

CONCERNING JOEL AND VICTORIA OLSTEEN

I know a woman that was a friend of my deceased wife Lourdes. This woman is a good woman and I know that she loves Yahweh Yeshua. From time to time she will pass along posts from Victoria Olsteen. I have researched the Olsteen's and listened to some of their messages, until I could not stomach them anymore. The Olsteen's have a church in Houston, Texas that would be classified as one of those "mega-churches." The church building has a capacity of 16,800 people and their weekly attendance is roughly 43,500 people. The Olsteen's claim that they are non-denominational, Charismatic and Evangelical. In their statement of faith, they state:

We Believe...

...the entire Bible is inspired by God, without error and the authority on which we base our faith, conduct and doctrine.

...in one God who exists in three distinct persons: Father, Son and Holy Spirit. We believe Jesus Christ is the Son of God who came to this earth as Savior of the world.

...Jesus died on the cross and shed His blood for our sins. We believe that salvation is found by placing our faith in what Jesus did for us on the cross. We believe Jesus rose from the dead and is coming again.

...water baptism is a symbol of the cleansing power of the blood of Christ and a testimony to our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

...in the regular taking of Communion as an act of remembering what the Lord Jesus did for us on the cross.

...every believer should be in a growing relationship with Jesus by obeying God's Word, yielding to the Holy Spirit and by being conformed to the image of Christ.

...as children of God, we are overcomers and more than conquerors and God intends for each of us to experience the abundant life He has in store for us.

Source: [<http://www.joelosteen.com/Pages/WhatWeBelieve.aspx>]

Remember what their statement of faith says, because that will be important as we discuss the Olsteen's.

Joel Olsteen, it is quite clear, doesn't preach a message that says that people are sinners, and that they need to repent of their sin and come to Yeshua Ha Mashiach in faith. He's been on many talk and television forum's and has been asked specifically about sin, and each and every time he says that "he's not there to judge," or he'll state that the Bible says that something is a sin, but again, he's not there to judge. He's preaching a noncommittal gospel, not the Gospel of Yeshua Ha Mashiach. Interviewers like to ask Joel about his views on Homosexuals because that is what society is leaning toward. He has always replied like he did in an interview with the Huffington Post:

"You say here... 'It doesn't matter who likes you or doesn't like you; all that matters is that God likes you. He accepts you; He approves of you,'" Zepps stated, reading from Osteen's book. "Is that true for gay men or true for homosexuals?"

"Absolutely," Osteen replied. "I believe that God's breathed His life into every person. We're all on a journey. Nobody's perfect."

"The Bible says that sin is pride, sin is selfish ambition," he continued. "We tend to pick on certain things, but I believe every person is made in the image of God, and you've got to accept them as they are as they're on their journey."

Osteen then explained his belief that Christians should exemplify kindness to the world, rather than "pushing people down."

"Again, the Scripture teaches the way people are going to know His disciples is for our love for one another, and so, I'm not preaching hate [or] pushing people down," he stated. "I'm not here to tell everybody what they're doing wrong."

Osteen was later asked if he believes unbelievers can go to Heaven. He replied that he believes Scripture states that Christ is the way, but that he is not the judge of who is allowed to enter.

"As a Christian pastor, the only thing in Scripture that I see is that a relationship with Jesus will get you to Heaven," he replied. "Now, do you have to be a certain denomination or something like that? I don't know that, but I do know that I'm not the judge of who gets to go Heaven. What I see in the Scripture is that you have to have a relationship with Jesus. That's why He came."

"Someone who believes in the monkey god is not going to Heaven then," Zepps commented, referencing the 1.2 Indians in the world, many of whom practice polytheism.

“I don’t claim to understand who’s all going to Heaven,” Olsteen replied. “I just believe and I teach in all my messages that when you have a relationship with Christ—that’s the reason why He came, to have a relationship with him that is the guarantee from Heaven.”

“People don’t all believe like me; they see it bigger,” he added. “I believe God’s mercy is very big. I thank God I’m not the judge of who gets to come. Only He can, but that’s the way I see it.”

While some have applauded Osteen for the way in which he responded to Zepps’ questions, others have expressed deep concern. Dr. Michael Brown, host of the Line of Fire radio broadcast, and author of the forthcoming book Hyper-Grace, told Christian News Network that Osteen “offers affirmation for sinners—of all kinds—rather than a call for transformation.” [Source: <http://christiannews.net/2013/10/04/joel-osteen-god-absolutely-accepts-homosexuals/>]

Joel is yet another person who gets the word “judge” in the Bible all mixed up. In the western world, we think of “judge” as a person who passes down a sentence. This sort of Judge is a person who can send you to prison, he’s an authoritarian who can designate sentences. This is the word that Yeshua used when he told people not to “judge” lest you be judged. He was saying that if you assign a condemnation, you will receive a condemnation. He was not referring to charging with a crime, but passing sentence on a crime or infringement. Christians are adept at throwing the “judge” word at anyone, especially people who discriminate by judging fruit, or quoting what the actual Judge (Messiah) has said.

Yeshua was quite clear that there are people who will go to heaven and those who will not go to heaven. Yeshua clearly said, referring to himself:

Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. John 14:6

When asked a question that scripture has an answer for, we are to default to scripture; we’re not to cower and say that we don’t know, unless we don’t know. That makes me ask if Joel knows scripture at all. The scripture in John is a key foundation of our faith; if you don’t know Yeshua and he doesn’t know you, then you don’t get into Heaven. Joel wants to take a side road by being politically correct, but Yeshua demands that we stay off of those side roads and he warns that those side roads lead to hell. And, since Joel has chosen to deliberately be this way, and he is a teacher and preacher, he has taken an even more precarious road because teachers are judged more stringently when the Books are opened in Heaven.

Joel mentions that he's not sure if Hindu's will enter Heaven and he wants Yahweh to make that choice. In other interviews he affirmed his belief that Mormons are Christians. He likes to throw the word "Christ" around instead of the word Jesus. The thing is that the New Age believes that all paths lead to God, and by Joel's answers and statements it appears that he holds more of a New Age view of salvation than a Traditional Christian view. I've actually had New Age people tell me that they have the "Christ Consciousness," meaning that they are one with a christ; a New Age counterfeit of the Biblical Christ. Yes, Joel says that he wants Yeshua to make the choice, but Yahweh has made the choice, "Jesus said unto him, I AM the way, the truth, and the life: no man comes unto the Father, but by me." If Joel knew the Bible, he would be able to preach the truth. So, either he doesn't know the Bible, or doesn't believe the Bible, or he won't acknowledge Jesus before men; all these things point to an imposter, and not a true believer in Yeshua.

In interviews, Joel Olsteen flat out denies being a prosperity message. However, what does his message speak about his claims.

Prosperity:

Noun: prosperity

The state of being prosperous. "a long period of prosperity."

Synonyms: success, profitability, affluence, wealth, opulence, luxury, the good life, milk and honey, (good) fortune, ease, plenty, comfort, security, well-being

Antonyms: hardship, failure

Here is just one instance where Joel Olsteen preaches prosperity:

"I want you to get a bigger vision. There are exciting things in your future. Your future is filled with marked moments of blessing, increase, promotion. God has already ordained before the foundation of the world, the right people, the right opportunity. Time and chance are coming together for you. Why don't you get your hopes up?" Osteen tells his audience. "Why don't you start believing that no matter what you have or haven't done, that your best days are still out in front of you." [http://www.cbsnews.com/news/joel-osteen-answers-his-critics/]

What we need to note here is that Joel's messages in his church to his congregation, is not speaking to poor and starving people without hope and desperate. He is speaking mostly to

middle- and upper-class America, a people who by the measurement of the rest of this world are rich beyond imagination. Most of the world lives in squalor, hoping that they will wake up the next morning and that they'll have at least one meal the next day. Joel's audience is for the most part, people who drove themselves to his church, have at least three-square meals a day and have a lot to be thankful for. He's not talking to a persecuted church or a people who have to worship underground or other such things. He is preaching to people who are free to attend church 24/7 if they wish and have freedom of worship. Granted, there are probably people in his congregation either live or in media form, who have lost their jobs, are going through divorces and other such things, and those people need encouragement, but Joel is promising increase that might not be delivered. Basically, the Olsteen's preach a "name it and claim it" sort of Christianity. This negates the work of Yahweh in a person's life. Sure, that guy might be out of work, but maybe he's a prideful jerk that Yahweh is trying to get into line. Maybe that woman or man is suffering because of divorce, but maybe they were unfaithful and Yahweh is dealing with them about their adultery. In Joel's message, these two people illustrated don't have to account for their actions, they just have to believe that Joel's promise of God's prosperity will come about if they believe hard enough and claim Joel's promises. Remember, that Joel said that he's not here to judge people's sin; that means he won't address it, and if you don't tell people that what they're doing is wrong then they don't think that they have a need to get it right with Yahweh.

Joel seems to be caught up in the lie that when you come to faith in Yeshua, your world will get better. Yes, our lives are enriched because of our relationship with our Father through Yeshua and we grow in His spirit. We're being groomed for heaven and Yeshua's Kingdom. Yeshua never promised us a Rose Garden. No, in fact he promised us the opposite:

They shall put you out of the synagogues: yea, the time cometh, that whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service. John 16:2

And:

I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world. I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil. John 17:14-14

And:

Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my Father which is in heaven. But whosoever shall deny me before men, him will I also deny

before my Father which is in heaven. Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword. For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law. And a man's foes shall be they of his own household. He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me. And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me. He that findeth his life shall lose it: and he that loseth his life for my sake shall find it. Matthew 10:32-39

And:

Then shall they deliver you up to be afflicted, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake. And then shall many be offended, and shall betray one another, and shall hate one another. And many false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive many. And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold. But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved. Matthew 24:9-13

And:

If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. 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. Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his lord. If they have persecuted me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept my saying, they will keep yours also. But all these things will they do unto you for my name's sake, because they know not him that sent me. John 15:18-21

And:

² *And he opened his mouth, and taught them, saying,*

³ *Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

⁴ *Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.*

⁵ *Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.*

⁶ *Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.*

⁷ *Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.*

⁸ *Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.*

⁹ *Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.*

¹⁰ *Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

¹¹ *Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.*

¹² *Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you. Matthew 5:2-12*

You see, the prosperity that the Olsteen's talk about are temporary and it is the wood, hay and stubble that will burn with a great flame. The things that Yahweh promises us is comfort and peace in time of trouble. To their credit, there are times that the Olsteen's do encourage people in times of trouble, but most of their rhetoric is to encourage the sufferer to think on good things or to imagine that their life will get better. This is called visualization, and it is an occult practice, especially when it calls on the person who is suffering to lean on their own strength to accomplish their goal. Yeshua does the opposite thing:

But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. Matthew 6:33

And:

Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light. Matthew 11:28-30

Now we come back to Olsteen's Statement of Faith that we included at the beginning of this editorial. Missing are the debasement of the human condition. Man's debase condition is the need for salvation and should be key in a statement of faith. Also missing is the Deity of Yeshua. They mention that Yeshua is part of the Trinity, which is correct, and they mention that He is the Son of God, which is also correct, but they do not state that Yeshua is God in The Flesh, all human and all God, which is and has been solid doctrine. Interesting is that this is the one thing that labels a person or institution or government as being Antichrist:

Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world. Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: And every

spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that spirit of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world. 1 John 4:1-3

And:

For many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist. Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward. Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds. 2 John 1:7-11

This might be confusing to many people. We all know that Yeshua was the Christ (Mashiach) and that he came in the flesh. Every human comes in the flesh because we're born of flesh and blood. However, the astronomical difference between Yeshua and common humans is that Yeshua is God who became flesh. That is what John is saying. He's saying that if you say that Yeshua is God in human flesh, then you are one with the Father, but if you just say that Jesus was a man who died for us, without including that He is God in The Flesh, that comes from the spirit of Antichrist. Both the words Christ and Messiah mean anointed and do not denote deity. An anointing is a special calling. The prophets were anointed to their office and David was anointed to be King of Israel; but neither of them was God. As a true believer in Yeshua (Jesus) one must state in no uncertain terms that they believe that Jesus was not only anointed, but was God Himself who came in the flesh. I do not see that proclaimed in Olsteen's Statement of Faith. If anyone thinks that by Olsteen claiming that Yeshua is part of the Godhead and that he died for us as an atonement that is NOT an affirmation that Yeshua was God in Human form. And, calling him the Son of God doesn't affirm it either, because we have been adopted as "sons of God," but we are not God.

Judging by Joel and Victoria Olsteen's ministry actions, the lack of viable fruit (making sinners feel good about themselves is not good fruit), Joel's lack of scripture knowledge, his writing and his statements, and the fact that their statement of faith fails by missing two important; the debased condition of mankind and Yeshua being God in The Flesh, makes them out to be counterfeits, frauds and dangerous wolves among the sheep who are leading the sheep astray.

But What About Victoria?

The Olsteen's have not made it a secret that they consider themselves "co-pastors." I know that a lot of you reading this are saying things like, "it is the 21st century and things have changed." Well, no, just like the Bible's author, Yeshua Ha Mashiach, the Bible is the same yesterday, today and forever. People and civilizations change, but Yahweh remains the same forever. So, what does the Bible teach about women being pastors, reverends, priests and such:

"Let the woman learn in silence with all subjection. But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence. For Adam was first formed, then Eve. And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression. Notwithstanding she shall be saved in childbearing, if they continue in faith and charity and holiness with sobriety." 1 Timothy 2:11-15

The Bible is quite clear that women should not preach or pastor. They are permitted to teach and be examples to younger women so that the young women act in proper manner. Argue all you want, but the words of Paul are clear and they make sense. It is sad how many people reject the ministry of Paul when it comes to all other types of proper conduct, and they quote one or two of Paul's views on the Torah (ad nauseum) to claim that the Torah is not dead, but when it comes to his instructions on female positions in the Church, he is vilified and called a chauvinist.

And, to further that the teaching of Paul is valid, Victoria Olsteen, just a month or so ago made a statement that is so Antichrist that it should never be laid to rest until the Olsteen's are put out of the corporate Church of Yeshua Ha Mashiach. She said, on stage in front of the entire congregation, the following:

"I just want to encourage every one of us to realize when we obey God, we're not doing it for God—I mean, that's one way to look at it—we're doing it for ourselves, because God takes pleasure when we're happy. That's the thing that gives Him the greatest joy. So, I want you to know this morning: Just do good for your own self. Do good because God wants you to be happy. When you come to church, when you worship Him, you're not doing it for God really. You're doing it for yourself, because that's what makes God happy. Amen?" (The congregation applauds.)
[Source: <http://www.crosswalk.com/blogs/christian-trends/victoria-osteen-takes-worship-of-god-to-new-low-it-s-all-about-you.html>]

Bible professor and author, Daniel Wallace, responded to Victoria Osteen's statement with deep concern that her view is the symptom of a much larger problem:

"Some of the most blatant narcissistic blather ever to come from a pulpit can also be laid at their [the Osteens'] feet. Not only narcissistic, but also blasphemous. One has to

wonder how a megachurch in the buckle of the Bible belt can go on and on without the congregants waking up and smelling what's being shoveled in their direction. If Lakewood Church is any indication of the biblical literacy, genuine devotion to Christ, and fellowship of the saints of the American evangelical church, we are in serious trouble." "The evangelical church in America needs corporate self-reflection and corporate repentance. How we treat one another, how we honor God, what our understanding of and commitment to the gospel is, and how we measure true success all need a serious overhaul. The root problem seems to be twofold: the marginalization of the word of God and the 'buddyization' of Jesus Christ."

[Source: <http://www.crosswalk.com/blogs/christian-trends/victoria-osteen-takes-worship-of-god-to-new-low-it-s-all-about-you.html>]

I can add nothing further to what Daniel Wallace said about the whole thing. Victoria Olsteen along with her husband Joel are no different than Jezebel and Ahab were to the nation of Israel. The chief complaint of Yahweh against Ahab and Jezebel was that they served foreign gods and led Israel into Idolatry. Joel and Victoria are nothing but what is becoming a growing list of modern-day Ahab's and Jezebel's. I hope and pray that they change their ways because they could suffer the same fate if they don't get right with Yahweh.