gospel primarily to the poor and make them heirs of his kingdom (Luke 4.18; James 2.5; Luke 6.20,24).

Unlike the rich young ruler who refused to give up his goods for the kingdom, Apostle Peter and the other disciples had left everything to follow the Lord (Mathew 19.27). The early church obeyed the words of Christ to sell their possessions and give to the poor.

“For none of them needed anything, because everyone who had land or houses would sell them and bring the money received for the things sold and lay it at the apostles’ feet. Then it was distributed to anyone who needed it” (Acts 4.34-35).

The only way that Jesus Christ can be Lord in your life is by first denying money and then submitting to Jesus. Do not pretend to submit to the Lord Jesus when you have not yet dealt
away with money. The only way to purify your heart of money is to choose not to have it and sell all your riches and give the money to the poor. There is no other way. If any preacher tells you of another way, then he is of the devil.

Do not be deceived by the devil. The way to the kingdom of heaven is the daily cross of self-denial (Mat 16.24) and following the Lord Jesus. The Christian life is a life of simplicity. Purify yourself so that the light of Christ Jesus can shine through you.

Do not be the five foolish virgins who could not sell their all to buy as much oil (more than enough oil) for the journey (Mat 25.1-13). Do not allow thorns (riches and earthly cares), to choke God's word in your heart (Mat 13.22).

“Of course, godliness with contentment does bring a great profit. Nothing to this world we bring; from it take we nothing. With food to eat and clothes to wear; content we are in everything. But people who want to get rich keep toppling into temptation and are trapped by many stupid and harmful desires that plunge them into destruction and ruin. For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, in their eagerness to get rich, have wandered away from the faith and caused themselves a lot of pain” (1 Tim 6-10).

What Did the LORD Jesus Say Concerning Bodily Needs

Mat 6:25-34

"That's why I'm telling you to stop worrying about your life—what you will eat or what you will drink—or about your body—what you will wear. Life is more than food, isn't it, and the body more than clothing? Look at the birds in the sky. They don't plant or harvest or gather food into barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. You are more valuable than they are, aren't you? Can any of you add a single hour to the length of your life by worrying? And why do you worry about clothes? Consider the lilies in the field and how they grow. They don't work or spin yarn, but I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was clothed like one of them. Now if that is the way God clothes the grass in the field, which is alive today and thrown into an oven tomorrow, won't he clothe you much better—you who have little faith? So don't ever worry by saying, 'What are we going to eat?' or 'What are we going to drink?' or 'What are we going to wear? because it is the gentiles who are eager for all those things. Surely your heavenly Father knows that you need all of them! But first be concerned about God's kingdom and his
righteousness, and all of these things will be provided for you as well. So never worry about tomorrow, because tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own."

It is disheartening to see people who call themselves Christians chasing after earthly goods like the sinners do. The sinners live for earthly things, but Christians live for God. God does not give the new covenant children earthly riches, rather He gives them spiritual riches in Christ Jesus. Still, God does not leave his children in lack. He supplies provision for their daily basic bodily needs. He does not provide tomorrow’s need “today”, rather, he provides day by day, their basic needs.

The only way to obtain heavenly provision for your daily needs is by setting your heart on his righteousness. To set your heart on God’s righteousness means to take care to keep his righteous decrees. God’s righteous character is revealed through his commandments. When you set your heart on living a righteous life according to God’s decrees, heaven looks after your basic needs (food, shelter, clothing etc.).

It is not by keeping an obsolete law on tithe that God provides. It is by obeying his commandment in Christ Jesus, that our needs are met. The Lord Jesus did not ask for tithe from the crowd or his followers. His disciples did not ask for tithe from the early church members. The Lord Jesus asked for their all. His disciples and the early church gave him their all. The devil will go to any length just to keep your heart away from the Lord Jesus, even if it means multiplying some tithe offerings. The false teaching of tithe is preached by wolves who seek to enrich themselves by eating from the flock. In seeking to gratify their desires, they cast down the words of Christ. If they keep you away from the true gospel, then they have succeeded to keep you away from eternal life.

The Mask of False Teachers

“Now there were false prophets among the people, just as there also will be false teachers among you, who will secretly introduce destructive heresies and even deny the Master who bought them, bringing swift destruction on themselves. Many people will follow their immoral ways, and because of them the way of truth will be maligned. In their greed they will exploit you with deceptive words. The ancient verdict against them is still in force, and their destruction is not delayed” (2 Pete 2.1-3).
The above verse makes us to understand that these false teachers are not going to come out from the world; rather they shall rise from among the righteous. The devil uses false teachers to hit and attack the church, so that many will be lost and never get to find the way that leads to heaven. Many will follow their ways and end up in perdition.

The devil’s teachers mask themselves with some righteous deeds:

They “believe” Jesus Christ
They preach “Jesus Christ”
They look harmless and humble
They perform signs and wonders that marvel people
They do some charitable works

A person who does these things may quickly be called a man of God, but they may not be so. A false teacher is not known by some outward works, rather they are known by their fruit – the nature of their person.

“Beware of false prophets who come to you in sheep’s clothing but inwardly are savage wolves. **You will know them by their fruit.** Grapes aren’t gathered from thorns, or figs from thistles, are they?” (Matthew 7.15-16).

**The Fruit of a False Teacher**

The three principal marks/fruit of a false teacher are;

1. Greed
2. Sexual Immorality
3. Selfish Ambition

If a preacher has one or two of these attributes, then know that he is a false teacher. Even if he calls down fire from heaven, run away from him as fast as you can. The devil is moving about confirming the wrong teachings of these teachers with signs and wonders. If you follow the signs instead of the fruit, then you are doomed.
**Greed:** Greed is idolatry (Col. 3.5; Mat 6.24). Idolatry is a sin punishable by death (Rev. 21.8). There are diverse kinds of greed (Luke 12.15);

- Lack of contentment
- Stinginess
- Stealing
- Cheating
- Anxiety
- Storing up for tomorrow
- keeping more than you need
- Fighting over property
- Refusal to share
- Sharing only an insignificant portion of your wealth
- Murmuring and grumbling

These false teachers have more than enough wealth that can last them five life times. They have so much while most of their church members are so poor. They do not only refuse to really help these poor people, but they still demand and collect from them. Their wealth is counted in millions of dollars. They live in mansions, drive expensive cars, wear designers’ outfit, own private jets, their children are in choice schools worldwide etc.

A preacher who is rich cannot be a disciple of Christ. The disciples of Christ give up their all for the kingdom of God. Love puts the needs of others first. God’s servants obey him, and they give even to the last penny. These false teachers are going straight to hell and taking many with them. They suffer the righteous people both spiritually and materially.

**Sexual Immorality:** A preacher who cannot control his fleshly sexual desire is a false teacher. God does not work though carnal people, rather he works through people who are led by his spirit. God works in people before he uses them for any service. God is holy, and his servants are holy. Do not follow an immoral preacher even if he raises someone from the dead.

**Selfish Ambition:** Ambition is a trait that is applauded by the world but biblically, ambition for self is sinful (Phil 2.3). These false teachers preach Christ to satisfy their selfish ambitions (Phil 1.17). They desire to promote self, more than anything else. They are more earth than heaven conscious. They desire the pride of life and earthly possessions. They desire fame,
political power, institutional positions and the comforts of life. They point their institutional ministries to people instead of pointing the Lord Jesus Christ to people.

Beware of false teachers!

“Many people will follow their immoral ways, and because of them the way of truth will be maligned. In their greed they will exploit you with deceptive words” (2 Pet 2.2).

“…because false messiahs (christs) and false prophets will appear and display great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect” (Mat 24.24).

The meaning of the word “Christ” means “anointed one”. “False Christs” would also mean false anointed ones or leaders. The Lord warns in Mathew 24.24, that there would rise many false anointed ones who will perform signs and wonders that will deceive if possible, even the elect. We must be careful not to follow preachers simply because they preach the Bible or perform wonders, rather we should look at their fruit. Many preachers carry a false anointing (the power of the evil one) (2 Thess. 2.9). These preachers preach a little bible truth mixed with deadly erroneous teachings. A little yeast leavens the whole lump. A little error spoils the word of truth. We must be careful to follow the true gospel as it was preached by the Lord Jesus.

These false teachers abound in Nigeria, the US, and South Africa. Some of them are:

1. David Oyedepo (Winners Chapel)
2. Chris Oyakhilome (Christ Embassy)
3. Enoch Adeboye (Redeemed Christian Church of God)
4. TB Joshua (Synagogue Church of All Nations)
5. Chris Okotie (Household of God)
6. Matthew Ashimolowo (Kingsway International Christian Centre)
7. Mike Okonkwo (Redeemed Evangelic Mission)
8. Lazarus Muoka (Lord’s Chosen).
9. Kenneth Copeland (Kenneth Copeland Ministries)
10. Creflo Dollar (World Changers Church International)
11. Benny Hinn (Benny Hinn Ministries)
12. Joel Osteen (Lakewood Church)
13. Joyce Meyer (Joyce Meyer Ministries)
14. TD Jakes (Potter's House Church)
15. Ramson Mumba (El Shaddai International Christian Centre)
16. Joseph Prince (New Creation Church)
17. Billy Graham (Billy Graham Evangelistic Association)
18. Theo Wolmarans (Christian Family Church International)
19. Andrew Wommack (Andrew Wommack Ministries)

And many others…..

Come out of them if you want to be saved. Stop drinking from the devil's cup of wine. Seek the Lord and desire to know him from the depth of your heart. Submit to him completely. Stop looking for money and start looking only for God. You do not need anyone to teach you. The Lord Jesus teaches his flock individually. Believe in the gospel as it was preached by Jesus Christ from the Heavenly Father.

Search deep, very deep into your heart. Pray that the Lord will throw light for you to see what lies deep within.

What do you really want? Is it God or money?

You can have only one of them.

Blessed is he who listens to the voice of the Lord.
Other Books by Author

The Way to the Kingdom of Heaven

The Books of Daniel and Revelation Unveiled

True Riches

The Truth against Errors

After the Earthly Life

Short Sermons

Life in the Spirit of Christ Jesus