



DAMAGES OF THE PROSPERITY GOSPEL

RAISING A DEFENCE

INTRODUCTION...

As we continue with our series on the Prosperity Gospel, we would like to repeat the point that these teachings are NOT against the Biblical doctrine of Prosperity.

We are highlighting, erroneous, unbalanced, misplaced and heretical practices in the contemporary Church today.

INTRODUCTION...

- It is the duty of sound leadership to teach and equip the Saints with Truth so that they can discern error and avoid wrong doctrine.
- ¹⁴ So that we are no longer children [spiritually immature], tossed back and forth [like ships on a stormy sea] and carried about by every wind of [shifting] doctrine, by the cunning *and* trickery of [unscrupulous] men, by the deceitful scheming of people ready to do anything [for personal profit]. ¹⁵ But speaking the truth in love [in all things—both our speech and our lives expressing His truth], let us grow up in all *things* into Him [following His example] who is the Head—Christ.

Ephesians 4:14-15





1. CARNALITY

- However, brothers and sisters, I could not talk to you as to spiritual people, but [only] as to worldly people [dominated by human nature], *mere* infants [in the new life] in Christ! I fed you with milk, not solid food; for you were not yet able *to receive it*. Even now you are still not ready.
- You are still worldly [controlled by ordinary impulses, the sinful capacity]. For as long as there is jealousy and strife *and* discord among you, are you not unspiritual, and are you not walking like ordinary men [unchanged by faith]? ..1 Corinthians 3.

CARNALITY

- Carnality is the preoccupation with SELF, Ego and the flesh. It is when Christians are not spirit filled or spirit led but dominated by the flesh and what it wants.
- We all have legitimate needs, but we are also called to serve and follow Christ. When our wants and needs come before God's wants and needs for us, we are CARNAL!



WORSHIP THE LEADER

- ³ “You shall have no other gods before Me. Exodus 20:3
- ⁹ There shall no strange god be in thee; neither shalt thou worship any strange god.
Psalm 81:9



WORSHIPPING THE PASTOR

- You have a semi cult culture in some churches where the Pastor's word, teaching or instruction overrides the Bible.
- Christians caught up in these churches cannot seem to think, reason or act by themselves. They defend blindly and can be overly sensitive to any critical review of their church or leader.



IMMORALITY

- I can hardly believe the report about the sexual immorality going on among you—something that even pagans don't do. I am told that a man in your church is living in sin with his stepmother.
 - ²You are so proud of yourselves, but you should be mourning in sorrow and shame. And you should remove this man from your fellowship.
- 1 Corinthians 5





IMMORALITY

- The culture of immorality amongst certain churches can be very concerning. However, those in these churches have normalized the improper behavior.
- In some cases, it is the Leaders that model this level of immorality by their lifestyles or there are open secrets of what the Pastor gets up to.

NO WITNESSES...

- ²⁶ If anyone is ashamed of me and my message, the Son of Man will be ashamed of that person when he returns in his glory and in the glory of the Father and the holy angels.
Luke 9:26





NO WITNESS...

- The emphasis from the Prosperity Gospel is self, so Believers have no time or place to share the Gospel or be witnesses.
- Many in these churches are taught to “Bring people to Church” rather than share the Gospel.
- Many Believers in these churches have no Boldness or Fire to preach or share the Gospel. Many cannot even summon the courage to share the Gospel with their neighbours or go on mission to villages and areas outside their city.

LUKEWARMNESS...



- ¹⁶ But since you are like lukewarm water, neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth!

Revelation 3:16

LUKEWARM CHRISTIANS

- The message from God is, "You are of no use to me"
- Lukewarmness is one leg in the church and one leg in the world. In other words, "make up your mind!"
- Lukewarmness is; God can't really use you whilst the world doesn't know what to make of you.



LUKEWARM CHURCHGOERS...



- ¹³ “You are the salt of the earth. But what good is salt if it has lost its flavor? Can you make it salty again? It will be thrown out and trampled underfoot as worthless.
Matthew 5:13

Selfish Congregations Breed Desperate Leaders...



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- ¹⁰ I also discovered that the Levites had not been given their prescribed portions of food, so they and the singers who were to conduct the worship services had all returned to work their fields.
 - ¹¹ I immediately confronted the leaders and demanded, “Why has the Temple of God been neglected?” Then I called all the Levites back again and restored them to their proper duties. ¹² And once more all the people of Judah began bringing their tithes of grain, new wine, and olive oil to the Temple storerooms.
- Nehemiah 13

SELFISH CONGREGATIONS....

- Don't ignore your Pastors and leaders living conditions
- Don't build your own homes and ignore the condition of the church house
- Don't be tight fisted towards your Pastors and the house of God
- Realise you will create or change your Pastor with your selfishness.





And The List Goes
On...

Egoistical Leaders	Narcissistic Believers	Abuse of Power
Abuse of Leaders	Elitist Mentality	Churchgoers not Disciples
Attractional Church vs Missional	Corruption of Faith	Church Reputation Damaged
	Etc....	



THE DEFENCE

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- In this section, we will begin to examine the Biblical way to counter the erosive effects of the Prosperity Gospel.
 - This will empower you as a Believer to discern, defend and disseminate Truth.
 - Using the analogy of armour as described by the Holy Spirit through Paul, let us unpack and understand how to use this in practice.

ARMOURY

¹¹ Put on the full armor of God [for His precepts are like the splendid armor of a heavily-armed soldier], so that you may be able to [successfully] stand up against all the schemes *and* the strategies *and* the deceits of the devil.

Ephesians 6



HELMET

- The true doctrine and revelation about your Salvation will protect your 'Head' which symbolizes your mind and thinking patterns.
- Jesus came in His first Advent to give Eternal life and rescue us from the tyranny of Sin. John 3:16
- He will come in His Second Advent to change the world and bring about everything and more what Prosperity Gospel teachers are trying to articulate. Revelation 21:1





HELMET

- ²¹ She will give birth to a Son, and you shall name Him Jesus (The LORD is salvation), for He will save His people from their sins.

Matthew 1:21

HELMET

- Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away (vanished), and there is no longer any [a]sea. ² And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, arrayed like a bride adorned for her husband; ³ and then I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, "
- See! The tabernacle of God is among men, and He will live among them, and they will be His people, and God Himself will be with them [b][as their God,] ⁴ and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be death; there will no longer be sorrow *and* anguish, or crying, or pain; for the [c]former order of things has passed away.



BREASTPLATE

- The protective covering of the chest, torso and important organs like the lungs, heart and stomach.
- The Breastplate of righteousness is synonymous with the garment of righteousness (Is 61:10)
- A garment covers your nakedness. It means God has clothed you with His righteousness.



BREASTPLATE

- I will rejoice greatly in the LORD,
My soul will exult in my God;
For He has clothed me with
garments of salvation,
He has covered me with a robe of
righteousness,
As a bridegroom puts on
a [turban](#),
And as a bride adorns herself with
her jewels
Isaiah 61:10



BREASTPLATE

- When you are covered by God, you are safe and secure. He is your protection.
- You do not need some special prayers by a money charging prophet to be fully protected.
- Your sins have been forgiven. You do not need a Pastor to plead with God on your behalf. You can go directly to Him yourself.
- Your sins are gone! Yes, you can be prayed for to be delivered when you got saved but you do not need to keep going back again and again for deliverance.



BELT

- The Belt holds up our clothing and firms up the armour.
- Truth unpins and holds up our lives
- Truth opens our eyes to see things as they are. Discernment is key in the life of the believer.
- Fantasy is for kids; truth is for adults or the mature.





BELT OF TRUTH

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- ¹³ However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own *authority*, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.

John 16:13



THE ENTRANCE OF YOUR WORDS GIVES
LIGHT; IT GIVES UNDERSTANDING TO
THE SIMPLE.
PSALM 119:130

TRUTH DISPELS
LIES

Truth Dispels Lies and Darkness

- The gullible are saved by inspired teaching
- Good information helps to remove the veil from those blinded but open to truth
- Loving and anointed Bible study helps people see the truth in the scriptures and become free from error
- The Holy Spirit can teach us and open our minds to what He really means in scripture.



SHIELD

- The shield of Faith dispels the arrows of accusation, lies and darkness from the enemy.
- The principle is that you need to be secured and anchored in the Word to protect you from the enemy.
- This is a spiritual and mental battle primarily.



SHIELD

- ¹⁶ above all, taking the shield of faith with which, you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.

Ephesians 6:16



SHIELD of Faith...

17 SO THEN FAITH *COMES* BY
HEARING, AND HEARING BY
THE WORD OF GOD.
ROMANS 10:17





AND TAKE...THE SWORD OF THE
SPIRIT, WHICH IS THE WORD OF
GOD. EPHESIANS 6:17

SWORD

SWORD

- ³ Now when the tempter came to Him, he said, "If You are the Son of God, command that these stones become bread."
- ⁴ But He answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'
Matthew 4



Sword of the SPIRIT...



- The inspired word from the heart and mouth of the Believer cuts through the enemy's lies and attacks
- You need to have the Word in your Heart which gives the Holy Spirit material to draw from to counter the enemy in your life.

CONTENTMENT...

- ⁶Now godliness with contentment is great gain. ⁷For we brought nothing into *this* world, ^[d]*and it is* certain we can carry nothing out. ⁸And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content. ⁹But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and *into* many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. .



CONTENTMENT...

- ¹⁰For the love of money is a root of all *kinds of* evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.
1 Timothy 6:10



GOOD SHEPHERDS...

- ¹⁷ Obey your spiritual leaders and do what they say. Their work is to watch over your souls, and they are accountable to God. Give them reason to do this with joy and not with sorrow. That would certainly not be for your benefit.

Hebrews 13



HOLY SPIRIT...

- ²⁷ But you have received the Holy Spirit, and he lives within you, so you don't need anyone to teach you what is true. For the Spirit teaches you everything you need to know, and what he teaches is true—it is not a lie. So just as he has taught you, remain in fellowship with Christ.

1 John 2:27

