



THE PROSPERITY GOSPEL

Is It Biblical?

Introduction....

- Welcome to a new exciting series that is sure to help many of us redefine how we relate to and serve our Lord Jesus the Christ.
- We are now officially in the Last Days with the signs of the end predicted in scripture, a daily reality and on our screens.
- This platform is designed to allow Scripture and sound doctrine along with teaching transform us. The teaching Grace given to this ministry is offered humbly to help Believers become more Christ centred and solid Disciples.



Introduction....

To help us tackle this subject matter in bit sizes, we have broken down the sessions into seven segments. Due to the interactive and LIVE nature of the platform, we may spend more time on some more than others.

- Dialogue principles
- Definition of the Prosperity Gospel
- The Dynamics within the movement
- The Damages of the teachings
- The Defense against this 'gospel'
- The DIY of the True Gospel
- The Debates.....





Dialogue Principles

Before any of us jump on our 'high horse' to rebuke or condemn others whom we think are unbalanced or wrong, it would be good to outline certain biblical principles.

Brethren, if a man is ^[a]overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.

Galatians 6:1



Cancel Culture

Don't throw the proverbial Baby out with the bath water! Learn to listen and understand why people believe what they do and try not to erase them because they have a different mindset.

Understand this, my dear brothers and sisters: You must all be quick to listen, slow to speak, and slow to get angry. ²⁰ Human anger^[g] does not produce the righteousness^[h] God desires. James 1:19

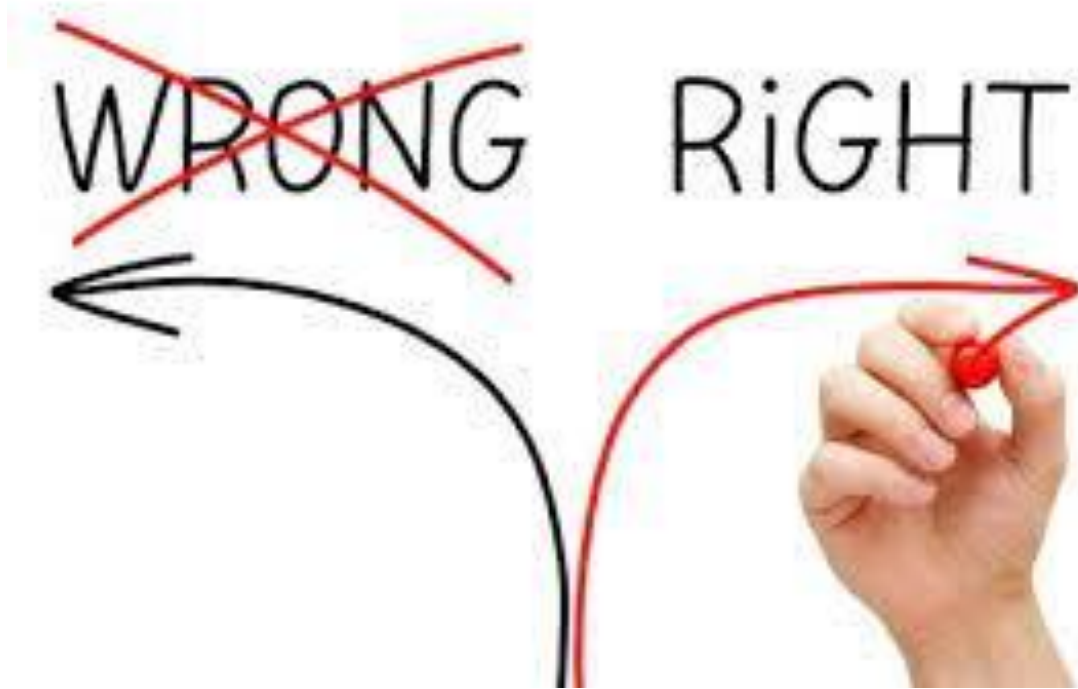
Do Not Demonize People...

Disagreements can produce
frustrations which breed hatred.

*Don't speak evil against each
other, dear Brothers and Sisters.
James 4:11a*



Sincerely Wrong....



○ ²⁴ Meanwhile, a Jew named Apollos, an eloquent speaker who knew the Scriptures well, had arrived in Ephesus from Alexandria in Egypt. ²⁵ He had been taught the way of the Lord, and he taught others about Jesus with an enthusiastic spirit^[h] and with accuracy. However, he knew only about John's baptism. ²⁶ When Priscilla and Aquila heard him preaching boldly in the synagogue, they took him aside and explained the way of God even more accurately.

Acts 18:24-26

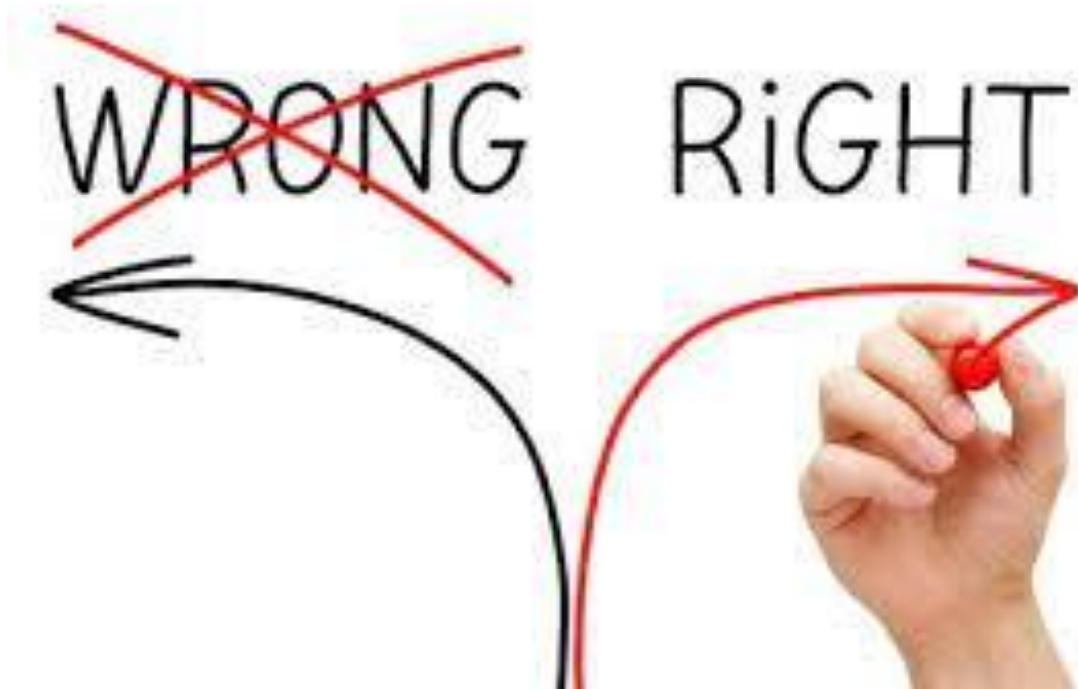
Sincerely Wrong....

There are leaders and Believers caught up with various shades of the Prosperity Gospel who need a Priscilla and Aquila.

We need more healing and unity within the Body of Christ and less civil wars.

There are many sincerely wrong Christians who need to be wisely, humbly and graciously led in the right direction.

The spirit and attitude with which we do this is very very important!





Dialogue Principles...

◦ *¹⁶ Therefore, confess your sins to one another [your false steps, your offenses], and pray for one another, that you may be healed and restored. The heartfelt and persistent prayer of a righteous man (believer) can accomplish much [when put into action and made effective by God—it is dynamic and can have tremendous power].*

James 5:16

We Know in Part....

Nobody has a 100% handle on God and doctrine so we need to be humble in our own knowledge. You may find out that what you know of God and doctrine evolves and grows. Therefore we need to give people room to grow and mature in knowledge,

For we know in part, and we prophesy in part [for our knowledge is fragmentary and incomplete]

1 Corinthians 13:9

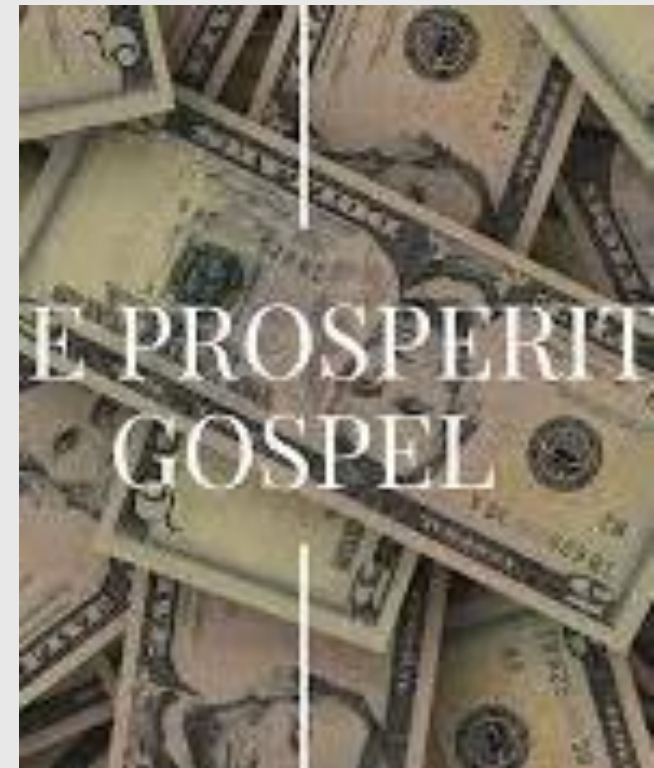


The Prosperity Gospel - Definitions

In a nutshell, it is the belief system or Bible derived set of teachings that state it's God's Will and the Believer's redemptive right to be healthy, wealthy, progressive, protected, have a good family, pray for and claim the best promises of God from the Bible.

It encourages Believers to rise to the top, to be the head and not the tail and have the best material blessings this world can offer.

At first glance, many would ask; "What's wrong with that?"



Definitions...

- It promotes a position where the Believer finds what is good or a blessing and commands it into their lives. By sowing seed, God is obligated to bless the giver in return and release an abundant harvest. It is also never God's Will for a Believer to be sick, in servitude, or have any chronic problems.
- The prosperity gospel puts the Believer in the driving seat of their destiny and lives and takes the Sovereign God and His Will to be replaced by a 'Slot machine' God who delivers to the Believer what they want rather than what God commands or demands.



Definitions...

- It diminishes the Almighty Sovereign God into a Santa Claus figurine who must answer to the claims and demands of the Believer without a say into their lives.
- He cannot command or demand obedience to His Will but must submit to their requests. Christ is no longer the end goal and object of the Believer's faith but a means to their pleasures and desires.
- Jesus is not a genie "your wish is my command..." but the God that says Thou shalt have no other Gods besides me.



Scripture Derived...



- The classic teachings that underpin the gospel of prosperity are all drawn from the Bible. This is what makes it very confusing and sometimes difficult to discern.
- The Blessings of Abraham verses, the Blessings versus Curses scriptures in Deuteronomy and many other passages like John 10:10 are all wiped together and blended into a *Bless Me* Smoothie!

Scripture Derived....

Everybody wants to be blessed. This is good and right and healthy. The challenge is where the **DESIRE** to be blessed trumps **GOD'S WILL** and must come first before our Lord can say anything contrary!

I HAVE COME

SO THAT YOU MAY HAVE

Life

& HAVE IT

TO THE FULL

JOHN 10:10

Prosperity Confessions....

- 1. Gen 12:2 God has blessed me abundantly and I am a blessing.
- 2. Gen 39:3 The Lord makes all that I do prosper in my hand.
- 3. Gen 39:23 Because the Lord is with me, all that I do prospers greatly.
- 4. Num 14:8 The Lord delights in me, he has brought me into a land that flows with milk and honey.
- 5. Deut 2:7 For the Lord my God has blessed me greatly in all the works of my hand.

Prosperity Confessions....

- 6. Deut 7:9 God is faithful; he keeps his covenant and mercy to them that love him.
- 7. Deut 7:13 God loves me, blesses me and multiplies me abundantly.
- 8. Deut 7:14 I am blessed above all people.
- 9. Deut 8:6-9 God has brought me into a good abundant land, I eat without scarceness and do not lack any good thing.
- 10. Deut 8:18 God has given me the power to get wealth so his covenant is established in my life.

Prosperity Confessions....

- 11. Deut 12:7 I rejoice in all I put my hand to because God has blessed me greatly.
- 12. Deut 15:6 For God has blessed me as he promised and I will lend to many and not borrow.
- 13. Deut 26:9 God has brought me into this place, he has given me this land that flows abundantly with milk and honey.
- 14. Deut 28:2 All the blessings of Abraham have come on me in abundance and overtaken me.
- 15. Deut 28:3-6 I am blessed in the city and in my field, blessed are my children and the fruit of my ground, cattle and sheep. Blessed are my checking and savings accounts, I am blessed when I rise and when I sleep. I am blessed when I come in and when I go out.
- Me, My and I occur around 40 times in these prayers....

Daniel's Prayer – Daniel Chapter 9

- I prayed to the LORD my God and confessed:
- “O Lord, you are a great and awesome God! You always fulfill your covenant and keep your promises of unfailing love to those who love you and obey your commands. ⁵ But we have sinned and done wrong. We have rebelled against you and scorned your commands and regulations. ⁶ We have refused to listen to your servants the prophets, who spoke on your authority to our kings and princes and ancestors and to all the people of the land.
- ⁷ “Lord, you are in the right; but as you see, our faces are covered with shame. This is true of all of us, including the people of Judah and Jerusalem and all Israel, scattered near and far, wherever you have driven us because of our disloyalty to you. ⁸ O LORD, we and our kings, princes, and ancestors are covered with shame because we have sinned against you. ⁹ But the Lord our God is merciful and forgiving, even though we have rebelled against him. ¹⁰ We have not obeyed the LORD our God, for we have not followed the instructions he gave us through his servants the prophets. ¹¹ All Israel has disobeyed your instruction and turned away, refusing to listen to your voice.

Jesus' Prayer – John Chapter 17

- After saying all these things, Jesus looked up to heaven and said, “Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son so he can give glory back to you. ² For you have given him authority over everyone. He gives eternal life to each one you have given him. ³ And this is the way to have eternal life—to know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, the one you sent to earth. ⁴ I brought glory to you here on earth by completing the work you gave me to do. ⁵ Now, Father, bring me into the glory we shared before the world began.
- ⁶ “I have revealed you^[a] to the ones you gave me from this world. They were always yours. You gave them to me, and they have kept your word. ⁷ Now they know that everything I have is a gift from you, ⁸ for I have passed on to them the message you gave me. They accepted it and know that I came from you, and they believe you sent me.
- ⁹ “My prayer is not for the world, but for those you have given me, because they belong to you. ¹⁰ All who are mine belong to you, and you have given them to me, so they bring me glory. ¹¹ Now I am departing from the world; they are staying in this world, but I am coming to you. Holy Father, you have given me your name;^[b] now protect them by the power of your name so that they will be united just as we are. ¹² During my time here, I protected them by the power of the name you gave me.^[c] I guarded them so that not one was lost, except the one headed for destruction, as the Scriptures foretold.

Prosperity Prayer Confessions...

- 16. Deut 28:8 The Lord has commanded the blessing on **me** and my storehouse and on all **I** set **my** hands to do. He has blessed **me** abundantly in this land.
- 17. Deut 28:11 God has made **me** plentiful in goods, cattle, and the fruit of **my** body and ground.
- 18. Deut 28:12 God has opened unto **me** his good treasure to give rain to **my** land and bless all the work of **my** hand. **I** will lend and not borrow.
- 19. Deut 28:13 **I** am the head and not the tail, **I** am above and not beneath.
- 20. Deut 29:9 **I** keep the words of Gods covenant and **I** do them, **I** prosper in all that **I** do.
- 21. Deut 30:9 God has made **me** plenteous in every good work of **my** hand, in the fruit of **my** body, cattle and land, for good and he rejoices over **me**.
- These type of prayers and confessions make Christians self focused and very selfish.....



In Summary...

The prosperity gospel diminishes our need or needs to material tangible things and temporal things like position, status, wealth, relationships, children, promotion, money and comfort.



In Summary

- Man's greatest need is A Saviour and a permanent cure for sin. Man's greatest need is a return to Eden and the Presence of God where there is "fullness of Joy..." Psalm 16.
- Man's greatest need is the hug of from The Father that fills up the hole in our soul. Man's Greatest need is LOVE. True Agape Love.
- Not a car, a house, a bracelet, jewelry, sex, Yachts, money, status or more 'stuff'



In Summary....

The Prosperity Gospel diminishes the true Gospel itself. The point of the Gospel is NOT that you live your best life now! The point of the Gospel is that we are saved into an Eternal Hope, Everlasting Life and freedom from the spiritual tyranny of sin and the devil.



In Summary...

- Everybody on Earth, Rich, poor, powerful or homeless are asking the question “is this life all there is to our existence?” What is beyond death and the grave?
- No religion, science, philosophy or financial system can answer that question. Only the Gospel does!! The prosperity gospel takes our focus off the true message and reduces our gospel to another self help, money making, rat racing endgame. That is empty and very corrupt.



NEXT WEEK...THE DYNAMICS OF PROSPERITY TEACHING