

Parson to Person
2 Corinthians 11:1–5
(False Doctrines/Teachings)

“Oh, that you would bear with me in a little folly—and indeed you do bear with me. 2 For I am jealous for you with godly jealousy. For I have betrothed you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ. 3 But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the [a]simplicity that is in Christ. 4 For if he who comes preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or if you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted—you may well put up with it! 5 For I consider that I am not at all inferior to the most eminent apostles...”
(1 Corinthians 11:1–5)

Dear Candlelight!

Pastor Jason here! Paul had to be gone this weekend, and asked me to deliver the next and final installment on false doctrines.

You’ve heard the warning now three Sundays running: “We love our friends, but we hate the false teaching that has captured them.”

After being warned about the false teachings in Roman Catholicism, Mormonism, and now most recently Seventh Day Adventism, it falls to me to warn you about several “American Gospel” heresies, beginning with what is called “Christian Science.” Let me begin with the Bible passage above.

Read in the top paragraph how the apostle Paul is trying to navigate his relationship with the Corinthians. Simply put, he’s making the attempt to warn them against “another Jesus...a different gospel...a

different Spirit” (v. 4), but he adds a perhaps surprising note: that other Jesus is being preached by “the most eminent apostles” (v. 5). That is the trouble with the American Christian heresies I will zero in on today (at Pastor Paul’s direction).

Christian Science;

Prosperity/Word of Faith preaching;

New Age, especially its supposedly Christian-ish versions and presentations; and finally the counter-problems of...

Hyper-Calvinism (and its various heretical overreactions).

All of these are preached by “eminent apostles” in American Christianity and churching today. From “Jesus Calling” to Joel Osteen, and various similar voices and influences, we have “gospels” and “Jesus” that sound biblical, but all of them are preached and taught by “apostles” who have veered gradually but sharply from the truth of the Bible.

God’s Word clearly states, in verbiage I will read and explain this morning, how salvation is as follows:

By Grace ALONE—that is, totally and in a unique and special sense by Grace not merit;

Through Faith ALONE—that is, totally and in a unique and special sense by Faith not works;

In Christ ALONE—that is, totally and in a unique and special sense in no one but the One and Only Son of God, Fully God and Fully Man, the Lord of All and Savior of those who believe—none other;

As described in the Bible ALONE—with no other Scripture or book or books, and in full consideration of every WORD of the Bible alone;

And to the glory of God ALONE—that is, by no praise, honor or credit to any person but God.

In all these regards, the above “American Gospel” heresies will be judged this morning and found wanting. They will be found to be “another gospel, which is not another” (Galatians 1:7). They will be explained and expositied to be “another Jesus...a different gospel...a different Spirit” EVEN THOUGH they are one and all taught by “eminent apostles” so to speak.

Remember that Pastor Paul and your assisting pastors are outlining these difficult distinctions specifically and precisely BECAUSE WE LOVE OUR FRIENDS—our Christian Scientist friends; our Prosperity Gospel and Word-of-Faith friends; our HyperCalvinist and Church of Christ and otherwise “theologically different” friends—and are “jealous with a godly jealousy” that they may all be delivered to the true Christ Jesus of the Bible!

We love you each one,
Pastor Jason