



# Trumpet Sounds

He that has an ear, let him hear

July 2010

## The Gospel... Man Centered or God Centered?

Rev. Karen Connell

Many Christians are following after and putting up with a different gospel. They should be asking ...

What is the gospel?  
What did Jesus and the Apostles teach concerning the Kingdom of God?

In her book "THE GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM..Let's Get It Right!" Karen Connell discusses these important issues.



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The church of Jesus Christ on planet earth today is in the throes of great change. God is bringing much needed reformation among His people because in many churches among the body of Christ the *true gospel* of Jesus Christ is not being preached. There are those who stand in the offices of five fold ministry who are not preaching and teaching the *full gospel message*. This means the church is not being built up the way Jesus intends. Without the *genuine gospel message* the body of Christ will remain underdeveloped and never reach the place of perfection: *...the apostles, the prophets, the evangelists, and the pastors and teachers—Their responsibility is to equip God's people to do his work and build up the church, the body of Christ, until we come to such unity in our faith and knowledge of God's Son that we [the church] will be mature and full grown in the Lord, measuring up to the full stature of Christ. Then we will no longer be like children, forever changing our minds about what we believe because someone has told us something different or because someone has cleverly lied to us and made the lie sound like the truth. Instead, we will hold to the truth in love, becoming more and more in every way like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church. NLT [Eph 4:11-15] [Brackets Mine]*

Jesus isn't coming back until it is time to restore all things, which includes the final restoration of His church when we will receive our glorified bodies. Then we will put off this old sinful nature once and for all: *For he [Jesus] must remain in heaven until the time for the final restoration of all things, as God promised long ago through his prophets. [Acts 3:21] NLT*

Until then we must be about our Fathers business of bringing the *true gospel* to the lost. The Apostle Paul warned believers about following after that which was not the *real deal*, when it comes to the gospel...

*But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the **simplicity that is in Christ**. For if he who comes preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or if you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or **a different gospel** which you have not accepted — you may well put up with it! [2 Cor 11:3-4] NKJV*

I have had many people come into our ministry who called themselves *believers* but had minds that were corrupted by *another gospel*. Many people have heard a *counterfeit gospel* preached and this has resulted in them embracing a *counterfeit form of Christianity*.

When people have not embraced the genuine gospel message, they will end up with a religion that has *no power* to deliver them from *deception* or the power of demonic influences. Listen to what the word of God tells us ...

*They will act as if they are religious, but they will reject the power **that could make them godly**. You must stay away from people like that. They are the kind who work their way into people's homes and win the confidence of the vulnerable—who are burdened with the guilt of sin and controlled by many desires. Such—are forever following new teachings, **but they never understand the truth**. [2 Tim 3:5-7] NLT*

We are entering a time when leaders in the body of Christ are going to be dealt with by God, concerning the leaven that has been part of their teaching and preaching. God is going to remove leaders from places of influence who will not allow God's truth to reveal areas of error and deception...

*For the leaders of the people have led them down the path of destruction. That is why the Lord has no joy in the young men and no mercy on even the widows and orphans. For they are all hypocrites, speaking wickedness with lies. But even then the LORD's anger will not be satisfied. His fist is still poised to strike. NLT [Isa 9:16-17]*

There are those leaders who have abandoned

the truth and their flocks by deviating from the true message of the *gospel of the kingdom*. When shepherds do not feed their flocks what is needed in order for them to grow and reproduce, God will deal with these leaders...

*Doom is certain for this worthless shepherd who abandons the flock! The sword will cut his arm and pierce his right eye! His arm will become useless, and his right eye completely blind!" [Zech 11:17] NLT*

The Gospel message of the kingdom that we as believers are to give to those who are lost is not a complicated message. The gospel of the kingdom is simple!

*So proclaim the Message with intensity; keep on your watch. Challenge, warn, and urge your people. Don't ever quit. Just **keep it simple**...You're going to find that there will be times when people will have no stomach for solid teaching, but will fill up on spiritual junk food — **catchy opinions that tickle their fancy**...They'll turn their backs on truth and chase mirages. But you — keep your eye on what you're doing; accept the hard times along with the good; keep the Message alive; do a thorough job as God's servant. [2 Tim 4:2-5] TMB*

### The Man Centered Vs. The God Centered Gospel

Many involved in current church growth movements preach a *man centered gospel* rather than a *God centered gospel*. By this I mean the gospel is being preached in such a way to make God seem appealing or *acceptable to man*. That is why people are given an invitation to *accept Christ*, which implies Christ is now *acceptable* and worthy to be *received*. The truth is, the gospel gives us the good news that we as sinners who are not acceptable to God but *can be made acceptable to Him*,...

*This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to **save sinners**... [1 Tim 1:15] ...present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, **acceptable unto God**, which is your*

## Rom 1:18

**For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness.**

*reasonable service. ...[Rom 12:1]*

Many people in our modern world would rather think of themselves as a *good person* rather than an ungodly sinner who is destined to spend eternity in hell. Many times people *accept Jesus Christ* as their "Savior", not because they are looking to Him to save them from their eternal death sentence in hell because of their sin—but because they want Him to save them from the *consequences their sin is producing*. People everywhere are wanting to be set free from their misery due to the *consequences of their sin*. Without hearing the true gospel they will fail to realize the truth that Jesus Christ died to save them from their sin—which is the reason they are in such misery! The true gospel is God centered. Sin offends God and results in people being under God's wrath.

*He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, **but the wrath of God abides on him.**" [John 3:36] NKJV*

Trying to make Christ and Christianity acceptable to sinners by presenting a man centered, self-enhancement Gospel, will not save people from their sin that will ultimately condemn them to their eternal destiny in hell. The true gospel message is that of *reconciling* sinful men to God through the blood sacrifice of Jesus Christ. It is not a message of reconciling a misunderstood God to man through a gospel that promises us a better life and a fulfilling destiny because God loves us.

Yes, God most assuredly loves us but all these other things are the *added unto's* that come by seeking *first* the Kingdom of God. According to the Bible the kingdom of God is defined as ...

*For the kingdom of God is ...**righteousness** peace and joy in the Holy Spirit..*

*[Rom 14:17 NKJV*

Please notice that the *first* thing we get when we enter into God's kingdom is *righteousness*. Being right with God means we have confessed and repented of all sin which faith in the blood of Christ has removed from us. Wanting to please God and become acceptable to Him, must be the central message of the Gospel. It is not about God pleasing us and Him becoming acceptable to us. I have seen many who have responded to this man-centered gospel become offended at God as a "professing Christian", because He was not performing acceptably for them. When bad things happen, they feel God is not living up to the *false image* the man-centered gospel created Him to be. We must let sinners know that all human beings are under God's wrath until they hear and embrace the **true gospel message**: *He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him."* [John 3:36] NKJV

May we go forth in the days ahead and share only the **true gospel** of Jesus Christ to the lost and dying who are destined to spend all eternity in hell...

*You are already following a different way that **pretends to be the Good News** but is not the Good News at all. You are being fooled by those who twist and change the truth concerning Christ. Let God's curse fall on anyone, including myself, who preaches any other message than the one we told you about. [Gal 1:6-8] NLT •*

An abridged excerpt from the Book **THE GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM... Lets Get It Right!** by Rev. Karen E. Connell

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