



# BEHAVIOR CHANGE ≠ HEART CHANGE

Recognizing False Expectations

Selected Scriptures ----- 08-14-2016



# OUTLINE

- Introduction
- False Messiahs we have tried to sell to our culture
  - False Messiahs our culture has bought into
- The New Reality of American Pop Culture
  - American Pop Culture no longer tries to look “Christian”
  - The Great Disconnect of late 20<sup>th</sup> Cent. evangelism models
  - The Tribal Model
- The Behavioral Gospel relies upon “visible” results
  - After X number of failures, new “believers” give up
  - Or, ear-tickling leaders adjust the message...again
- The True Gospel strives for a change of heart first



# INTRODUCTION

- We need to recognize the massive worldview/paradigm shift in our culture

# FALSE MESSIAHS WE TRY TO SELL

- Guru Jesus
  - You need someone to help you reach your dreams...try GJ
- Dr. Phil Jesus
  - You've got problems...try DPJ, If you will just... then life will...
- Free Range Jesus
  - You want no accountability...try FRJ, you can still live wild and free
- Braveheart Jesus
  - You want to restore our nation...try BhJ, we'll fight the political machine together

# FALSE MESSIAHS OUR CULTURE EMBRACES

- Feel Good Jesus
- Healthy Wealthy and, well Healthy and Wealthy Jesus
- Non-offensive Jesus
- Undemanding Jesus
- Pantheistic Jesus
- Panentheistic Jesus
- All-Roads-Lead-to-God Jesus
- The True-Followers-of-God cannot be Christians Jesus
- The Potter who is made in the image of the pot Jesus

# THE OLD REALITY

- Into the 50's and 60's, at least culture tried to “look” Christian
- In reality, our philosophical outlook had already changed
  - It just hadn't worked it's way out yet
- Even the rankest of unbelievers occasionally found it useful to pretend to be a Christian
- The rebellions of last century were not against Christianity, but against the shell of Christianity that had become the face of our culture
  - People were yelling out, “The emperor has not clothes!”

# OUR CULTURE NO LONGER LOOKS CHRISTIAN

- Remember the “outrages” of the 60’s – 90’s?
  - Swear words “on air”
  - Lyrics in songs
  - Eroticism in magazines/movies/literature
  - Witchcraft and Satanism
  - Dishonesty in leaders
- Christians fought to force non-Christians to live by our rules
- The culture rebelled by pushing harder and faster against all boundaries
- Instead of a pseudo-theistic gov’t, we are quickly moving toward manipulated mob-rule and anarchy

# THE GREAT DISCONNECT

- Our understanding of penetrating “primitive” tribal cultures has increased
  - Scripture translation is rapidly expanding
  - Understanding tribal customs
  - Living and loving in person
  - Looking for remnants of Biblical truth in the society
- Missionaries are being trained in how to present the Gospel of Christ instead of the Church of Western Society
- We have acted as though our own culture was still primarily singular
- We have failed to recognize the increasing splintering of our society into many separate but similar tribes





# THE TRIBAL MODEL

- We speak the same language, but have embraced different definitions of key concepts

# \*\*\*THE BEHAVIORAL GOSPEL

- We often focus upon veneer changing instead of heart transformation
  - Hide your sexual immorality...we might reject you
  - Don't let your rage be seen by Christians...that might not look good for you
  - Spiritualize your love of money...God needs to let someone have it
  - Clean the outside of the cup...don't let anyone see the mud in your heart
  - Whitewash the tombstone...others don't want to know that you are still dead in your sins
- There are some sins that it is acceptable to “stumble” in...we all understand
- There are some sins in which “stumbling” is just not acceptable...
- Several generations of children have learned to keep enough veneer clean that they can stand behind it when it is convenient

# GIVING UP

- When there has been no heart-change, and when keeping the veneer clean is no longer attractive, many will simply walk away
- Many churches have adjusted their moral expectations in an effort to keep the veneer-wearers from leaving
  - Keep tithing...don't worry about obedience
  - Show up once in awhile...the body of Christ is not *that* important
  - Sexual immorality is not that bad...see, we even ordain immoral pastors
  - As long as you say you love Jesus, you can really do whatever you want

# THE PROBLEM

- None of us can live up to God's law...apart from Christ dwelling in us
- To be a Christ-less Christian, we must adjust the Law
- We can't even live up to our adjusted Law, so we adjust it again...and again
- And still, our consciences accuse us
- Many of our children have grown up believing this is how Christianity works
- They keep the veneer available, but hidden from their friends
- The true-believers fight for holiness can only be seen properly by other true believers
- To all others, it seems only a legalistic equation
- Too many "Christians" (so-called) have sanctified their love of the world

# SOME WARNINGS TO HEED

- Do not love the world – 1 Jn 2:15-17
- Do not believe every spirit – 1 Jn 4:1-6
- Quit lying about what is in your heart – Mt 23:23-36
- You must be born...again – Jn 3:3,10,16-21
- Beware of the false Christ's/prophets/gospels
  - Mt 24:10-14
  - Gal 1:6-9

# SOME BLESSINGS TO SEEK

- The water Jesus gives satisfies our thirst – Jn 4:10; 6:35; 7:37
- The Lord will be found, if you will seek with all your heart – Deut 4:29; cf. Jn 3:14; Num 21:9
- Life is found in Jesus – Jn 5:26; 11:25
- Jesus is able to cleanse our consciences – Ro 2:15; 8:2*f.*; Heb 10:19-22

# BEHAVIOR CHANGE ≠ HEART CHANGE

Foundation for Understanding Our Hearts

08-21-2016





# WE ARE SINNERS

- We have been born in sin
- We live in sin
- Our sin separates us from God
- The Law was given to help us understand what our sin is
- The Law was given to bring us to Christ





# THE LAW GIVEN TO ADAM

- You may eat of any tree or plant in the garden
- Do not eat of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil



# THE LAW GIVEN TO NOAH

- You may eat of anything that grows or moves (plant or animal), so long as the blood is not in it
- Whoever takes the blood of man shall have his blood taken by man
- Be fruitful, multiply, and fill the earth

# THE LAW GIVEN TO THE JEWS

- No other gods
- No idols (nothing in the place of God)
- Do not profane (misuse) God's name
- Keep the Sabbath holy
- Honor your father and mother
- Do not commit murder
- Do not commit adultery
- Do not steal
- Do not bear false witness
- Do not covet what belongs to another

# SIN MUST BE PUNISHED BY DEATH

- All our efforts at self-created righteousness have earned us no righteousness – Ro 1-3
- The penalty for our sin is death – Ro 3:23]
- In Adam, all die
- The guilty may be saved from death if a pure substitute is offered
  - The temporary substitute – the spotless lamb from one's own flock
  - The permanent substitute – The Lamb of God



# THE LIFE AFTER RE-BIRTH

- The newly born one is of different stock
  - Flesh v. spirit
  - Far from God v. Close to God
  - Alien v. Member of God's own household
  - Dead in Adam v. Alive in Christ
  - Unable to fulfill the Law v. In the One Who Perfectly Fulfilled the Law
  - Slave to death v. Slave to Righteousness
  - Born of the earth, earthy v. Born from Above, Spiritual



# THE LIFE AFTER RE-BIRTH

- Living, yet dead...but not dead, rather, alive in Christ
  - Transformed
  - Saved by the engrafted Word

# THE LIFE AFTER RE-BIRTH

- From hater of the things of God to imitator of God
- From filled with the fruit of unrighteousness to filled with the fruit of the Spirit
- From possessor of a heart of stone to owner of a heart of flesh
- From pot who tries to reshape the potter into his own image to pot who asks the potter to change me into His own image
  - A vessel fit for whatever use He desires
  - Desiring to be a vessel He can use for good things

Saved to Serve







# SAVED TO SERVE

- Go make disciples of all peoples
  - Identifying them as belonging to God
  - Teaching them to obey all He has commanded

# TRIBAL MINISTRY

- Most of the people we meet speak our language, but are vastly different in their beliefs, assumptions, and morality...and hate us if we point this out
- When evangelizing in the jungles, we don't expect immediate acceptance
  - We know that it will take time to earn the trust of the tribe
- When we evangelize our neighbors, we need to learn to earn their trust
  - We should not expect them to change their behavior to suit our tastes
  - We bring them to the God who created them, and to His righteous standards
  - We bring them to Jesus, God in the Flesh, who died in their place
  - We trust God to change their hearts and consequently their lives
    - Out of the proceeds of the heart, the mouth speaks