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THE OLD SOCIAL GOSPEL IN NEW GARB!

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Rick Warren, the mega-selling author...has taken the social gospel to where it's never been before... To accommodate working with people of all faiths Warren has revised the "P" in his P.E.A.C.E. from "planting evangelical churches" to (P)romoting reconciliation and the "E" from "equipping [church] leaders" to (E)quipping ethical leaders." Warren has elsewhere acknowledged his practical shift to pluralism: "Who's the man of peace in any village - or it might be a woman of peace - who has the most respect? They don't have to be Christian. In fact, they could be Muslim, but they are open and they are influential, and you work with them to attack the five giants [to which he has added global warming]." He quotes a secular leader who affirms what he is doing: "I get it, Rick. Houses of worship are the distribution centers for all we need to do." Warren has joined the advisory board of Faith Foundation, established by former British prime minister and recent convert to Roman Catholicism, Tony Blair. The Foundation's goal is to further understanding among the six leading faiths: Christian, Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist, Sikh, and Jewish. How does the cross fit into this ecumenical gathering? It doesn't. (Another advocate of this modern day ecumenism is Eugene Peterson). Consistent with its amillennial/postmillennial beginnings, the efforts of the social gospel in their attempted restoration of the kingdom of God, Eugene Peterson has infiltrated that heresy into his *Message Bible*: God didn't go to all the trouble of sending His Son merely to appoint an accusing finger, telling the world how bad it was. He came to help put the world right again. Another evangelical ecumenist, Rob Bell in his book *Velvet Elvis*, reflects the "fix the earth" eschatology of nearly all Emerging Church leaders: "Salvation is the entire universe being brought back into harmony with its Maker. This has huge implications for how people present the message of Jesus. Yes, Jesus can come into our hearts. But we can join a movement that is as wide and as big as the universe itself..." For Emerging Church leader Brian McLaren, this is the future way of life for the Christian. In an interview July 28, 2008, on *ChristianPost.com* he said: "I think our future will also require us to join humbly and charitably with people of other faiths -- Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist, Jewish, secularists and others -- in the pursuit of peace, environmental stewardship, and justice for all people, and all that matters to God." No, what matters to the "Heart of God" is that all should come to repentance and believe the Gospel." -From *TBC* (Sept. 1008).

Now, this is nothing more than the old social gospel warmed over and redressed by and for the present day evangelical and anybody else who will listen. One hundred years ago or more, as apostasy began to sweep through the Christian denominations, the Gospel of personal salvation from sin through faith in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ was exchanged for a gospel which said that the Christian mission is to clean up the world and meet the temporal or immediate needs of mankind. It was a rejection of the Gospel of God as found in the Scriptures. It substituted a humanistic gospel that is all about meeting temporal needs and getting along with everyone. The only Gospel the Bible knows is the one that declares all men to be sinners and in need of a Savior. It also states

many times that there is only one Savior: **“For *there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; Who gave Himself a ransom for all...*”** ~*I Timothy 2:5,6*. All these other religions which are mentioned have nothing to do with God for they have rejected the only way a man may come before God - through Jesus Christ and His shed blood! **“Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.”** ~*Acts 4:12*. Jesus said, **“Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”** ~*John 3:3*. If you haven't been born again as described in the Bible, you are not saved, your life is wasted and you will spend eternity in that place called Hell - Yes, it is a real place according to Jesus. See Luke 16.

As for God telling the world how bad it is, God has been trying to do that ever since Adam and Eve sinned. The problem is that men do not want to hear it. Man says, **“...Prophesy not unto us right things, speak unto us smooth things, prophesy deceits.”** ~*Isaiah 30:10*. And people like Rick Warren and others give them what they want. The “Self Esteem” gospel is a wicked delusion! **“As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.”** ~*Romans 3:10-12* (which is quoted from Psalms 14 and 53 where it says, **“The Lord looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, and seek God. They are all gone aside, they are all together become filthy: there is none that doeth good, no, not one.”**). As for as pleasing God and being good enough to make it to Heaven by one's own effort, it is a wicked invention. God has given His word to man **“That...all the world may become guilty before God.”** Then, when one sees his guilt, he is to flee to Christ and His precious shed blood for the remission of sins and the gift of eternal life. **“...Without shedding of blood is no remission.”** ~*Hebrews 9:22*.

Rick Warren's gospel of “Self Esteem” is not the Gospel of God! It is the gospel of Robert Schuller where Warren got it. His P.E.A.C.E. is a false peace for there is no Gospel in it. God said they will cry **“Peace, peace, when there is no peace.”** All the false teaching and ecumenism of the Emerging Church, etc. are but substitutes for the truth of God. It is another gospel! Galatians 1:8,9 says: **“But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, If any *man* preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.”** Furthermore, the Word of God is very clear, we are not to cooperate, join hands, unite with those who preach a false Gospel. II Corinthians 6:14-17 says, **“Be not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them and walk in *them*, and I will be their God and they shall be my people. Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord...”** Note, it is all about separation from unbelievers and false teachers! God says, **“Come out!”** We are not to join in with false teachers. God also said, **“A man that is an heretick after the first and second admonition reject.”** ~*Titus 3:10*. These people certainly are hereticks. For the true believer in Christ, to have any connection with them is to disobey God and promote confusion, and **“God is not the Author of confusion.”** God has also said, **“Can two walk together except they be agreed?”** ~*Amos 3:3*. Obviously, they cannot walk together in truth! In the past few decades, we have seen a great deal of compromise among many who call themselves Fundamentalists. Many use Warren's program (and other New Evangelical programs) in their churches. Can God be happy with this sort of thing? In light of the Scriptures we have given, the answer is clear. God says, **“Come out from among them and be ye separate saith the Lord.”** We'll pay the price now or pay a greater price later - at the Judgment Seat of Christ!

Pastor Starr has written a booklet entitled “WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT SEPARATION”. You may order a copy for \$1.50 + postage by writing to the above address or contacting us by e-mail at rcstarrkjv@aol.com.