



BIBLE NUGGETS

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Grace
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A Bible Nugget Special Addition

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Culture Without Christianity - 2 Progressive Christianity?

"Which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other Scriptures, unto their own destruction. You therefore, beloved, seeing you know these things before, beware lest you also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own steadfastness" (2 Peter 3:16).

(1) The Redefinition of Sin:

In 2008, in her master class on the Oprah and Friends network. New Age leader Marianne Williamson led countless Americans through her book, *A Course in Miracles*. Participants were encouraged to affirm "There is no sin," and were taught, "The Atonement is the final lesson (a person) need learn, for it teaches him that, never having sinned, he has no need of salvation." And all of this information supposedly came from Jesus Himself.

Augustine put his finger on a timeless truth. "Christianity is not progressive ... and those who try to mold it into their own preconceived ideas about who God should be, and what the gospel is should not try and twist Scripture to make their points."

(2) The Denial of Absolute Truth:

New Age thought is marked by its relativism: and rejection of objective morality and absolute truth. If something feels true to you, it's true. If it feels right to you. It's right. If something feels real to you, it's reality. In other words, your own thoughts and feelings are your authority for what it is true and real. One distinctive feature of Progressive Christianity is its denial of biblical authority. Typically, Progressive professing Christians shift the authority for what they believe is true from the Bible to themselves - by becoming their own moral compass which will inevitably ebb and flow with the fallen culture.

What Saith The Scriptures?

"But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privately shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. And many shall follow their pernicious (having a harmful effect, especially in a gradual or subtle way) ways: by reason of who the way of the truth shall be evil spoken of. And through covetousness shall they make merchandise of you ..." (2 Peter 2:1-3).

(3) Denial of The Blood Atonement:

These New Age Apostates may say what we say, but they do not mean what we mean. They may couch their teachings in Christian language, but their chief aim is to update the good news of the truth of the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ. They teach that Jesus is just an example of how a person should live. However, “saving” comes from within ourselves when we realize we have the same capabilities as Jesus already within us. Our problem is, we just don’t know it. This is often referred to as “The Christ Consciousness.” This is why many these New Age Progressives see no contradiction in reciting the Lord’s Prayer while believing in karma and the healing power of crystals. Of course there is an outright denial of His death and blood Atonement and bodily Resurrection.

What Saith The Scriptures?

“Thus saith the Lord, Stand you in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and you shall find rest for your souls. But they (the apostates, heretics, new agers and progressives) said, “We will not walk therein” (Jeremiah 6:16).

(4) “Your Best Life Now”

Joel Osteen’s book, “Your Best Life Now” is credited with changing Oprah Winfrey’s life. But, not enough to stop shacking and get married. Your Best Life Now quickly debuted on the New York Times of best-sellers and remained there for more than two years. To date it has sold over 4 million copies. While Osteen claimed to be teaching biblical principles, he was instead picking and choosing isolated verses of the Bible to teach self-empowerment much as Norman Vincent Peale. Yes, Osteen talks about God throughout his book, but it is not the God of the Bible he has in mind. Osteen’s God is little more than mechanism that gives the power to positive thinking. There is no cross. There is no sin. There is no redemption or salvation or eternity to gain or hell to shun. You cannot simply make references to God, quote some Scripture, call what you’re saying “spiritual principles” and pass it off as Christianity. Barbara Walters declared him one of her “10 Most Fascinating People of 2006” and in the same year Church Report Magazine name Osteen the “Most Influential Christian in 2006.” That’s the kind of thing that will have people “choosing to be happy” having “Your Best Life Now” all the way to hell.”

What Saith The Scripture?

“For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple” (Romans 16:18).

The Blood of The Lamb: “On the cross, Satan’s back was broken. He was exposed as a fake, fraud, and imposter. But you’ll never overcome him until you come to the Lord Jesus Christ.” - Dr. Adrian Rodgers

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