

they are teaching the real Jesus?

Similarly, many group Bible studies are now centred around the interpretations of individuals. All opinions seem as worthy as each other. Whatever happened to 'Study to show yourself approved unto God, a workman that needs not to be ashamed, RIGHTLY dividing the word of truth', (2Tim.2:15)?

Integration systems abound. The world's beat is mixed with Christian lyrics and called 'Christian rock'. Biblical counselling is mixed with psychology - a pseudo scientific system invented by God haters and once considered diametrically opposed to the Bible. Yet it is now integrated as 'Christian psychology'. Subtly, psychological sanctification is taking the place of Biblical sanctification, as Christians turn more and more to humanistic systems of wisdom which God actually calls 'foolishness'! (1Cor.3:19)

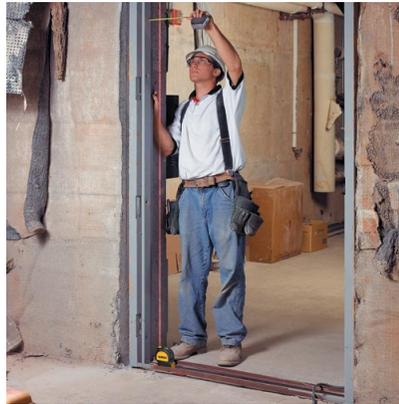
Hence, sin is no longer the Hell deserving evil within man, but rather a disease, a bad habit or an addiction that we probably got from someone else in our past who mistreated us. Worldly experts tell us that our problem is 'low self esteem'. This is despite the fact that societies are becoming increasingly selfish and we are loving ourselves to death. If there is such wisdom in these systems, then why is it that of all professions, psychiatrists have the highest rate of suicide in western countries?

Pragmatism has replaced what was the knowledge of good and evil. If a method appears to 'work' then it must be of God. We relieve people today of their sin problem by giving them self-satisfying, felt needs-orientated and ear-tickling lies, instead of pure milk and meat from God's word! And it is also now unloving to practise Church discipline no matter how much the elders desire to see the offending person restored to Biblical behaviour.

At the root of all these errors is this: we have lost a high view of the power of the Word of God as being all sufficient to produce change in peoples hearts. Studies in the US show that 90% of pastors have not read the Bible completely through; only 18% of born again Christians read the Bible every day; and 23% never read the Bible at all. How is the Holy Spirit supposed to change us if the 'meat' to make us grow is not being assimilated?

Why does the church pander to the gods of this age? Is it not because it lacks confidence in the Word of God as all sufficient? But God still says the Bible is the standard for change; the Holy Spirit is the power for that change.

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Central Mountains Baptist Church

17 OCTOBER, 2010

Information for Visitors.

* We're glad you're here. Sit back, relax, and enjoy the service. You're very welcome to join us for a cuppa after church.

* a Kid's Church and creche is normally provided, during the sermon for the **toddler to primary age bracket**. Please ask for details.

Standards

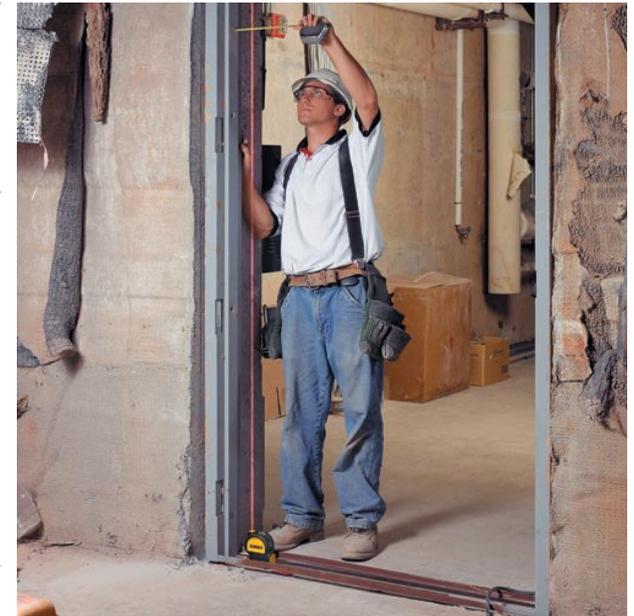
The speed with which ideals, values and moral standards are changing is breathtaking. Things that were once evil are now acceptable. Not more than a few decades ago homosexuality was a 'perversion', yet within a single decade counsellors in the US were told it was now an 'alternate lifestyle'.

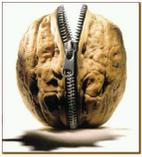
The impact of postmodern thinking is that there are now no absolutes. This has changed the way the modern church views the Word of God.

Today we judge the Scriptures instead of the Scriptures judging us, (Heb.4:12). This is typified by the 'Jesus Seminars' held in the USA which have 'scholars' judging what are inspired words from God and what are not!

Subjectivism replaces objectivism. It is a crime to be dogmatic today!

Many churches today purposely have little or no statement of faith so that one cannot ascertain where they stand on various doctrines. Church leaders say 'we don't want to teach you theology'. But if they do not teach the knowledge of God ('theology') then how do we know





Romans: Truth in a Nutshell

(unzipped for you)

A Proven Gospel

In Romans 1:2-4 Paul gives two powerful reasons why the gospel is proven:

1. _____ re Christ, Romans 1:2-4

Old testament prophecies give the credentials of the Messiah:

◆ He would be born in _____,

(Micah 5:2) *""But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, Though you are little among the thousands of Judah, Yet out of you shall come forth to Me The One to be Ruler in Israel, Whose goings forth are from of old, From everlasting.""*

◆ He would be born before _____,

(Malachi 3:1) *""Behold, I send My messenger, And he will prepare the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, Will suddenly come to His temple, Even the Messenger of the covenant, In whom you delight. Behold, He is coming," Says the LORD of hosts."*

(Matthew 1:1) *"The book of the genealogy of Jesus Christ, the Son of David, the Son of Abraham:"*

(Matthew 1:16) *"And Jacob begot Joseph the husband of Mary, of whom was born Jesus who is called Christ."*

(Luke 3:23) *"Now Jesus Himself began His ministry at about thirty years of age, being (as was supposed) the son of Joseph, the son of Heli,"*

◆ He would be in the line of _____,

(2 Samuel 7:12) *""When your days are fulfilled and you rest with your fathers, I will set up your seed after you, who will come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom."*

(Isaiah 53:3-12) *"He is despised and rejected by men, A Man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, our faces from Him; He was despised, and we did not esteem Him. {4} Surely He has borne our griefs And carried our sorrows; Yet we esteemed Him stricken, Smitten by God, and afflicted. {5} But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; The chastisement for our peace was upon Him, And by His stripes we are healed. {6} All we like sheep have gone astray; We have turned, every one, to his own way; And the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all. {7} He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, And as a sheep before its shearers is silent, So He opened not His mouth. {8} He was taken from prison and from judgment, And who will declare His generation? For He was cut off from the land of the living; For the transgressions of My people He was stricken. {9} And they made His grave with the wicked; But with the rich at His death, Because He had done no violence, Nor was any deceit in His mouth. {10} Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise Him; He has put Him to grief. When You make His soul an offering for sin, He shall see His seed, He shall prolong His days, And the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in His hand. {11} He shall see the labor of His soul, and be satisfied. By His knowledge My righteous*

Servant shall justify many, For He shall bear their iniquities. {12} Therefore I will divide Him a portion with the great, And He shall divide the spoil with the strong, Because He poured out His soul unto death, And He was numbered with the transgressors, And He bore the sin of many, And made intercession for the transgressors."

2. The _____ of Christ, Romans 1:2-4

There are four main lines of evidence to pursue:

◆ Jesus really _____,

(John 19:31-35) *"Therefore, because it was the Preparation Day, that the bodies should not remain on the cross on the Sabbath (for that Sabbath was a high day), the Jews asked Pilate that their legs might be broken, and that they might be taken away. {32} Then the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and of the other who was crucified with Him. {33} But when they came to Jesus and saw that He was already dead, they did not break His legs. {34} But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out. {35} And he who has seen has testified, and his testimony is true; and he knows that he is telling the truth, so that you may believe."*

◆ Jesus was publicly _____, Matthew 27:57-66

◆ The tomb was really _____, Matthew 28:1-7, 11-14

(John 20:19) *"Then, the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in the midst, and said to them, "Peace be with you.""*

◆ Jesus was seen _____,

(Mark 16:9) *"Now when He rose early on the first day of the week, He appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom He had cast seven demons."*

(1 Corinthians 15:4-5) *"and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures, {5} and that He was seen by Cephas, then by the twelve."*

(Luke 24:15) *"So it was, while they conversed and reasoned, that Jesus Himself drew near and went with them."*

(Luke 24:33-36) *"So they rose up that very hour and returned to Jerusalem, and found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together, {34} saying, "The Lord is risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!"*

{35} *And they told about the things that had happened on the road, and how He was known to them in the breaking of bread. {36} Now as they said these things, Jesus Himself stood in the midst of them, and said to them, "Peace to you.""*

(John 20:26) *"And after eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, "Peace to you!""*

(John 21:1) *"After these things Jesus showed Himself again to the disciples at the Sea of Tiberias, and in this way He showed Himself:"*

(1 Corinthians 15:6) *"After that He was seen by over five hundred brethren at once, of whom the greater part remain to the present, but some have fallen asleep."*

(Acts 1:1-3) *"The former account I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, {2} until the day in which He was taken up, .. {3} to whom He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God."*