

THE GOSPEL POLLUTED

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"If thou lift up thy tool upon it, thou halt polluted it," Ex. 20:26. This refers to the altar of God. The stones for God's altar were to be made with natural stones. No human tool was to be used on these stones. If such was used the altar was polluted.

In the same manner, the gospel also may be polluted. Whenever the gospel is not used as is, it is polluted. It was not the use of the altar which polluted it but it was the misuse of it. They were to follow the directions of the Lord in the construction and use of the altar. Only natural stones without human alteration were permitted in God's altar. In a similar manner the gospel is to be used without human alteration. When the gospel is changed in anyway it is polluted!

It is not the use but abuse which pollutes the gospel. The gospel is polluted by substitutions, alterations, editing, deletions, cropping, additions and mixtures. The gospel is fouled by ignoring God's clear directions, "See that thou makest all things according to the pattern shown thee in the mount." Beware of those who alter the gospel of Christ with soul deluding, grace denuding, and Heaven excluding consequences, [I Pet. 2:14; 3:16].

The polluted gospel ejects repentance and injects regret. This Dagon-deliverance teaches that men do not need to repent of their sins! The polluted gospel stashes repentance in the fruit cellar but the true gospel hangs repentance over the front gate —and you can't enter into God's fellowship, His Church, or His kingdom without going through it [Mt 4:2:17;

Acts 17:30]. Woe be to those gospel-polluting preachers, who are crying "Peace, Peace," without that heart-stabbing, heart-breaking, and heart-changing repentance of God so essential to eternal happiness! [Jer. 6:14; Acts 2:37, Gk.; Ps 34:17; Acts 9:6].

The fragrant gospel has power and penetrates the heart, whereas the putrid gospel only penetrates the head. The pure gospel operates within, the polluted gospel *seeks* to work without. The polluted gospel asks only for assent, but God's gospel demands worship from the heart, [Pro. 23:36; Rom. 10:8-10; Jn 4:23]. When the Lord gives a new heart to a man that man is a new creation. But no matter what is done to the head, the man is sadly the same.

The faith of the polluted gospel, is like fool's gold. It looks like gold but it will not weigh out. This head-faith cannot bring Christ down to the sinner, nor the sinner up to Christ. It has not the mint-mark of Heaven on it. It is just blanked iron and the Bank of Heaven will reject it out of hand, slug that it is, [Mt. 7:21-23]. But heart-faith is the gift of God, heaven-minted gold and it cannot be destroyed, whether in the furnace of iron, fiery tortures, earthly trials, Satan's sieve or Heaven's tests. Faith is the victory! [De 4:20; Heb. 11:27-38; Lk. 22:31-32; Jn. 4:5]. But this faith is a Christ-bought faith, a Christ-given faith, a Christ-directed faith, and a Christ-centered faith. Therefore, this faith is saving faith! [Rom. 8:31,32; Eph. 2:8; Acts 16:31.; Gal. 2:20; Lk. 7:50].

The polluted gospel is a panderer between Truth and error but loves lies and lives in the land of the Cretians, [Tit. 1:12]. This false gospel brings happiness before heartache, confession before conviction, relief before repentance, deliverance before danger, and salvation before sorrow, [II Cor. 7:10].

The gospel is polluted when men put anything in the place of Christ. This gospel teaches men to *faith* faith, to *faith* their decision, to *faith* their commitment, to *faith* their act of faith, to *faith* their prayer, to *faith* their confirmation, to *faith* their baptism. The pure gospel calls on sinners to *faith* Christ. Christ is the beginning and the end of the true gospel, [Heb. 12:2].

The world applauds, approves, and praises the polluted gospel on the one hand, but bitterly opposes, suppresses and denounces the pure gospel on the other. The world also likes to take the hammer and chisel of satanic reasoning and make ashlar for God's altar, but the heavenly oracle gives no ground for such botching: "If thou lift up thy tool upon it, thou halt polluted it," (Ex 20:26).

The polluted gospel attempts to make dead birds fly and dead horses pull. In support of these impossible tasks they have generated a whole pantheon of gods by which they seek, Sceva-like, to perform these marvels. "You took Christ as your Savior, but not as Lord, therefore while you are a Christian, you do not live as one." "You need to re-dedicate your life." "You need to let God be God." "You need to put God on the throne." "You can be sure you are saved right now just by praying after me." "Just pray the sinners prayer." "Just take my hand and by that means say you are taking Christ as your Savior." "God sent His Son to die for you, the Holy Spirit is convicting you; God has done all He can do. Now, it is up to you!" "Make your decision to follow Christ tonight." "Come to the altar and get this settled tonight." "Just follow these four spiritual laws." "The new birth is something God does for man when man is willing." "God always reacts to man as man reacts to God."

Now most of these statements are bald, bold, and blatant heresies. However, we all realize that some of them may be used in a scriptural sense.

Likewise the polluted gospel has excuses by the barrel to prescribe to their patients who never get better. One pitiful mother said to me about her son, who had for years lived in gross sin, and had never lived a holy life, "Well, he prayed the prayer and I believe he is saved." It is the polluted gospel which teaches men to pamper a delusion, rather than to pray for deliverance for those who are evidently the captives of Satan. (II Tim. 2:26).

The polluted gospel is flashy, fleshy, and frothy. It does all kinds of cute things to attract the flesh. It lacks substance, hates doctrine and anything and everything which does not generate numbers. The polluted gospel is pragmatic. If anything will produce outward results, it is used. If it doesn't produce outward success, then it is trashed. Many precious doctrines can be found in the dumpsters behind churches preaching the polluted gospel. The polluted gospel will do anything to be able to give a glowing report of apparent success. It refuses to wait for the moving of the Spirit and knows nothing of the power of God. [II Tim. 4:3,4; Rom. 15:19].

The polluted gospel perverts the order of God. It claims the sinner *elects God* and then God *elects* the sinner! But the pure Gospel order tells us by that more sure word of prophecy, that God's choice was made before the foundation of the world. Because God chose, we come, we receive, we believe. The pure gospel is grace all the way, [II Pet. 1:19; 11 Tim. 1:9; Eph. 1:4].

The polluted gospel is a deceptive thing. Thousands have sucked up this slop. They are saved! They know it is true, for the prophets have told them it is so, as they told Ahab he would be victorious over the Syrians, [I Kings 22:6] but the bow drawn by venture canceled their prophecy! When someone is saved, you don't have to tell him the news but he will tell you! Remember John Jasper's conversion! [*Jn. Jasper*, by Hatcher, chapter 23, which I have never been able to read without tears.]

There is not one line of good news in the polluted gospel. It is no good now, no good in death, and it is no good when you stand before the Lord. Its converts are of the same cloth of those made by the Pharisees two-fold more the child of Hell. Those who receive the polluted gospel are like the man who had an evil spirit. That spirit departed on his own. Later when he returned he found his house empty, swept and decorated. He did not move back in alone, but went and got seven other spirits more wicked than himself and they all entered and dwelt there. The last state of the man was worse than the first. So, it is with those who receive a polluted gospel, it may reform but it cannot renew! [Mt. 23:7,5; 12:43-45].

The polluted gospel lets people down now –"Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law..." [Gal. 5:4]. It lets them down in the judgment, "Depart from me ye workers of iniquity." It delights now, damns then. It is temporarily sweet but eternally bitter, easy now, but damnably hard then. It salves conscience here but there it will like a maggot gnaw, gnaw and gnaw. [Gal. 5:4; Mt. 7:23; Lk. 16:].

The polluted gospel is a perverted gospel and is under a double curse of God. [Gal. 1:7,8]. It is to be destroyed like Babylon and Tyre, never to rise more. Thanks be unto God there is a time coming when the pure gospel of all grace will invade this world like a mighty army. Then, the earth shall be full of the knowledge and glory of the Lord as waters that cover the sea. There will not be one false syllable of this polluted gospel to be found in the whole earth.

This gospel which is revealed in Holy Scripture shall be preached in time and eternity. It shall run forever-more. Because this gospel tells of the power, glory, and majesty of the Lord Jesus Christ we must preach it as faithfully as we can.

We are not ashamed of this gospel of God. It is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believes, to the Jew first and also to the Gentile. The gospel is not worn out. It is not weakened by proclaiming it. It is not polluted by preaching it to the vilest sinners out of Hell. The gospel is like the sunlight. Even though it shines in the pig pen it is still white and bright, clean and clear.

We are not of those who are afraid to preach the gospel. We believe the Commission is clear, current, and to be celebrated by the tongues of God-called men in every nation and tongue and people. Preach the gospel on mountain. Preach it in valley. Preach it on continents. Preach it in the Isles. Preach it to moral. Preach it to immoral. Preach it to Jews. Preach it to Gentiles. Preach it here. Preach it to regions beyond. Let the gospel go. Lay the reigns on the neck of the gospel. Let the world hear the true, pure gospel of all grace. The alternative is unthinkable!

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