



**PROSPERITY CANNOT  
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WHO WORSHIP HIM.**

**JOHN PIPER**

## **BEWARE OF PROSPERITY PREACHERS!**

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All prosperity preachers are in error whether they've been in ministry for 50 or 100 years!

Prosperity preachers are simply making a concoction and confusion of Judaism with Christianity. It is a false doctrine that originated from America and not from the Bible. The truth is, whereas material prosperity is the main thrust of the Old Testament under Judaism, self-denial and sacrifice for the sake of the Kingdom of heaven is the main thrust of the New Testament. The Bible itself says in **Hebrews 8: 7** that, "**...if that first covenant had been faultless, then should no place have been sought for the second.**" And now, many African preachers are adding a big dose of African Traditional Religion to the already deadly concoction. So sad!

For true children of God, no sacrifice is too big for heaven's sake. Jesus, our Lord said, "**For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?**" (Mk.8: 36-37). He also said, "**And if thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell. And if thy right hand offend thee, cut it off, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell.**" –

**Matthew 5: 29-30.** Apostle Paul said, "***If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable.***" (**1 Corinthians 15: 19**). The same Apostle Paul also said, "***Wherefore, if meat make my brother to offend, I will eat no flesh while the world standeth, lest I make my brother to offend.***" – **1 Corinthians 15: 19**. What do prosperity preachers make of all these scriptures?

Unlike the erroneous teachings of prosperity preachers, Jesus never encouraged acquisition of financial or material wealth anywhere in the Bible. Instead, He challenged the rich to sell their possessions and give the proceeds to the poor like widows, orphans, destitute and beggars (Luke 18: 18-27). That was also the common practice of the Early Church (Acts 2). One then wonders where prosperity preachers get their false doctrine from? Their goal is personal enrichment and extravagant luxurious living, not expansion of the Kingdom of God. Like Apostle Paul put, "***...their belly is their god***" (**Philippians 3: 17-20**). Already, it is evident that most prosperity preachers always end up in scandals either with women or financial improprieties.

The verdict of the Bible is simple and clear, and it is this: "***If any man teach otherwise, and consent not to wholesome words, even the words of our Lord Jesus Christ, and to the doctrine which is according to godliness; He is proud, knowing nothing, but doting about questions and strifes of words, whereof cometh envy, strife, railings, evil surmisings, 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. And having food and raiment let us be therewith content. But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness,***

***godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness. Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses." – 1 Timothy 6: 3-12.***

The Bible says, "***Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.***" (2 Timothy 2: 15). If the word of truth can be rightly divided then, it can also be wrongly divided! Prosperity preachers are simply dividing the word of truth wrongly. Most of them are too busy or lazy to study the Bible and find it difficult to maintain fresh fellowship with the Holy Spirit our Teacher for spiritual insight and so copy from old Bible School notes or other preachers' sermons full of errors.

Let all prosperity preachers be convicted by their conscience; let them be humble enough to repent of this ungodly error and stop feeding innocent souls in the Church of Christ with the poison of love of money, covetousness and greed. The Lord Jesus Christ already warned us to, "***Remember Lot's wife.***" (Luke 17: 32) who could not escape the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah because of her ungodly attachment to worldly wealth. He equally said, "... ***Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth.***" (Luke 12: 15).

The Lord said, "***No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.***" – Matthew 6: 24. At the end of the day, like Gideon's army of 32,000 reduced to 10,000 in Judges 7 because of fear, most Africans are simply reacting to fear of poverty. The remaining 10,000 soldiers were further reduced to 300 because they lied face down drinking from worldly water without any watchfulness or looking upwards toward heaven. We must avoid their error lest we be disqualified like them from the Kingdom of God in the end.

Many have taken to the pulpits not because they have genuine calls but as a short cut and escape route from massive unemployment and grinding poverty. Many sincere preachers with genuine calls have also been influenced and are derailing. That is why churches are springing up everywhere all over Africa (especially Nigeria) yet, thick darkness of wickedness and corruption increasingly covers the land. Lord have mercy! **"Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall." - 1 Corinthians 10: 12.**

In the end, God will judge all our recklessness in and out of the pulpit. The Bible says, **"Wherefore we labour, that, whether present or absent, we may be accepted of him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad. Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are made manifest unto God; and I trust also are made manifest in your consciences." - 2 Corinthians 5: 9-11.**

Please, let's get it clear that there is no controversy whatsoever in the word of God. Controversies only exist in the hearts of men! **"For we can do nothing against the truth, but for the truth." (2 Corinthians 13: 8).** Truth is absolute and Jesus is The Truth! (John 14: 6). The Lord Jesus Christ and Lord of the Vineyard Himself said, **"He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still. And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be." - Revelation 22: 11-12.**

Can anybody beat that?