

The Old Gospel

By: Minister, teacher of Bible Joshua P. Yonts

First Christian Church of Pinckneyville

It does not take a rocket scientist to figure out that most churches in America have lost their grip on the gospel. Modern-day American Christianity is reduced to nothing more than a moral therapy dog and pony show. In such matters, we see clearly that the practice of evangelism, the teaching of holiness, the overall building up of the local churches, and the minister's dealings with souls about the exercises of spiritual disciplines are messages that you are not likely to hear from the pulpits abroad. There is widespread dissatisfaction and a sense of uncertainty with things regarding the road ahead for our nation. Obviously much has contributed to this but, if we look at the root cause of the reason, we are in the shape we are in, I believe it would fall back to the church. Without even realizing it, we have within the past century for example prostituted God's gospel for a new substitute gospel. Much of the problem lies in the *content* of this new gospel. The new gospel does not make God holy nor does he demand personal holiness from His followers. It fails to make men God-centered in their thoughts and God-fearing in their hearts. The new gospel in totality concerned about making man happy, peaceful, and comfortable. The old gospel was only concerned about giving glory to God (1 Cor. 10:31). The old gospel had a proper balance of wrath and mercy (Habakkuk 3:2). The new gospel dismantles wrath and only focuses on a perverted love that coddles sin. The new gospel is centered on man. The old gospel is focused on God, teaching people how to worship God, and experiencing the loveliness of God-man Jesus Christ. There truly is a world of difference between the two. The whole perspective and emphasis of gospel preaching have changed. Is it any wonder dear friend, that most of the Lord's church is not able to discern good and evil? Most of the preaching and teaching is watered down to a topical sermonette and we go about our days ignoring God and His holy word, not growing up in respect to salvation (Hebrews 5:14). The church that is content to rest on past morals and take it easy in Zion will face the judgment of God (Amos 6:1-14). Only those who are seeking an old demonstration of Christianity and not a new definition of Christianity will escape the wrath to come. If you are seeking to hold hands with the liberal secular culture and hold hands with the church of Jesus Christ you are not in Christ. Jesus said, "*He who is not with Me is against Me, and he who does not gather with Me scatters.*" (Matt. 12:30). Our hearts are only created for only one embracing devotion, we either love the world or we love God (James 4:4). Those who are not called by God to preach the gospel need to step aside and get out of the way. Those who are not called by God to be leaders in the Lord's church need to step aside (*Jeremiah 23:1-4, "Woe to the shepherds who are destroying the sheep of My pasture!"*) Sometimes the Lord has to subtract before He can multiply. It is time for those who truly belong to God to hold their ground and understand the more evil the day, the more holy we must be! We must live by faith in these difficult times (Hab. 2:4). We must remember Noah when the flood was coming upon the earth Noah was a "*herald of righteousness*" (2 Peter 2:5). What righteousness did he preach? The righteousness that he had- for he "*became an heir of the righteousness that comes by faith*" (Hebrews 11:7). The Christians' greatest desire is that the progressive secular society would repent and come to a saving knowledge of God through the Lord Jesus Christ. We will keep preaching the full counsel of God's gospel (Acts 20:27) and no government or health mandate can silence *or* muzzle the old gospel! Let us build the walls around our families and build the walls around our hearts that we might be strong and immovable against the enemy. Always remember dear friend, the real pandemic is sin and sickness can only bring the first death, but sin brings about the second death. Let us only fear that which is far greater.

