

## **COUNTERFEIT CHRISTIANITY**

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“The Escape Reality Disease” has so plagued mankind, that it has even permeated the so-called religious world. Modernizing preachers have so watered down the plain teachings of the Bible that their sermons are entirely different from those preached in pulpits a century or two ago. Lacking the power of God, the fear of God, and the faithfulness to their congregation, they preach smooth things to please their audiences instead of warning them of things as they really are. Preaching a social gospel, with all the audacity of a con-artist they twist the Bible, deceive the mind and milk the pocketbook—yet claim to be like Christ! They can say like P.T. Barnum, the great circus man, “The American public loves to be fooled, and I love to fool them!”

### ***Repentance***

Unlike Christ, the modern preacher very seldom mentions the need of **repentance** before obtaining salvation. Such neglect is a fatal flaw! With a sugar coated message, he de-emphasizes man’s total ruin and depravity through sin. However, God plainly describes man’s condition throughout the Bible. He reveals that he is born a sinner (Psalm 51:5 and as such “cannot please God” (Romans 8:8). God shows man’s condition to be that of a spiritual leper. “*From the sole of the foot even unto the head there is no soundness in it; but wounds, and bruises, and putrifying sores*” (Isaiah 1:6). God probes man’s heart and gives His analysis—“*deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked*”

(Jeremiah 17:9). He also describes men as “*the servants of sin*” (Romans 6:17), their mind being “*enmity against God*” (Romans 8:7). It was a rude awakening to me when I discovered through God’s unchanging Word (the Bible), that by nature (that is, just by being born into this world), I was a child of wrath and a son of disobedience (Ephesians 2:2,3)! How about you? Have you ever seen yourself this way?

The first recorded words of the Lord Jesus are “**Repent ye**” (Matthew 3:2). He also told of whole cities who were brought down into hell, because they refused to repent of their sin (Matthew 11:20-24). The modern preacher neglects to tell you this. He simply tells you to take Jesus into your life or heart by mental assent. This will never do, for without conviction of sin in your soul, you can never exercise saving faith in the Person of Christ! The Lord Himself says in no uncertain terms, “*Except ye **repent**, ye shall all likewise perish*” (Luke 13:3,5). We have the divine order in Acts 20:21—“*Repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.*” Notice, “**Repentance**” comes first—then, “**Faith**”.

### ***The Lordship of Christ***

The Social gospel message also omits emphasis on the Lordship of Christ. God demands that Jesus be acknowledged first as Lord, then as Saviour. Confessing Jesus as Lord simply involves willingness to bow to all of His claims. Regarding the Christian’s path, the Lord’s words are exceedingly plain. “*Whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after Me, cannot be My disciple...whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all*

*that he hath, he cannot be My disciple*” (Luke 14:27, 33). Acknowledging the Lordship of Christ involves abandoning one’s former way of living—for self, sin and worldly pleasure. I present my body a living sacrifice, being not conformed to this world (Romans 12:1,2), thus bearing reproach for Him. Are you ready for such a step, my friend? If not, you’re certainly not ready for God’s salvation! God says, *“If thou shalt confess with thy mouth Jesus as **Lord**, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved”* (Romans 10:9, R.V.). Consider the cost. His **Lord ship** comes before His **Saviourhood**.

### ***Not Giving—But Taking***

The “social gospel” also bids people to “give Jesus your heart” for salvation. Friend, the Bible contradicts this idea! Salvation isn’t obtained by **giving** anything. Salvation is a gift from God and is received by **taking**. *“The (free) **gift** of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord”* (Romans 6:23). *“As many as received Him to them gave He power (privilege) to become the sons of God”* (John 1:12). What could be plainer? In fact, God states, *“The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked”* (Jeremiah 17:9). That’s a strange thing to offer God for salvation, isn’t it? You are ruined by sin. Christ plainly declares, *“Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God”* (Jn. 3:3). Trying to give your heart to Jesus will never work; God won’t accept it!

Yes the “counterfeit” preacher avoids many vital things. He is interested more in your **silver** than in your **soul**! His popularity means more to him than your

eternal welfare. Beware, oh, beware! Don't be deceived into a profession through slick salesmanship techniques. Many today "believe" without knowing what they believe. They have no doctrinal basis for their "decision". Save your money and search the Scriptures for yourself to discover God's true way of Salvation. Don't use the coward's excuse—"I can't understand the Bible." Take the guilty sinner's place, repent of your sins, look into your Bible, and read **The Epistle to the Romans**. You will find out what you really are, in God's holy sight. Read **The Gospel of John** and you will see God's love to you. As you read, ask God to show you the way of eternal life. Christ has purchased salvation through His atoning death on the Cross. He now lives in heaven, willing to save all that come unto Him in God's way.

Thank you for reading this tract, written by a man not all interested in your **earthly wealth**, but rather in your **eternal welfare**.

*"There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death."  
(Proverbs 14:12)*

*"Jesus saith...I am the way, the truth and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by Me."  
(John 14:6)*

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