

See discussions, stats, and author profiles for this publication at: <https://www.researchgate.net/publication/340962705>

# The Gospel is John 3:16.

Article · April 2020

---

CITATIONS

0

---

READS

887

1 author:



[Ekow Ofori](#)

University of Ghana

5 PUBLICATIONS 0 CITATIONS

SEE PROFILE

THE GOSPEL  
*IS*  
JOHN 3:16

\*\*\*\*\*

*Unless otherwise stated, all scripture quotations are taken from the  
King James Version of the Bible.  
Copyright © 2020 Ekow Ofori  
[ekowoforibooks@gmail.com](mailto:ekowoforibooks@gmail.com)*

Ekow Ofori

Dedication

To

***Dr. Seth Antwi-Ofori***

Thank you for sharing your heart with me! Thank you for telling me about Jesus, thank you for encouraging me to love the Lord, thank you for sharing your supernatural experiences with me, thank you for all the times you welcomed me into your office! Thank you for everything! I'm grateful!

## **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

**CHAPTER 1**  
**WHAT IS THE GOSPEL?**

**CHAPTER 2**  
**SELECTION AND THE MAINTENANCE OF THE AIM**

**CHAPTER 3**  
**PREACHERS OF ANOTHER GOSPEL**

**CHAPTER 4**  
**REASONS WHY SOME PASTORS PREACH ANOTHER GOSPEL**

**CHAPTER 5**  
**EFFECTS OF PREACHING ANOTHER GOSPEL**

**CHAPTER 6**  
**GOD IS NOT AGAINST RICHES**

**CHAPTER 7**  
**HOW TO REMAIN FAITHFUL TO THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST**

## Chapter 1

### What is the gospel?

Mathew 4:23

And Jesus went about all Galilee, teaching in their synagogues, **and preaching the gospel of the kingdom**, and healing all manner of sickness and all manner of disease among the people.

The Lord Jesus Christ, while on the earth preached the gospel of the kingdom of God. What is this gospel? The Greek word translated into English as gospel is: “*euaggelion*”, which also means, a good message, good news, the glad tidings of salvation through Christ, the proclamation of the grace of God manifest and pledged in Christ and a reward for good tidings.

After the death of Jesus Christ, the gospel, generally “comprises also the preaching of (concerning) Jesus Christ as having suffered death on the cross to procure eternal salvation for the men in the kingdom of God, the peoples of this world if they would accept him... restored to life and exalted to the right hand of God in heaven, thence to return in majesty to consummate the kingdom of God”

In a nutshell, this is the gospel Jesus preached, this is the gospel the Apostles preached. Unfortunately, many have deviated from this simple gospel, the deviation from this gospel has opened the door for a host of evils to enter the church.

## Chapter 2

### Selection and the maintenance of the aim

What is the objective of the church? Who is in the right position to define the aims or objectives of the church? The Lord Jesus Christ is the head of the church. The church is his bride. He is the chief shepherd of the flock. We are all accountable to him. Every pastor or preacher is accountable to him. This is what the bible says:

Colossians 1: 18

**And he(Jesus) is the head of the body, the church:** who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all *things* he might have the preeminence.

Acts 20:28

Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, **which he hath purchased with his own blood.**

Ephesians 5:23

For the husband is the head of the wife, **even as Christ is the head of the church:** and he is the saviour of the body.

When Jesus rose from the dead, he gave us a commission, in his final moments on the earth, he gave his followers an aim, a goal or an objective to pursue. The disciples and Apostles were mindful of this aim, they did their bit to maintain this aim. This is what Apostle Paul said: “For I determined not to know anything among you, **save Jesus Christ, and him crucified**” (1 Corinthians 2:2).

“Today very few ministers of the gospel have the aim of only talking about Jesus Christ and Him crucified. Most ministers have new aims and goals that are not bringing the lost to Christ. Many pastors have turned into motivational speakers and bankers. The Lord Jesus before leaving the earth, gave us the aim to pursue. And this was the aim: “Go ye into the world and preach the gospel to every creature”

Mathew 28:18-20

And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.

**Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:**

**Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, *even* unto the end of the world. Amen.**

Mark 16:14-15

Afterward he appeared unto the eleven as they sat at meat, and upbraided them with their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen him after he was risen.

**And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.**

Luke 24:46-47

And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day:

**And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.**

John 20:21

Then said Jesus to them again, Peace *be* unto you: **as *my* Father hath sent me, even so send I you.**

Our aim has been selected by the Lord and we are to follow and maintain this aim. “When you shift away from your selected aim, you start to lose the war”. Many pastors have shifted away from the original aim of preaching the gospel to an unsaved world into giving motivational speeches, financial talks and the preaching of various secular topics. We have deviated from the original aim!

### **General Meade didn't maintain the aim**

“The battle of Gettysburg was fought during the first three days of July, 1863. During the night of July 4, Lee began to retreat southward while the storm clouds deluged the country with rain. When Lee reached the Potomac with his defeated army, he found a swollen, Impassable river in front of him, and a victorious union

army behind him. Lee was in a trap. He couldn't escape. Lincoln saw that. Here a golden, heaven-sent opportunity to capture Lee's army and end the war immediately. So, with a surge of high hope, Lincoln ordered General Meade (commander of the union troops) not to call a council of war but to attack Lee immediately. Lincoln telegraphed his orders and then sent a special messenger to General Meade demanding immediate action.

And what did General Meade do? He did the very opposite of what he was told to do. He called a council of war in direct violation of Lincoln's orders. He hesitated. He procrastinated. He telegraphed all manner of excuses. He refused point-blank to attack Lee. Finally, the waters receded and Lee escaped over the Potomac with his forces". [ Taken from: Dale Carnegie's "How to win friends and influence people"]

Many pastors of today are like General Meade, they do the direct opposite of what the Lord told us to do! Lincoln was very disappointed with General Meade and he wrote the following letter to him.

"My dear General,

I do not believe you appreciate the magnitude of the misfortune involved in Lee's escape. He was within our easy grasp, and to have closed upon him would, in connection with our other late successes, have ended the war. As it is, the war will be prolonged indefinitely. If you could not safely attack Lee last Monday, how can you possibly do so south of the river, when you can take with you very few - no more than two-thirds of the force you then had in hand? It would be unreasonable to expect and I do not expect that you can now affect much. Your golden opportunity is gone, and I am distressed immeasurably because of it".

Pastors sit and watch as their golden opportunity to win souls for the Lord go by as a result of the many secular things we preach; we cannot affect much for God when we lose all the golden opportunities, he brings our way.

## Chapter 3

### Preachers of another gospel

Today, you find pastors preaching a gospel which is at variance with what the Lord preached. You cannot even believe your ears as you listen to some of the things that are preached from the pulpit. Do we categorize these preaching as the preaching of the gospel or motivational speeches and lectures on secular topics? As pastors, we must fight to overcome the temptation to preach another gospel. We must preach what Jesus preached and read his words to the church. After all, He is the chief shepherd!

Galatians 1:6-7

I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto **another gospel**:

Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, **and would pervert the gospel of Christ.**

**“Heteros”**, the Greek word translated into English as another, also means: one not of the same nature, form, class or kind. It also means: one that is different or strange. Unfortunately, this is the story of the church today, many things we preach are not of the same form, nature, class or kind of what the Lord or the Apostles preached. This is what Apostle Paul told the church in Corinth: **“Be ye followers of me, even as I also *am* of Christ”** (1 Corinthians 11:1).

What we preach is not in tandem with what we see written in the gospels. “Alter calls are not even made any more, and when they are made, they appear strange”! Mercy on us! As the Apostles look at us from heaven, they are marveled at what we preach.

Many pastors preach the very opposite of what the Lord said, their preaching is focused on, how to lay up treasures on this earth, how to be a millionaire, how to have multiple streams of income, ten keys to owning property in the city and out of the city and many other secular things.

Many pastors, unknowingly, have become nothing more than bankers and financial advisors, experts or analysts! Let’s not deceive ourselves, we must judge ourselves

so we know what we are and what we are not, this way, we can attend to the things that are lacking. Apostle Paul admonished us to judge ourselves, “**For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged**” (1 Corinthians 11:31).

Analyze yourself, look at the things you preach and ask yourself, whether you are really following the Christ or someone else, are you preaching the good news Jesus preached or you are a preacher of another gospel?

To preach another gospel also means to pervert the gospel of Christ. Remember the verse I shared earlier, “I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto **another gospel**: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, **and would pervert the gospel of Christ**” (Galatians 1:6-7). To pervert also means: to turn another way, to divert, to corrupt, to misapply, to misinterpret or to take the wrong course.

Pastors have misinterpreted what the Lord said about money, faith, healing and many others. Stay true to the gospel of Christ, do not become a preacher of another gospel! Be like Apostle Paul, who said: “**For I determined not to know anything among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified**” (1 Corinthians 2:2).

## Chapter 4

### Reasons why some pastors preach another gospel

In this section, I will share with you, reasons why some pastors preach another gospel. You may be amazed to find out, many pastors started out in the ministry, preaching the good news, they preached the things Jesus preached, they used the stories and parables He used, they quoted His words. Thus, what led to the deviation? What made them go so far away, from this simple and noble gospel?

1. Receiving honor from men

John 5:44

How can ye believe, **which receive honour one of another**, and seek not the honour that *cometh* from God only?

The honor of man is simply the respect and admiration that comes from other men in society. It is the desire to stand in a good stead with the people we consider important in society.

Many pastors believe, preaching secular things will attract the rich, noble, laureates and the high and mighty in society to their church or to them. Many Pastors want to appear intelligent and wise in the affairs of this present world, thus, end up teaching things that are at variance with word of God.

Listen to what the Apostle Paul said in 1 Corinthians 2:1-2, “And I, brethren, when I came to you, **came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom**, declaring unto you the testimony of God. For I determined not to know anything among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified”.

Receiving honor from men is very dangerous because, it can cause you to lose value for even the cross of Christ. “Christ did not give me the work of baptizing people. He gave me the work of telling the Good News. **But he sent me to tell the Good News without using clever speech, which would take away the power that is in the cross of Christ** (1 Corinthians 1:17 ERV).

Every time we try to use clever speech to represent the gospel so we appear great in the sight of men, we make the death of Jesus Christ on the cross seem irrelevant and powerless.

Preaching about the cross of Christ is the good news, this is the core of our faith. Many pastors don't want to be tagged us, preachers of basics. Preaching about the cross of Christ has been tagged us basics and foundational, thus, your ability to sway from this area into other seemingly impressive and grey areas, demonstrates how astute you are. When you love someone, you take what the person says very seriously!

If we love the Lord, we must take what he says seriously and share his words with others. This is what Apostle Paul said: “**And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom**, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power” (1 Corinthians 2:4). As a result of the desire to receive honor from men, many pastors have become preachers of another gospel.

## 2. Forgetfulness

2 Peter 1:9

But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, **and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.**

It is as if, many of us have forgotten how we became Christians! Many people have forgotten the kind of messages we heard when we were growing up. The messages and teachings that formed the foundation of our faith. Many have forgotten the messages that compelled them to give their lives to Christ.

We have forgotten, how we came to love the Lord and follow him. Preaching about, how to have multiple streams of income does not achieve the same effects when compared to preaching about Jesus and His cross.

One day, a senior preacher (A) asked another senior preacher (B), the kind of messages he heard when he was growing up, he said, "I heard about salvation, faith, sacrifice, healing and some others, so the senior pastor (A) asked senior pastor (B), "why don't you preach such things" because, apparently, senior pastor B had become a money preacher!

You see, preaching about prosperity isn't a bad thing, making prosperity your sole message isn't good either! Why do I say so? Jesus warned us about laying up treasures on this earth. "**Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth**, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: (Mathew 6:19).

To focus on prosperity, is to do the exact opposite of what the Lord commanded us not to do! God is not against you prospering, I am not against prosperity or preaching about money or some other topics I may have mentioned in this book. Preaching about such things, only become a problem, when you become fixated on them.

## 3. Ignoring the words of Jesus

It is unfortunate how the church has gradually ignored the words of its founder and head- Jesus Christ! Many have brushed aside the words of the Lord and are preaching their own things. What are the words of Jesus? The Lord told us "to go into the world", "Lay not up treasures on the earth", "deny ourselves and follow

him” and many other statements. These statements have made the Lord appear like an extremist to many, so His words are not preached. Instead, other things are preached which is tantamount to a blatant disregard for the words of the Jesus! Everything we do and say outside of the word of God shall not stand the test of time. **“Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away”** (Mathew 24:35).

#### 4. Downplaying the importance of faithfulness

2 Timothy 2:1-2

Thou therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus.

**And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also.**

The Apostle Paul wrote to Timothy, admonishing him to convey the same message he had heard him preach to others. What did Apostle Paul preach? **“For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified”** (1 Corinthians 2:2).

As stewards, we ought to be faithful with the message of the cross! **“Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful”** (1 Corinthians 4:2). Whatever, the Lord Jesus and the Apostles passed on to us, we must faithfully pass them on to others, and admonish these to also faithfully pass them on to others. We must stay true to the message of the cross, it should not be something we touch on tangentially every now and then!

#### 5. Downplaying the importance of sacrifice

1 Corinthians 1:18

**For the preaching of the cross** is to them that perish foolishness; **but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.**

The preaching of the cross is a preaching on sacrifice. This kind of preaching releases the power of God. Our faith is a faith of sacrifice. It is a religion of blood. The Lord was the first to sacrifice when He spilled his blood for us. The preaching of the cross is what led to missionaries going out to also sacrifice at all cost for the

gospel to reach others, this is what emboldened men to go to the ends of the earth and give away their lives and resources for the Lord.

When we preach another gospel, we downplay the importance of an essential ingredient for church growth - sacrifice.

#### 6. The desire to lay up treasures of the earth

Today, success in ministry is associated with the type of car you drive, the area you stay in your nation, how many invitations you receive to minister, the number of houses you have, what you wear, the car your wife drives and many other frivolous things! Many pastors forget that, people who are not in the ministry have such things and thus, it is certainly not a sign of success in the ministry! Jesus warned us against having such desires. He said: **“Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal”**: (Mathew 6:19).

The desire to lay up treasures have emboldened many to preach another gospel, this has also brought many sorrows and disappointments to many. Do not seek riches as a pastor! This what the bible says: **“Labour not to be rich: cease from thine own wisdom”** (Proverbs 23:4). Believe God, he will bless you, even more than you can carry, as you faithfully serve and follow him.

#### 7. Becoming full in their eyes

Many remained true to the message of the cross, until they became full in their own eyes! Until their church began to sit a thousand people in one service, until they started reaping in millions as offerings. Becoming full burgeons forgetfulness! It makes you feel as if, you have arrived! There are pastors who didn't preach certain messages until they became the pastors of mega churches. Prosperity will test you!

Deuteronomy 8:12-14

**Lest *when* thou hast eaten and art full, and hast built goodly houses, and dwelt *therein*;**

**And *when* thy herds and thy flocks multiply, and thy silver and thy gold is multiplied, and all that thou hast is multiplied;**

Then thine heart be lifted up, **and thou forget the LORD thy God**, which brought thee forth out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage;

No matter, the heights you reach in following the Lord, endeavor to remain true to the good news!

## 8. Having another spirit

1 Corinthians 2:12

Now we have received, not **the spirit of the world**, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.

What is the spirit of the world? This is what the bible says: **“For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world”** (1 John 2:16).

Many things that are taught from the pulpit do not emanate from the Holy spirit. The things you do and say, demonstrates the kind of spirit that influences you! Hear what the bible says: **“Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Ghost”** (1 Corinthians 12:3).

The reason why many preach another gospel or what is also called a new gospel is because, they are not influenced by the Holy spirit. The spirit of the world makes you focus of the things of this world, it doesn't make you eternity-minded, thus, you spend all your time and efforts trying to do well in this world. Examine your heart, analyze the things you hear, preach and teach, this will enable you to see whether you're influenced by the Holy spirit or another spirit. **“This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish”** (James 3:15).

## 9. Misplaced Priorities

Why did Jesus come into the world? Did he come to die so we can have five cars and seven houses? Did he come to make us millionaires? The message of the cross should be prioritized. What was on Jesus' mind as He was coming into this world?

In some occasions, the Lord himself, revealed to us why He came to the earth. Kindly see the following scriptures:

John 3:16

For God so loved the world, that he gave **his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.**

Luke 19:10

**For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost.**

Mathew 9:13

But go ye and learn what *that* meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice: **for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.**

Apostle Paul, the Apostle who, unreservedly called himself a follower of Christ had this say:

1 Timothy 1:15

This *is* a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, **that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners;** of whom I am chief.

If indeed, Christ came into the world to preach repentance, salvation and to seek the lost, we also, as followers of Christ, ought to make this our priority. As we journey to know the Lord, we will become custodians of various mysteries in the Kingdom, no matter the heights we attain, we have to endeavor to make the preaching of the cross a priority! Let's preach Jesus and him crucified!

## 10. Becoming disconnected

John 15:5

I am the vine, ye *are* the branches: **He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.**

The further some pastors went from the Lord and from the influence of the Holy spirit, the more secular their messages became.

Your preaching is different when you're influenced by the Holy spirit. Jesus didn't just say anything, he said and did things the father wanted Him to do. "Believest thou not that I am in the Father, and the Father in me? **the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works**" (John 16:13).

If we claim to have the Holy spirit in us and are followers of Christ, we should be preaching things from God and not earthly and secular topics.

## Chapter 5

### Effects of preaching another gospel

Romans 10:17

**So then faith *cometh* by hearing**, and hearing by the word of God.

1 Timothy 4:16

**Be careful about the way you live and about what you teach. Keep on doing this, and you will save not only yourself, but the people who hear you.**

What a pastor is, and what he/she preaches is very important as every pastor imparts his/her spirit and nature to his/her followers or hearers. Since faith comes by hearing, hearing is a channel through which spiritual virtues and graces are transferred. In this section, I will share with you the effects of preaching another gospel -the effects are visible on the preacher and the hearers of the preacher.

1. Lesser people are saved

Romans 10:17

**So then faith *cometh* by hearing**, and hearing by the word of God.

We are able to win more souls to the Lord when we preach about Jesus! Telling people about Jesus Christ, generates in them the faith to entrust their lives to him.

Ask yourself, how did you get saved? How did you become a Christian? How did you come to be a man of faith? Preaching about secular things and other seemingly earthly things does not enable people to be eternity minded. We can win more souls for the Lord when we preach the same things He preached. Let's preach Jesus!

## 2. The spirit of the world invades the church

The spirit of the world has always tried to enter the church. This happens because, the church is in the world, but it is not of this world. John the Apostle, warned the churches in Ephesus about this when he wrote to them,

**“Love not the world, neither the things *that are* in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.**

**For all that *is* in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world” (1 John 2:15-16).**

When all pastors preach about is, how to become millionaires, own properties, buy cars and other secular things that are preached today, it imparts the spirit of the world into the church. The spirit of the world is not from God, it is from the devil.

People do not think about eternity when they are full of the spirit of the world. When you're full of the spirit of this world you may not chose serving God or even going to start a church, rather, you may love to go into business or go to into other plush looking secular professions because you are only concerned about how to live well in this present life.

## 3. Fewer people are willing to lose for God

Philippians 3:7-8

**But *what things* were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ.**

**Yea doubtless, *and I count all things but* loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all *things*, and do count them *but* dung, that I may win Christ,**

Serving God comes with loss. You will lose some things when you decide to serve and follow God. You will lose relationships, opportunities, money, the respect of

men and many others when you follow God, this is biblical and it's the will of God because somethings aren't compatible with God.

As pastors preach more and more about how to accrue treasures on this earth, it takes away the desire to suffer loss for God's sake, this breeds a crop of Christians who aren't ready to suffer loss for God but are interested in laying up treasures for themselves in this world.

#### 4. Fewer people are willing to sacrifice for God

Mathew 20:28

Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, **and to give his life a ransom for many.**

Revelation 5:9

And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: **for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood** out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;

Sacrifice is among the foundational principles of Christianity. We've come this far as a result of the sacrifice of many others, the first being, our Lord and savior Jesus Christ! The message of the cross signifies sacrifice, it signifies going all-out for the Lord.

Any time, the message of the cross is put aside, we put aside the relevance and power of sacrifice. Many Christians aren't willing to sacrifice as result of the things they have been fed from the pulpit. This has led to the absence of power in many churches and in the lives of believers! Every act of sacrifice yield's power!

#### 5. Fewer people are willing to suffer for God

Philippians 1:29

**For unto you it is given in the behalf of Christ, not only to believe on him, but also to suffer for his sake;**

Following Jesus Christ entails suffering. You cannot preach about Christ without noting the sufferings He went through in this world. As it is, we have fewer and

fewer Christians willing to suffer for God as a result of messages they have heard-  
messages encouraging them on how to accrue more possessions in this world.

This is the advice Apostle Paul gave to Timothy: “Be not thou therefore ashamed  
of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: **but be thou partaker of the  
afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God**”; (2 Timothy 1:8)

## 6. Fewer people are willing to die for the Lord

Hebrews 2:9

But we see **Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering  
of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should  
taste death for every man.**

1 Corinthians 15:31

I protest by your rejoicing which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, **I die daily.**

To die daily means, to endure perils, trials and sufferings daily or to be in the  
danger of death every day! There are perils and troubles to be endured for Christ.  
Also, you may die serving God.

Many New Testament Christians died in this manner, they died as a result of their  
faith in Jesus Christ. These are also called martyrs! Even Jesus, died as a result of  
the things He believed and preached. Dying is part and parcel of the Christianity-  
manual. The readiness to die for the Lord leaves Christians when we preach a  
gospel which is at variance with the gospel of Christ.

## 7. Power leaves the church

Romans 1:16

For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: **for it is the power of God unto  
salvation** to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

1 Corinthians 1:18

**For the preaching of the cross** is to them that perish foolishness; **but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.**

There is power associated with the preaching of the cross. The power of God eludes the church when we throw out the preaching of the gospel. The church becomes nothing more than a social club without the Holy Spirit. Unfortunately, this is the state of many churches today! Many churches have grieved and quenched the Holy Spirit in their midst as they consciously threw out the preaching of the cross.

8. People become less conscious about eternity

Mark 16:19-21

**Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth**, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal:

**But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven**, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal:

**For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.**

The Lord warned us about laying up treasures on this earth saying “where your treasure is, there will your heart be also”. If all we do, is to encourage Christians to acquire treasures on this earth, their heart will also be fixated on earthly things and not on eternity.

Let’s not forget, all the things we accrue on this earth won’t stand the test of time. Read the following: “But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, **the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up.**

**Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness”,** (2 Peter 3:10-11)

The preaching of the cross enables people to be mindful of eternity, whereas, other forms of preaching doesn’t.

9. It leads to deception

1 Timothy 6:5-7

**Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness:** from such withdraw thyself.

But godliness with contentment is great gain.

For we brought nothing into *this* world, *and it is* certain we can carry nothing out.

You see, it is deception to think that, gain is godliness. Riches is not a sign of spirituality! Rather, God promises us provision. I have watched as the Lord provided my needs. He has even given me things I didn't ask for or even think about.

My material possessions do not necessarily mean I am a godly person. When pastors preach messages saturated with how to accrue treasures on this earth, we make it seem as if, gain is godliness, however, this is not true. It is erroneous!

10. It may leave one unprepared

Luke 21:34

**And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares.**

The preaching of another gospel makes people concerned about the cares of this world and of this life. And in this scripture, the Lord tells us, this may leave us unprepared. You are only caught unawares, when you are unprepared or when you are not watching. Pastors and Christians, may be caught unawares in the coming of the Lord because they have saturated themselves with another gospel, thereby, being busy with the cares of this world.

11. Fewer people are willing to endure shame for God

Hebrews 12:2

Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of *our* faith; who for the joy that was set before him **endured the cross, despising the shame**, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Philippians 2:8

And being found in fashion as a man, **he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.**

The cross came with shame for Christ, imagine Jesus Christ, who was full of grace and truth being mishandled by men! His body was utterly broken for our sake! As His disciples, He admonished us to be ready to take up our crosses and follow him. To take up your cross also means, to ready to endure shame for His sake. People become mindful of this when we preach the gospel of Christ.

## **Chapter 6** **God is not against riches**

Revelation 5:11-12

And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands;  
Saying with a loud voice, **Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches**, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing.

God is not against His people becoming rich, prosperous or wealthy! God has never been against prosperity! A benefit of the cross is riches! It is almost impossible to serve God and not multiply in material possessions.

Certainly, I have seen the Lord bless me with material possessions as I have tried to follow him. Some Christians are poor or become poor because they don't follow or practice the word of the Lord concerning riches. Prosperity is elusive in a certain sense, those who go after it, don't often get it whilst those who don't overtly go after it, end up rich and prosperous.

It is not wrong for pastors to preach about money! It takes money to meet the expenses of a church, there are bills to be paid, thus, dear preacher, raise the money needed to do the things that need to be done. Expect God to send you sponsors, expect Him to send a river your way! Ask the Lord to send a river your way. I have seen the Lord send me people to strengthen my hands in the ministry! I see God doing same for you!

God will fund those who will heed to his call to "go into the world".

## Chapter 7 How to remain faithful to the gospel of Christ

1 Corinthians 4:2

**Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.**

You can remain faithful to the gospel of Christ by practicing a reverse of the points stated for the reasons why people preach another gospel!

Also, I suggest, you endeavor to maintain communion with the Holy spirit! This is what Apostle Paul says: "Brethren, **I count not myself to have apprehended: but *this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before,***

I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

Let us therefore, as many as be perfect, be thus minded: **and if in any thing ye be otherwise minded, God shall reveal even this unto you ( Philippians 3:13-15).**

Apostle Paul tells us, God will reveal to us when we make mistakes, or when we have another mind contrary to the mind of Christ.

In conclusion, I leave you with what Apostle Paul told Timothy, his son,

1 Timothy 4:16 (Easy English)

**“Think carefully about how you live. And think carefully about what you teach. You must continue to do all these things that I have said to you. Then God will save you yourself. And he will save those people who listen to you”.**

## **References**

Dale, C. 1936. How to win friends and Influence people

Heward-Mills, D. 2014. Top ten Mistakes Pastors Make. Parchment House.

Heward-Mills, D. 2011. Losing, Suffering, Sacrificing and Dying.

Heward-Mills, D. 2015. A Good General