**JUBILEE CC NOVEMBER 9,2014 IT’S TIME TO TAKE A STAND!**

We have been examining the basis or premises of the ‘prosperity gospel’ in an effort to dispel lies and establish the truth of God’s word. Surely it is time that we let the light of God’s Word and the breath of the Holy Spirit penetrate and blow away the fog that has settled on the church, obscuring the ‘narrow way.’

**The first foundational mistake** they make is in claiming that the Abrahamic covenant has established a means to ‘material entitlement’ or we all deserve to be rich because God established this principle with Abraham, and all the wealth that was Abraham’s now belongs to us. That is false doctrine and heresy. This is a wrong application of the covenant. God has blessed the world through Abraham and his descendants by sending us the greatest gift; the greatest wealth and riches we can call our own by sending the Messiah, the hope of this world and for eternity! Wealth and money will all pass away but Jesus and knowing Him is an eternal treasure all will enjoy who put their trust in Him, not in money.

**The second foundational mistake** made is that Jesus atonement at Calvary extends to the ‘sin’ of material poverty. They say that salvation from sin, physical healing and financial prosperity have been provided for through the atonement. Where in the Word can you find prosperity one of the benefits of Jesus death, burial and resurrection? Jesus does not mind about your financial prosperity as much as He does about the state of your soul; Jesus did not die to make you wealthy, He died to redeem you from sin and to give you eternal life in heaven.

**The third misconception and heresy** taught is that in order to gain material wealth from God we must give our money, usually to their ‘ministry’. And the more you give, the more they get and the less you have. But they don’t tell you that. They say, Christians who give money will get money and possessions from God. Of course, we know that Jesus taught us to give without expecting anything in return. Give to widows and orphans because your motives are pure – they can’t pay you back.

Now where we left off, the #4 heretical belief. [What I am showing you is not popular teaching; it is not the ‘feel-good’ Gospel; it is not well received in most circles; it does not tickle the ears; and it may burst several bubbles – but examine the Word which is Truth, and you will find that what I am saying is the truth as found in God’s Word.] Go to notes on 4 and 5 wrong belief pages.

Some questions: remember I had asked you to send in your questions on the ‘prosperity gospel’ subject? Here are a few.

**1) Will God bless me with wealth if I am a good Christian?** No, not necessarily. Parts of the OT make statements to the effect that God will bless the righteous by giving them wealth. **Proverbs 15:6** ‘The house of the righteous contains great treasure, but the income of the wicked will bring them great trouble.’ **Proverbs 10:22** ‘The blessing of the Lord brings wealth, and He adds no trouble to it.’ As with all scripture, context must be taken into account. The Proverbs are a collection of wisdom sayings and observations of how God’s world works. The proverbs show us **principles** of how things normally go in life, not **promises** of how things will certainly go for you. It is generally true that obedience to God, faithfulness and good stewardship may lead to prosperity, it is wrong for us to make this a rule and then make demands of God. Nowhere in God’s Word can you find a promise from God that our lives would be free of trouble, there would be no difficulties and money is a guaranteed flow that will never end. In fact, just the opposite promise is given by Jesus. ‘In this world you will have trouble.’ **John 16:33a** Did not Jesus suffer greatly on our behalf? What makes us think that the servant should not suffer as the master did? Was Jesus wallowing in wealth? What makes us think we are entitled to wallow in wealth? The last part of **verse 33** says, ‘But take heart, be of good cheer, rejoice, I have overcome the world.’ Follow and obey Jesus and you too, will overcome the world and this evil system.

**2) Why does God allow poverty?** First of all, we in North America have no clue as to what real poverty is. Our understanding and definition of poverty is wrong; it is skewed. We say, anyone who makes less than one dollar a day is in poverty. I have heard now that this figure has been raised to two dollars a day. We have created poverty with these kind of statements, and the hands go out – give me, I am in poverty! What did you expect them to say or do? We are the authors of own myths and have created confusion. I have been deep in the jungle to hut villages and seen what many would call poverty, but in fact I say contentment, happiness and joy. Possession free, care free and living off the land – no credit card debt, no RRSP’s, no banks, but living life just fine. Our definition of poverty needs some major adjustments. Why does God allow poverty? Sometimes we know why and sometimes we don’t. The Bible gives us some insights as to why God, in His sovereignty, allows poverty. In **Deuteronomy 28:48** God sent poverty on the Children of Israel as a punishment for their covenant-breaking ways. Also, poverty could be the natural result of laziness, neglecting to do that which will sustain us. **Proverbs 6:10,11 14:23** We bring this kind of poverty on ourselves. On the other hand, some kinds of poverty have nothing to do with our behavior; circumstances simply happen to us. Example – third world nations – all it takes is a drought (no rainy season) and major troubles erupt. All it takes is a bad crop harvest and people die from starvation. There are no social safety nets; no government to intervene with money or food – again, we can’t begin to imagine living literally from the land to hand to mouth, daily. In so many other cases, poverty is unjust and causes great grief and difficulty. ‘The Lord sends wealth and poverty; He humbles and He exalts.’ **1Samuel 2:7** We may not know all the reasons for poverty and lack, but we know that there is a day coming when there will be no lack, no poverty; and God will address all these injustices. Amen? So be it!

**Email me more of your questions, if you have more, and I will try to answer them.**

**We will get to the subject of, ‘What does God call prosperity? What is prosperity in His eyes?’**