**Will the True Church Wake Up?**

Quotes by *Ray Comfort of Living Waters Ministries;* presented in the Evidence Study Bible/KJV Bible

 The modern church has proclaimed a false gospel “easy believe-ism”, that promotes a decision without knowing the whole truth of **Who God is**, **What God expects**, **Who we are before God** and **What He has done for us through Jesus Christ.** That has produced many false converts [backsliders]. They don’t find the true relationship with God that He desires with Him. The Bible warns: 2Pet 2:20: “For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein & overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning.”

 However, even more tragic than the false converts who fall away from the faith are the false converts who stay within the Church. They profess the Christian faith, but their hypocritical lifestyles don’t match what they profess. The Bible calls them “goats” among the “sheep.” When the Good Shepherd separates the ‘goats’ from among the ‘sheep.’ The sheep (true converts) will go into everlasting life & the goats (false converts) will go into everlasting damnation (Mat 25:46).

 Here is the difference between the true gospel & the false gospel. The false message says that you should come to Christ “because something is missing in your life” or “you have a God-shaped hole in your heart” or “God has a wonderful plan for your life.” This is true, **but** life-improvement is not the right motivation for God to restore relationship with us guilty sinners.

 Jer 23:17 “They say.. ‘The LORD has said, ‘You shall have peace;’ they say unto everyone that walks after the imagination of his own heart, ‘No evil shall come upon you.’” Pro 17:15 “He that **justifieth the wicked** & he that **condemns the just**, they are abomination to the Lord”

 “This also is the message of modern evangelism. A blasphemous world is told that God loves them ‘as they are’ & that they can have peace with Him by “asking Jesus into their heart.” This is not the gospel. “**We must be careful to sow the pure seed of the gospel, lest we reap false converts**.” *Ray Comfort*

1. **Who God is:**

For Lev 19:2 teaches us, ‘..Speak unto all the congregation of the children of Israel, and say unto them, ‘You shall be **holy**, for I the LORD your God am **holy**.”

Be **perfect:** Matt 5:48 “Be you therefore **perfect** (complete), even as your Father which is in heaven is **perfect** (complete).” He is **just**. For in 1Jn 1:9 “If we confess our sins, **He is faithful and just** to forgive our sins, and to cleanse us from all **unrighteousness**.”

1. **Who we are before God:**

 **The Law** was given to speak to our conscience, **bring us knowledge of sin** in our heart & to show us that we desperately need a Savior. We must realize as Eph 2:1 says that ‘**We were dead in trespasses & sins**.’ In Isa 59:1-2 ‘Behold the LORD’s hand is not shortened, that He cannot save: neither His ear heavy that He cannot hear: **but your iniquities have separated between you & your God, and your sins have hid His face from you, that He will not hear.** We must realize how serious our sin is to a **holy God**;

**Be righteous:** For Rom 3:10-18 “As it is written, There is **none righteous**, no, not one; There is none that understands, there is none that seeks after God. They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that does good, no, not one.. **There is no fear of God before their eyes.”**

Rom 2:5-9 “after your hardness & impenitent heart you treasure up unto yourself **wrath** against the dayof **wrath** & revelation of the **righteous judgment of God**; who will render to every man according to his deeds: To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory & honor & immortality, eternal life: **but** unto them that are contentious & don’t obey the truth, **but** obey unrighteousness, indignation & wrath, tribulation & anguish, upon every soul of man that does evil, of the Jew first & also the Gentile.”

1. **What God expects:**

**Until we forsake them (our sins) through repentance, we cannot be made alive in Christ**.

Prov 28:13 “He that covers his sins shall not prosper. **But whoso confesses & forsakes them shall have mercy.**” Without the rich mercy of God in Christ, we will come under God’s justice and His just **wrath abides on us and our sin**, and we will end up in the lake of fire or **hell**.

## Acts 17:26-31 [Warning] “[He] has made of one blood all nations of men.. That they should seek the Lord, in hope that they might find Him though He be not far from every one of us: For in Him we live & move & have our being.. For as much as we are an offspring of God, we ought not to think the Godhead (divine nature) is like gold or silver or shaped stone of man’s devising. And the times of this ignorance God winked at (overlooked); **but now** **commands all men everywhere** to **repent**: **Because He has ap-pointed a day, in which He will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom He has ordain-ed;** whereof He has given assurance unto all men**, in that He has raised Him from the dead.”**

1Thes 1:9,10 [Example of Thessalonians] “..you **turned to God** from idols to serve the living and true God; And to **wait for His Son from heaven**, whom **He raised from the dead**, even **Jesus**, which **deliv-ered us from the wrath to come**.”

**The only way we can make peace with a holy God is to repent of our sin and trust Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. Each person must turn from their own will & surrender to His will**.

Had there been no **perfect righteousness** demanded by the Law, Jesus would not have had to suffer & die on the cross to provide that **perfect righteousness** of the **perfect God-man to count for payment for the penalty of our sins**.

1. **What He has done for us through Jesus Christ:**

1Jn 2:1-2 “..If any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the **righteous**: And He is the propitiation [atoning sacrifice] for our sins: & not for our sins only, but also for the sins of the world.”

Jer 24:7 “I will give them a **heart to know Me, that I am the LORD**: and they shall be My people, and I will be their God: for they shall return unto Me with their whole heart.” This is what happens to a person at conversion when He surrenders to Jesus Christ. We who didn’t know God, now know Him. He opens our blind eyes to His majesty. Nothing is the same as it was before. “**We are new creatures in Christ**.”

Isa 43:7 “Even every one that is called by My name: for **I have created him for My glory**..” Num 14:21 “But as truly as I live, **all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the LORD**.” We look forward to it.

1. **What Hinders God’s Work in the Church: the world:**

 “The invasion of the Church by the world hinders the extension of Christ’s kingdom. In all ages conformity to the world by Christians has resulted in lack of spiritual life & a consequent lack of spiritual vision.. A socialized or self-centered church can never evangelize the world.” *John R. Mott/Nobel Peace Prize 11/14/46-YMCA* “Christianity today is man-centered not God-centered.” *A. W. Tozer/ 1897-1963*

 “For as much as we need to convert the lost to Christianity, more & more we need to convert the Christians to Christianity.” *C. K. Chesterton/ English Christian Apologist/ 1874/1936*

 “**Unless God is pleased to grant a real revival**, it will not be long ere ‘the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people’.. for the light of the true gospel is rapidly disappearing.

 Those preachers that tell sinners that they would be saved without forsaking their idols, without repenting, without surrendering to the Lordship of Christ, are as erroneous & dangerous as others who insist that salvation is by works & that heaven must be earned by our own efforts.” *A.W. Pink/1886-1952*

Titus 3:5 “Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us..”

“God never forces His will on men. He calls them to Himself but if they will not follow Him, then God lets them have their own way. Every time we give up a part of our faith to fit into the ways of the world – we lose – a precious part of God’s promise – a sacrifice to the world & the world will never give it back.

 “And someday when the world tells us we can no longer have our religion except where they say, and God is driven from our schools, government and homes, then God’s people can look back and know our religion was not taken from us; it was given up and handed over bit by bit until there was nothing left.” *Robert Sheffey* in 1902 *from the movie “Sheffey”*

1. **What Hinders God’s Work in the Church: Satan:**

“**Satan has got men fast asleep in sin**. He does not care what we do if he can do that. We may sing songs about the sweet by and by, preach sermons & say prayers until doomsday & he will never concern himself about us, if we don’t wake anybody up. **But if we awake the sleeping sinner**, he will gnash on us with his teeth. **This is our work: to wake people up**.” *Catherine Booth, wife to William Booth/Salvation Army*

“**The world sleeps** peacefully in the darkness of ignorance, in the prison of sin & at the same time there is the call for the flames of eternal justice. There is **only one door** to ‘escape death.’ **The Church has been entrusted with the task of awakening them before it is too late.** There are only a few who run headlong into the flames to warn them to flee. Will you be one of them?” *Charles Spurgeon/British/ 1832-1892*

1. **God’s Purpose for His Church Revived: Wake up:**

“**Would to God the Church was on fire. This world would shake in its foundation. May God wake up a slumbering church**: It’s not to shout Amen & clap hands but **to do the work of God**; There will be a time to shout later.” *D. L. Moody/ American Evangelist/ 1837-1899*

“Here is a perfect description of the contemporary church, especially in America with its beautiful facil-ities, finest music & state-of-the-art technology. It has busied itself in everything but the will of God: Lk 19:10 ‘**to seek and to save the lost**.’ It is the lukewarm church where only 2% have any concern for the salvation of the world. **The root of the problem is a lack of the fear of the Lord**.” *Ray Comfort*

“If God’s primary purpose for the saved was loving fellowship, He should take believers to heaven im-mediately where spiritual fellowship is perfect. If His primary purpose for us was learning God’s Word, He would also take believers immediately to heaven, where the Word is perfectly known & understood. If God’s primary purpose for us was to give Him praise, He would again take believers immediately to heav-en where praise is perfect & unending. **There is only one reason God allows His Church to remain on** **earth: ‘seek and to save the lost**.’ Fellowship, teaching & praise are not the mission of the church, but are rather **the preparation of the church to fulfill the mission of winning the lost**..” *John MacArthur*

“The Church was a glorious means to the task of finishing the Great Commission. A Christian who gives his life to Christ enters into the realm of responsibility. Ps 67:1,2. “God be merciful unto us and bless us; & cause His face to shine upon us. (Why?) **That Thy way** may be known upon earth: your salvation to all nations (God gives us salvation-we give our life back to serve Him).” *Andrew Murray S.Africa 1828/1917*

Ezek 37:5,10 “God said unto these dry bones: ‘I will cause breath (spirit) to enter into you & you shall live.. **Breath came into them & they lived & stood up upon their feet, an exceeding great army**.”

 “The world sits in the valley of the shadow of death. Those who do not know the Lord are dead in trespasses & sins. **We have been commanded to preach the Word of the Lord to their dry bones. May God breathe His Spirit into them, raising up a great army to reach this lost & dying world.**

There are dry bones even in the church if you think you can call yourself a Christian and participate in any kind of sin in the face of & shame to **our great, holy, righteous, just yet loving and merciful God**.” Phil2:15-16 “..in the midst of a crooked & perverse nation, among whom you **shine as lights in the world**; **Holding forth the word of life**.” Rom 13:11 “..that now it is high time to **awake out of sleep**; for now is our salvation (**coming of Christ to deliver us from this sinful world**) nearer than when we believed.”