

Apostasy in Church

Absurdity of Prosperity Message

Since the *loss* of his *inheritance* in heaven, the enemy has *determined* to find *revenge* by causing the church to *share* in his *disgraceful* fall. Very much aware that in our own strength it is impossible for us to deny the *clamour* of our fallen *nature*, the enemy has perpetually taken advantage of hereditary *weakness* and hence fully engaged his false *insinuations* to *ensnare* all whose trust in God is not. He has devised new schemes and channels with which to assault especially the church. At the *nativity* of our LORD Jesus in a *cuddled* Bethlehem *manger*, the *enemy* already knew that One had now come with a divine *commission* to *dispute* his *dominion* over mankind, and to finally set the church free. This caused the *adversary* to tremble much, at the angel's message *attesting* the *authority* of the new born King. Much as it was difficult to *fathom* the *mystery* of this great *sacrifice* of *love*, the *glory* and the *peace* and *majesty* and the *joy* of heavenly *communion*, were mightily *manifest* abound. That the Son of God should come to this earth as a *man*, certainly *filled* the *adversary* with fearful *amazement* and with an extreme sense of *apprehension*, to mention the least. To the *enemy*, the *declaration* made in the garden of Eden *pronouncing* that,

"I will put enmity between thee and the woman and between thy seed and her seed" (Gen 3:15)

had now indubitably *translated* into the fact that he would not *hold* any *persuasion* over the church, any longer.

"And Jesus being full of the Holy Ghost returned from the Jordan and immediately the Spirit driveth him into the wilderness. And he was there in the wilderness, forty days, tempted by satan, and was with the wild beasts."
"And in those he did eat nothing" (Matthew 4)

In this way, the LORD Jesus clearly *verified* the *authority* of his *commissioning* and that *never* again would the *adversary* ever have a *leeway* for *corrupting* the church. With these words, Christ *highlighted* to the church that the great *appetite* and the excessive *over-indulgence* in the things of this world, were the *grounds* for the greatest *temptation*. And *fasting* would be the *hallmark* for a separated life. This is just where the *ruin* began when the church by the *indulgence* of *appetite* disobeyed and finally *fell*. And yet, it was obvious that when the LORD Jesus *charted* for the church the path to the Holy Ghost by *fasting*, He stood in the strength of perfect *manhood* and possessing the full vigour of *body*, *mind* and *Spirit*, having been surrounded in a daily *communion* with heavenly beings. Armed with this level of Holy Ghost power, the LORD Jesus was then able to enter the *wilderness* and *cope* with the *adversary*. If the church too had stuck upon this *humble* pathway of *wilderness* righteousness, the *apostasy* of this day would never have *ravaged* it this much. It had all along been obvious that the *seductive* excesses of this dark world would be laid by the *adversary*, right before the church, in order to *ensnare* her into *sharing* in the grand *fall* with the *enemy*. "*If Thou be the Son of God, command these stones that it be made bread*". Not without a massive *travail*, could Jesus give *audience* to the enemy. But then "*It is written . . .*" became the eternal *antidote* that literally broke the *backbone* of *deception*. The question then becomes, "how could the church have bought into the seductive *ensnares* of *over-indulgence*?"

Prosperity . . .

The church of Christ in this *era* has mainly been *instituted* on the *sermons* of a *prosperity gospel*, that has caused her *apostate* condition. Today's christians have unfortunately not well *appreciated* that the current *apostasy* in the church, undeniably *amounts* to a house that has literally *renounced* her *loyalty* unto the LORD. JEHOVAH the God of *covenant* firmly *honours* His *pledges* to the extent that mankind can literally *live off* every *word* that *proceeds* out of His mouth. In the *clamour* to sustain her earthly *livelihood*, the church of Christ committed the greatest *blunder* ever, by *forgetting* that the most important *foundation* upon which her *provision* was well *promised*, is *righteousness*. Then there came the *deception*, as if in an answer to her prayer, one in the *guise* of the *prosperity gospel* from heaven, which she *readily* accepted without any careful *afterthought*. Pointing to this reason, over the greater part of her life, the church has virtually *engaged* in the *sermons* of a *false* form of christianity that *fronts* the spiritually *reckless* living in *compromise* with sin. *Strewed* in the church's impaired vision of *prosperity* are all the *excesses* of earthly *wealth* and *pleasures* to the extent that *holiness* has been *sidelined*. This has essentially rendered the church spiritually too *faint* and *feeble* to even enter the *bloodstained* path that Jesus *charted* out for her, on the Cross at Calvary. Though the church well recognized the *bloodstained* highway of *holiness* from the beginning, *contrarily* her act is as though she were not *provoked* into a bitter *controversy* with the broader *highways* of this *sinful* world. Following His passionate *suffering* on the Cross, the LORD Jesus unmistakably *aggravated* the church into an eternal *controversy* with this *evil* dark world. It is His *undaunted* stature on the Cross and the *suffering* of such a condition of things to exist, that raised to the church a *red flag* on the *parleying* with *sin*, that she may not give the enemy an advantage over her life. By *conceding* to the disguised *demands* of this sinful world, nothing good has come out of the church's *worship*, neither has God been glorified by her *praise*. In the *absence* of *holiness*, the *evidence* of christian walk is today *worthless* to break the *stronghold* of *rebellion* in the church and summon God's might, because human *capacity*, *strength* and *power* have indeed predictably *weakened* in the face of such a humongous mountain of earthly *darkness* to surmount. Unfortunately for today's *apostate* pastors, while this scenario perfectly rolls out, faith, which is the pillar of christian walk in the church now *reposes* in God. This kind of *weakening* of *faith* is what has opened a huge door to *deception* and rampart *falsehood* into today's house of the LORD. Only a *righteously* obedient walk in the *highway* of *holiness* can unravel for the church the true defining intent of *holiness* when the LORD said,

"Above all things, I desire that you prosper" (Isaiah 35:8-9)

In God's version of *prosperity*, all *opulence* was originally intended to *draw* the *hearts* of the believers closer and closer to Christ Jesus the *Redeemer*. And yet all this *misconception* on *prosperity* today happens when, on man's behalf, Christ *conquered* such *temptation* by enduring the *severest* of *adversity*. JEHOVAH had earlier on *marked* the *bottom-line* of his *prosperity* for man, by firmly asserting that all *prosperity* must direct the church into a *righteous* and *holier* standing with the Creator. By this means, JEHOVAH opened an unlimited *floodgate* of earthly and heavenly *prosperity* to the church that *hearkens* onto His holy *command*; to be the light of the world. Many spiritually *conscientious* believers look on the *conflict* between JEHOVAH and Israel as having a special *bearing* on the own *life* of today's church. Rightfully so, within the *demarcations* of every christian *heart*, this JEHOVAH-Israel *controversy* is often *repeated* many millions of times a day as mankind *battles* the sharp *arrows* of *sin* that continually strike him. Nonetheless, the LORD's stand on *prosperity* remains the same;

The LORD will grant you abundant prosperity—in the fruit of your womb, the young of your livestock and the crops of your ground—in the land he swore to your forefathers to give you. The LORD will open the heavens, the storehouse of his bounty, to send rain on your land in season and to bless all the work of your hands. You will lend to many nations but will borrow from none. The LORD will make you the head, not the tail. If you pay attention to the commands of the LORD your God that I give you this day and carefully follow them, you will always be at the top, never at the bottom. Do not turn aside from any of the commands I give you today, to the right or to the left, following other gods and serving them (Deut 28:11-20).

However, it is the *faulting* of the word of God in this *dispensation*, that has largely magnified *apostasy* today and the blatant practice of open *lawlessness* and shameless *heedlessness* in the church of Christ. As pronounced in the word, in his open expression of his *intention* to *prosper* mankind here on the earth, nevertheless was it God's *object* that such *prosperity* focus the *heart* of the church entirely into the *perishable* decay realm. By *design* though, God's ultimate *blueprint* for man's creation very much implied that every blessing of *prosperity* would be able to *cause* him to be caught up with the *Messiah* in the glorious *gathering* at *rapture*. However, it is now more and more *evident* and to a greater extent that the *conception* of this novel *plan* of God still remains for the most part, *misconstrued* to the present church. For this reason, the grievous spiritual *misinterpretation* that today presents the false gospel of *prosperity*, has by and large *wiped-out* the church's *authority* and *honour*, to a state of near-*irrelevance*. With most of today's believers in this *degenerate* condition, worship *observance* has now been seriously reduced to a mere *formalism*. As one *keenly* observes the church's worship services today, it is difficult to miss out on the *men-of-the-cloth* performing their *solemn* ministry while the house is *thronged* by suffering victims upon the altar of *sacrifice*. So great is the *suffering* in the present-day church that the *ailing* virtually remain in affliction with neither *deliverance* nor *healing* visiting the altar. While showing how *narrowly superficial* the *wisdom* of men is, today's absence of the Divine presence of the Holy Spirit raises every question before the church, and places the *truth* of God in an entirely new *aspect*. Today's *seductive* sermons on *prosperity* and *financial wealth transfer*, have undoubtedly failed to present themselves *watertight* to the *truth*, and instead manifested a serious *waterloo* at such a critical *hour*. Caught up in the *contemplation* of these spiritual *settings*, today's *holy devout elect* of God who have vowed to remain beside the LORD, and *resolvedly* opted to seek to be separated, will *undeniably* constitute the *rapture* church. The amazing manner in which *post-modernism* in the church has in this day and age *beheld* itself *true* to type, thereby faithfully *replicating* its object worldly values, is what has now *re-awakened* new *impulses* on a greater problem at hand. The *anonymity* and *impunity* that *scorns* today's post-modern lifestyles is what has now permitted pastors to openly confess to living for self, as the christians *convert* to a more *casual* relationship with the ALMIGHTY. Contrary to their *expectation*, it is the *theological* human *wisdom* being *lectured* by pastoral *graduands* of modern-day bible colleges that has most systematically *overtaken* the *guise* and caused the Spirit-filled christians to see their *meaning* more *clearly*. The LORD Jesus Himself became *obedient* in every particular to the word of God taught in the Synagogue, but He wisely did not *conform* to their rabbinical *rites* and *usage*, instead choosing to learn the *reverence* of God Almighty. Likewise should any serious pastoral student have *listened* to the *theological* lectures, and instead aptly *leaned* on the greatest *promise* God ever released to the church, the promise of the Holy Spirit as the ultimate *Teacher*. This is the kind of *resolve* that can break the *vicious* cycle of *corrupt* shepherds and shepherding. Modern christianity in its finest *manoeuvring*, through its *adulterated* gospel of 'sow-a-seed to get your miracle', has been proven seriously *deficient* of the *prerequisite* benchmark of *holiness*, to the *degree* that church has today largely become business enterprises whose sole purpose is to gather *wealth*.

This pitiless *fleeing* of the LORD's sheep is what now brings in common scenes of preachers acting *comical* even on matters that seriously *hinge* on the *Cross* and the *Blood* of Jesus. It is incredible though that the *peddlers* of money-*laundering* in today's church cannot see that their expectations in regard to *prosperity* are not sustainable by biblical prophecy that define this *hour*. Neither can the preachers of *prosperity* admit that they have *misapprehended* the scripture that they so-claim to *teach* and uphold. And by the '*defunct vehicle*' of spiritual *fatherhood*, from one to another, they have passed-on the *iniquity*. It is as though the scripture in John 1:5 has been painfully *fulfilled* right before our own eyes when it said,

"The light was shining in darkness; but the darkness apprehended it not" (John 1:5).

God has persistently been seeking to give *light* to man as he *gropes* in *darkness*, causing JEHOVAH to *deliberately* use the only means by which he can reach out to mankind. *Repentance* as authored by the *Blood* of Jesus will forever continue to remain the only means by which the LORD can help facilitate man's *cross-over* from pitch *darkness* of sin into the brilliant *light* of the truth. However, for today's *shepherds* though, the *scenario* is much more *sophisticated* than earlier thought, owing to their '*learned*' nature. In their *pride*, the pastors of these last days have seriously and most somberly *scorned* to *admit* that they should receive *instructions* from any *messenger* sent by the LORD to advocate *repentance*. In their deplorable *departure* from the *truth*, today's *apostate* pastors, evangelists, false apostles and false prophets have lost sight of the *Coming* of the *Messiah*, and they know not that He has just *tarried* behind for the purposes of *repentance*. In such manner, today's *apostasy* has literally caused all the prosperity-preaching shepherds to act as a form of *anti-climax*, in which they have *halted* the rest from revival, yet also missing the helpful hand that the LORD has extended at this *hour*.

"See, I will send you the prophet Elijah before that great and dreadful day of the LORD comes. He will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers; or else I will come and strike the land with a curse." (Malachi 4:5-6)

The time of this promised endtime revival is nigh and here. Markedly, an *indismissible* Holy Ghost revival is today beginning to restore *righteousness* and *holiness* across the ends of the earth. It is the youthful *modesty* and *grace* of this, endtime Holy Ghost revival that will eventually *disarm* the *prejudices* of the *prosperity* priesthood in its totality in order to *unconsciously open* their *minds* to the word of God, that the Holy Spirit may speak to their *hearts*. But while that blessed revival is yet to totally consume the earth, today's spiritual *decay* indeed marks a significant *departure* from the expected norm. This is owing to the fact that any church which especially walks the *highway* of *holiness*, should have *trusted* the LORD's *counsel* explicitly on matters of *repentance*. Furthermore, even in the greatest milieu of money-preaching and *prosperity* advocacy, the fears on the unexpected return of the *Messiah* are beginning to be aroused. The church in her best spiritual *performance* and *sensibility* knows it too well that never was an earthly *confined* living, the original intention for which Jesus was sent to the Cross to pay such a horrific *heart-wrenching* price of *redemption*. Because of its obvious *inborn* spiritual *shortfalls*, the *prosperity* gospel has completely failed to *rebuke* the sin that has today *intruded* the church, and instead opted to accommodate *worldliness* and spiritual *decay* within the christian fraternity. Rejoiced as they may seem today, this kind of *apostate* church cannot however afford the *luxury* of *forgetting* the *grief* and *anxiety* that their unreadiness will cause upon the return of the *Messiah*.

"I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. This is to my Father's glory, that you bear much fruit, showing

yourselves to be my disciples (John 15:5-8).

Blessed are they that the *Messiah* will return only to find them fruitfully hearkened unto the true vine of the glorious *vineyard*, while *woe* unto they that will be found in an *unfruitful* place of *prosperity* gospel and the sermons of *financial wealth transfer*. When the church ceases to uphold her *stature* as the *light* of the world, then *divinity* ceases to *flash* through *humanity* because gross *darkness* befalls. Spiritual *decomposition* of this nature is today responsible for the rampant *ungodliness* and systems of *heathenism* that have invaded the church. In a *snapshot*, it would appear as though for an entire *lifespan*, the church and her *apostate* priesthood has lost *sight* of Him whom they should not have ever forgotten, even for a moment. It is the reason for the heavy manifestation of excessive *perversion*, *love of money*, *sexual immorality*, *homosexuality*, *lesbianism*, *gayism*, even among the pastors. Now, if the LORD is the True Vine upon whom the branches depend for a daily livelihood, how then can anyone forget about Him, even for a moment. The *ilk* of *lawlessness* in the house of the LORD has primarily been *sustained* by the fact that on every *opportune* occasion for *re-awakening*, the *anxiety* of the christian has mainly been *relieved*, by casting blame on the devil's act, and yet not by *censuring* themselves for *compromise*. Where then is the *authority* and *power* of the Blood of Jesus that was shed at Calvary! This kind of *reproof* by the Holy Spirit is principally designed to *enlighten* the church on what has negatively *impacted* her central *calling* to *evangelize* the righteous nature of the *Redeemer*. A *derisory* fall of this *cadre* has a lot to do with her being brushed in bad light, to the extent that in most occasions, today's christian now bears a *repulsive*, other than *attractive* image which the *heathen* would neither long to bear, nor desire to associate with. This does not do any good to *disseminating* the gospel since it essentially disclaims *kinship* with God.

The robust *rubric* of such a *disgraceful* fall, is what has essentially sustained the *momentum* of the current most appalling state of *perennial* spiritual *infancy* in the church. Unfortunately, this spiritual *immaturity* is what has now become the *hallmark* of christian walk today. Needless to say, the falling away from true faith has today well *entrenched* in the church, even to the extent that believers are now reduced to a *despondent* batch that could care less about the word and its inherent power. It is *regrettable* that this contemptible *plummet* has gone on globally and virtually undetected for a very long time, and even more so this late in the day. The failure to *intuit* this seemingly obvious but very *sneaky* fall in the church, is what has majorly contributed to the loss of *sensibility* to sin among christians. It is a *numbness* that has raised the church's threshold to sin, hence *lulling* her to eternal *damnation*, in a form of *spiritual gangrene*. Sadly, it is so disheartening to realise that the real definition of *gangrene* is as a matter of fact the local death and decay of the body as a result of lack of blood in that area. It can be said of the church today, that she surely lacks the Blood of Jesus in the body. If she doesn't *repent* urgently, this *gangrene* could as well kill her.

The raising of the threshold to sin and evil simply means that christians gradually become *accustomed* to not only observing *sin* in the church, but also accommodating it in their personal lives. This is the *careless living* of compromise with the world, that has apparently not factored in the *fear* of the LORD and his holy reputation. Spiritual *numbness* of this *sort* is what has exactly *besmirched* worship to the extent that today christians no longer view their *lifestyles* as the *true worship* that Jesus taught on the Cross. If there was any take-home lesson that Jesus *emblematically* left on the Cross, it was the crucifixion of the flesh. In that most *exuberant* greatest disposition of love towards the church, as the LORD gave His life on the Cross, He also *unveiled* to her the biggest *secret* to a successful christian lifestyle. And that *secret* literally lay in the complete *obliteration* of the sinful *desires* of the *flesh* in order to be born-again. This is one particular aspect of christian salvation that the larger majority of the present-day christians have least understood. Contrary to the *sad* association of material possession with success, a true successful

christian *lifestyle* involves the shunning of sin and walking in absolute *holiness* for entry into the kingdom of God. The failure by the Pastors to *augment* their teachings with this novel *cradle* of the gospel (the Cross), is what has now turned church services into a great *dishonour* of our time, hence reducing it into mere *pascal* rituals of human traditions, other than a true worship in the *spirit* and in the *truth*. It is surprising though, that a form of *faithlessness* has gradually encroached into the holy pulpit, with the shepherds *veritably* lacking the *conviction* to believe for divine provision from the LORD. This lack of *assurance* that is currently *proliferating* among Pastors to the effect that God may not be able to miraculously provide for them in this day and age, is what has unfortunately hatched out a stinging wave of *virulent* false teachers of the word. This clique has today mutated into a bunch of Pastors who can outrightly *lie* publicly, in order to *loot* offerings and the so-called '*seed*' money from the faithful. They are the false prophets of the day. The priesthood today can openly *deceive* and *feast* on the *sins* of the saints in order to earn their so-called decent *living*.

They feed on the sins of my people and relish their wickedness (Hosea 4:8).

Promised in the beginning as one of the key *landmarks* of the last days, it is nevertheless most painful to live to see this *apostasy* play itself to full course in our time. This level of *officious worldliness*, with its *sully*ing *post-modernism*, right at the centre of the church, is what has finally provoked GOD Almighty to releasing the horrific *pangs* of the Rider of the BLACK APOCALYPTIC HORSE. Though, a necessary step within the prophetic timeline to *rapture*, this third HORSEMAN is intended to shake mankind from his more *earthly inclination*, back to a heavenly *proclivity*. The LORD intended that the subsequent global economic crisis unleashed by this HORSEMAN is what is meant to *REPROVE* this *apostate* church back to the *echelon* of her *holiness*. By collapsing and melting down all the structures of prosperity that had *beclouded* the christian *vision*, the LORD Almighty purposed that the release of the BLACK HORSE purge the hearts of the saints off *materialism* back to spiritual *purity*. Such structures of prosperity that had lodged themselves inside the hearts of the christians, include aspects like accumulation of financial stock reserves, idolizing of homes and cars, priding in what they do and have. Surely these structures had robbed God off the attention of man. Even among the Israelites, JEHOVAH has been super passionate about *covenant* keeping, *reverence*, *worship diligence* and a non-contaminated relationship. God the Father is equally very jealous of the church and deserves the total attention of the believers. This is the *rationale* for which JEHOVAH can deliberately *crumble* down every *distraction* that may sway mankind away from his complete attention. This, the LORD has previously done with that likewise *obstinate* generation at the monumental *Tower of Babel* pride. The dominant *endeavours* by this third HORSEMAN in shaking-up the global economy, is *irrefutably* a divine effort that is aimed at awakening the church of Christ on the *necessity* to *REPENT* from her corrupt deeds and prepare the *righteous* way for *rapture* (Isaiah 40:1-5). *Righteousness* is the *fine linen* with which today's christians ought to clothe their hearts with, in order to enter into this most awaited *wedding feast* of the Lamb (Rev 19:6-9; Heb 12:14; 2 Cor 5:1-5). By virtue of the global *FAMINE* that this APOCALYPTIC HORSEMAN discharges, an astonishingly parallel corresponding ravaging spiritual *hunger* has pervaded the church of Christ worldwide. This has especially built-up into a humongous spiritual *scarcity* for the essential gifts of the Holy Spirit in the body of Christ. And that is the reason today's christians can be heard *faking tongues*, and false prophets heard *counterfeiting* the holy voice of God, while regular preachers can be seen *faking miracles*, etc. There surely is a huge clamour for the Holy Spirit to visit the house at this hour of great need. The visitation of the Holy Spirit is the only intervention that would finally release the much-needed *wisdom* of God into the current *apostate* church. All God-loving christians will today agree that if the global economic *crunch* is what it takes to *return* the church back to God, then it is a good thing, and so be it. The advantage of the current economic

shake-up can only accrue onto the lives of the christians, in as far as it reprioritizes the quest for eternity in their hearts. Considering the increased pomp of *worldliness* that highlights christian lifestyle today, there is surely no greater awakening that best describes the actions of the man of the BLACK HORSE, than this scripture;

¹⁵Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶For everything in the world—the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does—comes not from the Father but from the world. ¹⁷The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever (1 John 2:15-17).