

THE NEW TIME RELIGION

TEXT: *Jeremiah 6:16: Thus saith the LORD, “Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls.” But they said, “We will not walk therein.”*

Unannounced and mostly undetected, there has come into our times a very new and popular religion. It appears — with a few exceptions — to be like the old, but yet it is quite different, for the likeness is surface and superficial. I still employs most of the same language and uses the terms of the old, but the power is gone, the joy is not there, and the contents of holiness is sadly lacking.

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clean fun and innocent enjoyment. It lets Adam live without interference or interruption. His life motivation is unchanged. He still lives for his own pleasure, only now he takes delight in singing choruses and watching movies of a lesser dignity. The accent is still on enjoyment, though the fun is now on a higher plane morally.



The *New Time Religion* encourages a new approach to preaching. The preacher does not demand self-crucifixion — death to the old life — before the new life can be received. He preaches not contrasts, but similarities. He no longer preaches separation, but integration. He wants to show this generation that Christianity makes no unpleasant demands; rather, it offers the same things the world does, only a higher level.

Whatever the sin-mad world happens to be clamoring after for the moment, it is offered by the new time religion. It is the very thing the Gospel offers, only the religious by-product is supposed to be much better. This *New Time Religion* does not crucify the sinner to the world and the flesh. It just redirects him and gears him to a cleaner and jollier way of living, thus saving his “self-respect”. To the proud it will say: ‘Come and do your boasting in the Lord’. To the arrogant and

self-assertive, it says “*assert yourself for Christ*”. To the filthy minded it says: “*think noble thoughts*”; to the thrill seeker it says: ‘*Come and enjoy the thrill of Christian fellowship*’. Thus the Gospel is now slanted to the whim and fancies of the world to make religion more palatable.

The idea behind this seems to be sincere, but does it sincerely save it from being wrong? Hardly!! This *New Time Religion* is basically false because it is blind. It misses the complete meaning of the Cross. The holy Old Time Religion had a CROSS that was the symbol of death. It stood for an abrupt and sudden end to the old nature and the old life. Jesus did not tell Nicodemus to have his life re-directed, but regenerated. The Cross of Christ made no compromises, and had no toleration of sins of the flesh and associations with the world. It was hard on the flesh and never sought to be on good terms with the world. Jesus said:



John 15:19: If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.

James 4:4: . . . know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.

God cannot approve of any of the works of the flesh, for they are sinful. The works of the flesh are manifest, which are these:

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Galatians 5:19-21:

¹⁹ Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness,

²⁰ Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies,

²¹ Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings,

and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the Kingdom of God.

However innocent these desires of the flesh are — and they may appear beautiful to the eyes of men — they are contemptible in the eyes of the Lord. God salvages the penitent sinner by liquidating him and then raising him again into newness of life in Christ.

This *New Time Religion* which draws friendly parallels and harmonies between the *Old Time Religion* and the New, is false to the Bible and is cruel and heartless to the souls of men. It places a false hope and false ideas in their sinful hearts. The *Old Time Religion* crosses and bisects the world and never runs parallel to it. In the *Old Time Religion*, we do not bring up our old life and nature to a higher plane, but it must die just like a kernel of wheat that must fall into the ground and die in order to live.



We ministers are not public relations agents sent to bring good will relationship with the world and Christ. We are not diplomats, but prophets, and our messages have no place for compromise, but an ultimatum.

The old-fashioned Gospel of Christ offers life, but not an improvement of the *old life*. The life Jesus offers is life out of death. The death of the cross is the message of eternal life alone. The *Old Time Religion* tells us: we are dead in trespasses and sins; but then came Christ Who, through death, brings life to the repentant that trust wholly and entirely in Jesus' shed Blood for the remission of sins.

Then this *Old Time Religion* sets forth a dying daily to the world, the flesh, and the devil. It tells us to deny our self and take our cross daily and follow Jesus. Nothing less will do to have life.

Mark 8:35: For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for My sake and the Gospel's, the same shall save it.

His saved life will be a life eternal.

Ezekiel 33:11b: . . . but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?



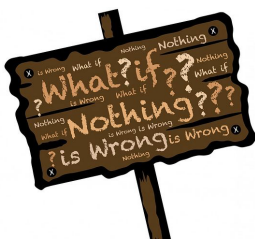
We cannot cover anything, excuse anything, defend anything of the worldly life. We cannot make terms with God. God has no compromises with the old man.

What is the result of all this foolishness? Well, the National Probation and Parole Association can tell us a few interesting facts.

Delinquency among children is skyrocketing at 4 times the rate of the national

population. Crime is about the most urgent problem as we can get. The worst part of it all is that so many of these young criminals have no real sense of guilt. The wardens say: *We have a hard time convincing them that they have done anything wrong; they have no sense of justice at all.*

When three boys killed a man in Chicago by pumping 19 bullets into his body, they laughed hysterically while doing it. When caught, they were asked why they did it, and they shrugged and said: *"The pills made us do it."*, so they thought it wasn't really their fault. Older criminals take the same stance, and declare they were brought up in homes with no real sense of justice and of right and wrong. In many cases, they actually do not know the difference between the two. The lack of light and knowledge of any kind of a standard is the greatest menace to our society, far more so than communism or racism.



It is not only the criminal who will shock you with their indifference towards society, but the modern man on the street will tell you that right and wrong are purely relative ideas. What is right in one society is wrong in another. He will tell you that morality differs in different cultures. It is a matter of taste, or geography, or degree.

I am here to tell you there are moral standards of right and wrong set forth in this Bible.

Amos 7:8b: Then said the Lord, "Behold, I will set a plumbline in the midst of My people Israel:

God's plumbline is straight. The road to Heaven is both straight and narrow, and few thereby that find it. *Wrong* and *right* are not obsolete words, nor is the Bible out of date. The reason why we are having spineless and wishy-washy, flexible attitudes toward righteousness and unrighteousness is that ***Modern man wants to be a law unto himself*** and do that which is right in his own eyes.

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Is this a new thing? No, by far, for you can go as far back as the Book of Judges, and you will find these very words penned there:

Judges 17:6: In those days there was no king in Israel, but every man did that which was right in his own eyes.

As then, so it is now. Man does not want the God of Justice anymore. The whole root of the problem is right here. This civilization has made a god of its own, a big Santa Claus. We don't like the idea that the God of this Bible is a God of Justice and Judgment, or the thought of Him being absolute justice and absolute right, where wrong is absolutely wrong. We want a God who lets us get away with our sins, who comforts, but never condemns.

Man does not want the God of Justice anymore.

We like a God who will always bless but never blister.

It so happened in the days of Israel, when God moved on the prophet Isaiah to speak God's message....when he said:

Isaiah 59:4: None calleth for justice, nor any pleadeth for truth: they trust in vanity, and speak lies; they conceive mischief, and bring forth iniquity.

This generation doesn't want a God who holds His moral law over their heads and expects them to obey those Commandments He has laid down. Even preachers tell their congregations that we must not be so primitive in our conception of God . . . as though He would actually punish them for breaking His moral laws. That may have been all right in the middle ages, and for Moses' day, they say, but we have come a long way since those ancients, and we have a much better God.

Having modernized the God of the Bible because we wanted to get rid of His absolute justice, we are left with a weak and powerless so-called deity who winks at sin with a superficial love. That *someway*, He will find a way to take us all to Heaven one day, even though we live the kind of lives that lead straight to Hell and damnation.



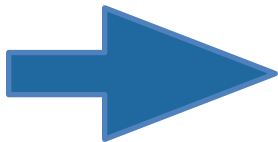
What utter nonsense! You and I all know better than that. We cannot even have a decent society of our law enforcement agencies take that kind of a permissive attitude. This is the reason why the crime waves are rising higher and higher and will never come down until JUDGES AND COURTS AND WE THE PEOPLE cry out for judgment and righteousness.

Isaiah 28:17: Judgment also will I lay to the line, and righteousness to the plummet: and the hail shall sweep away the refuge of lies, and the waters shall overflow the hiding place.

The Bible says:

Galatians 6:7: Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.

We all know that's true in the realm of nature, and we're grateful for it. However, we can tell ourselves that this law doesn't work in the realm of the spirit. If our farmers would pay as little attention to that law in nature as we do in spiritual matters, the whole output of our fertile fields would be something far from edible and unfit for any but the hogs and dogs. If you want corn, you don't plant poison ivy. Likewise, if you allow the weeds to grow and multiply and go to seed again, you wouldn't say — when the ugly crop is freshly coming up — *Well, imagine that. I was expecting a new crop of corn, but look at this.*



When we get into the area of morality and right living, we want to sow our wild oats, and yet expect a good harvest. We travel the road to Hell, and then want to believe that somehow we will wind up in Heaven. We want to plant the seeds of sin, yet expect an altogether different harvest. We want to break every commandment in God's Book, but then complain when we have to suffer the consequences. We want justice when we plant corn, but not when we plant sin.

What kind of reasoning is that? God says bluntly: ***“Be not deceived”***. Or — in modern English — don't be stupid. As one kernel brings forth about 1000 kernels of corn, so one sin brings forth a multiplied harvest. God is not mocked by our sinning. We are the only ones who are.

It's time we stopped cheating our own intelligence and deceiving our own hearts. Let us never be guilty of implying that God is not just and fair when He holds us responsible for breaking His laws. He made the law of the harvest for our good, didn't He? What would the farmer do without it? We follow the same kind of rules or laws when placing a locomotive on two rails. We have traffic lanes for our cars to travel in. Is it fair that the law expects a man to stay in his proper lane? Is it fair to insist that a doctor must study biology? Is it fair to punish the criminal, and to build prisons for those who destroy our loved ones, our lives, and our property?

We all have a good sense of reason when wanting justice meted out to those that

offend, hurt, and wrong us, but where is it when we are the offending parties? **We like the God who gives us apples from apple trees, and roses from rose bushes; but we don't like the God who gives us punishment for our sins.**



Sooo, we try to change Him into a ***New Time Religion God*** to make Him fit our relative standards of flexible justice and spineless morality. We want Him to agree with everything we do, and turn His face the other way when we are not doing so well. *Bad* is really *Good* when we can get away with it, and evil is only a little nasty and dirty when we get caught at it.

The result of this kind of reasoning? Let me tell you plainly. We are experiencing revolution, chaos, rioting, violence, and a flagrant disregard for law and order. Now, even the law enforcement agencies are despised. It is not safe to be out in the daylight much less after dark. Is this the kind of world we want to live in . . . with fear for our own lives? Well, this is what we have made out of it with our permissive-ism.



Graft in our politics, corruption in our courts, negligence of our police forces and its officials, abuse of civil rights, and lawlessness in our streets are fast leading this civilization to its doom and to the wrath of Almighty God with the perishing of the souls.

When we think we can get away with it when we sin against God, why then shouldn't we think we can get away with it when we sin against our fellow man? If the law doesn't hold straight up to Heaven, then it doesn't hold on the level of earth. We need not be shocked, then, when we find ourselves surrounded with all these evils of immorality, crimes, and cheap dishonest living.

REMEMBER, in closing, if we don't want the justice of God, neither can we find His mercy. These are two that are inseparable. In the measure that we disregard the one, we will automatically lose the other. That means you lose your only hope of salvation. Only A God that is absolutely Just and Holy can also be absolutely merciful. Any other kind of god will be just like the men who have made Him in their image — too small to love and too tiny to pardon and save from our sins.

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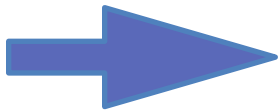
The God of this Bible says:

Isaiah 45:22: Look unto Me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else.

There is no God else beside Me, a just God and a Saviour. Note how He puts His justice and His mercy together. In one breath He calls Himself a Just God and a Saviour. On the basis of this, you read of Him extending His loving hands and saying: ***“Look unto Me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth.”***

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In other words, if salvation is to mean anything, it must come from a God Who is a spring of justice, or you would never get the kind of mercy that is needed. If you refuse to confess that you have broken His Law and deserve His Judgment, you cannot beg Him to forgive your sins and deliver from its penalties.



When this Bible says that God is merciful, it does not mean that He will skip over and tolerate our sins and let them go unpunished. That is not justice. He is never merciful at the expense of His justice. He forgives the sinner — not by overlooking it — but paying for it.

This is the purpose of Christ Jesus' Coming. The *New Time Religion* has no pardon, no cleansing, and No eternal life. Only the Cross and the Blood of Jesus Christ can pardon, cleanse, sanctify, and restore our souls.

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