

Itching Ears

Avoiding the Errors of Prosperity Theology

Scripture text – II Timothy 4:1-4

Introduction

- Paul warns that a day is coming when the church of Jesus Christ won't put up with _____ . The church will reject the truth and turn instead to _____ .
- The purpose of today's message is to _____ one such myth and to _____ you about it.
- The official name of this myth is _____ (or PT).

Definition

- PT is a _____ teaching that promises adherents that they can _____ God to release blessings into their lives through a combination of _____ and _____ .
- PT puts _____ in the driver's seat; it makes us _____ .
- The 3 pillars of PT:
 - 1) God is committed to our being healthy, wealthy and successful in this _____ .
 - 2) The spoken word has creative _____ ; like God, we can speak things into _____ .
 - 3) Faith is a _____ that we can harness to change our circumstances.
- The popularity of PT:
 - 1) _____% of Christians in America are strong proponents of PT.
 - 2) Another _____% ascribe to one or more of the 3 pillars.
 - 3) _____ of the 260 largest churches in America have PT at their core.
- Reasons for its popularity:
 - 1) PT contains a _____ of biblical truth.
 - 2) PT appeals to natural human _____ .
 - 3) PT promises _____ and requires _____ .
 - 4) Many advocates of PT are _____ persons.
 - 5) PT preys upon people who lack biblical _____ & _____ .

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History

- PT has its roots in so-called _____ philosophy, which emerged in the _____.
- Key leaders:
 - 1) EW Kenyon (1867-1948) – called the _____ of PT
 - Merged New Thought philosophy with _____.
 - Believed in “positive confession” as the _____ to prosperous living.
 - Said it is never God’s will for us to experience _____.
 - 2) Kenneth Hagin (1917-2003) – called the _____ of PT
 - Took Kenyon’s teaching and dressed it up with _____ verses.
 - Invented a “_____ of faith” that obligates God to give us whatever we’re believing for.

Affirmations

- 1) Many of the blessings of salvation are _____.
 - There is an “_____ -not yet” quality to Christ’s kingdom.
 - To miss this is probably PT’s most fundamental _____.
- 2) Suffering is not only to be _____ in this life, but there is _____ in it and God has the ability to use it for _____.
 - Western culture gives us no _____ for suffering and very little _____ on how to deal with it.
 - PT makes it worse by insisting it is never God’s _____ for us to suffer.
- 3) Faith must be attached to the right _____, namely Christ and his _____.
 - Biblical faith is a confident trust in & reliance upon the _____ & _____ of Christ.
 - It is the _____ of faith that’s important.
- 4) While wealth isn’t necessarily wrong, the Bible is full of warnings about it being a _____ to believers.
 - PT makes wealth an _____ and insists it is *the* sign of God’s blessing & favor.
- 5) Our words are indeed _____, but not to the extent of _____ God to give us what we want.
 - Our words have the power to _____ or _____ ; for this reason, we must choose our words _____.
 - PT goes far beyond this to endue words with magical _____.