

PREACHING ANOTHER JESUS

2 Corinthians 11:1-4

I. INTRODUCTION: 1, 2

1. **3** It is important for the Christian to: *“Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour”* (1 Pet. 5:8).
2. We must not be ignorant of Satan’s devices and his great deceptive power: *“For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light”* (2 Cor. 11:12-14).
3. But, despite Satan’s great deceptive ability, many are deceived and follow an even greater deceiver and imposter. There is a far more subtle and dangerous deceiver, than even Satan and his name is “Jesus.”
4. Let me assure you that this deceiver is not the real Jesus of Nazareth, the Christ the Son of the Living God. He is not the Jesus of the Scriptures. He is a fraud, a fake, an imposter. He is born out of the fertile imaginations of men and women who do not like nor want the real Jesus and prefer to create a Jesus in their own image, an *idol* reflecting their own wants and desires.
5. This Jesus is “another Jesus” as Paul wrote of and warned the Corinthians (2 Cor. 11:2-4: *“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 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!”*).
6. This Jesus is not necessarily an entirely different Jesus, but this is a Jesus that has been added to, or one that does not quite reveal all the truth about Him. But, telling a half truth about Jesus is telling a whole lie and preaching “another Jesus.”

II. DISCUSSION:

You see, people preach “another Jesus” when they preach...

I. **4** The Baby Jesus Without the Lord Jesus

A. The “Baby Jesus” is a very popular Jesus.

- (1) Many people are in love with Christmas and the holidays. They are attached to the memories of good times and things that are associated with that time of year.
- (2) There is nothing wrong with having good memories about the holidays, but some have made their religion a once a year event (e.g., midnight mass on Christmas Eve).
- (3) Along with the holidays is the once a year visit to the manger scene in displays, television, plays and sermons. The only passage they even have a vague familiarity with is Luke 2:1-14.
- (4) They pay homage to a Jesus that is always a little plastic baby. He never speaks, he never acts, he never commands, he never demands, he remains silent and passive.
- (5) This is the kind of Jesus they want and they serve.

B. But the “baby Jesus” without the “Lord Jesus” is “another Jesus.”

- (1) The real Jesus did not remain in the manger in Bethlehem. The real Jesus grew up, taught the people and ultimately was crucified suffering a bloody and agonizing death, was resurrected, ascended into heaven where he now reigns as Lord of lords and King of kings (**Rev. 17:14:** *“These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those who are with Him are called, chosen, and faithful.”*; **Isa. 9:6-7:** *“For unto us*

a Child is born, Unto us a Son is given; And the government will be upon His shoulder. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. 7 Of the increase of His government and peace There will be no end, Upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, To order it and establish it with judgment and justice From that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this.”).

- (2) The real Jesus acted and remains active, speaks to us, commands us, demands from us obedience and work.
- (3) He has all power and commands us (**Matt. 28:18-20**: “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.”).
- (a) God made Jesus “both Lord and Christ” (Acts 2:36-38).
- (b) As Lord we must confess and obey him (**Phil. 2:9-12**: “Therefore God also has highly exalted Him and given Him the name which is above every name, 10 that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of those in heaven, and of those on earth, and of those under the earth, 11 and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. 12 Therefore, my beloved, as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling;”, **Heb. 5:8-9**: “though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered. 9 And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him,”).

But not only is the baby Jesus without the Lord Jesus “another Jesus,” there are others that preach “another Jesus” when they preach...

2. 5 The Compassionate Jesus Without the Angry Jesus

- A. Many have a picture of Jesus as compassionate, and the real Jesus was compassionate: **Mk. 6:34**: “And Jesus, when He came out, saw a great multitude and was moved with compassion for them, because they were like sheep not having a shepherd. So He began to teach them many things.”; **Matt. 8:5-7**: “Now when Jesus had entered Capernaum, a centurion came to Him, pleading with Him, 6 saying, “Lord, my servant is lying at home paralyzed, dreadfully tormented.” 7 And Jesus said to him, “I will come and heal him.”; **Lk. 7:11-13**: “Now it happened, the day after, that He went into a city called Nain; and many of His disciples went with Him, and a large crowd. 12 And when He came near the gate of the city, behold, a dead man was being carried out, the only son of his mother; and she was a widow. And a large crowd from the city was with her. 13 When the Lord saw her, He had compassion on her and said to her, “Do not weep.”; **Jn. 11:35-36**: “Jesus wept. 36 Then the Jews said, ‘See how He loved him!’”
- B. Some feel that if one ever gets upset about doctrinal error or sin they are not “Christ-like.” False teachers and teaching often suggest this. Without a doubt if we aren’t compassionate our religion is vain (Lk. 10:30-37: Story of the “good Samaritan”; **1 Jn. 3:17**: “But whoever has this world’s goods, and sees his brother in need, and shuts up his heart from him, how does the love of God abide in him?”).
- C. But, it is “another Jesus” that never showed anger and righteous indignation.
 - (1) It was foretold that Jesus could be angered: **Psa. 2:6-12**.
 - (2) And Jesus became angry: **Mk. 3:5**: “And when He had looked around at them with anger, being grieved by the hardness of their hearts,”; **Jn. 2:13-17**.
 - (3) The real Jesus expressed righteous indignation, He became angry at wickedness, sin, false teachers and teaching (Matt. 23; **Matt. 23:37-38**: “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you were not willing! 38 See! Your house is left to you desolate;”).

- (a) Paul became angry at false doctrine (**Acts 17:16**: “Now while Paul waited for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him when he saw that the city was given over to idols.”). His spirit was provoked. (Vines defines this as “aroused to anger.”)
- (b) Paul said, “Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ.” (1 Cor. 11:1). That being true then there are times when we must get angry!
 - (i) “I have hated the congregation of evil doers; and will not sit with the wicked” (Psa. 26:5).
 - (ii) “I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes: I hate the work of them that turn aside; it shall not cleave to me” (Psa. 101:3).

But still others preach “another Jesus” when they preach...

3. 6 The Tender Jesus Without the Tough Jesus

- A. Many worship a syrupy sweet and tender Jesus, always tolerant, always doting.
 - (1) Many times you’ll see Jesus with children in his lap, gently patting them on the head.
 - (a) It is true Jesus taught a great lesson with children (**Matt. 18:2-3**: “Then Jesus called a little child to Him, set him in the midst of them, 3 and said, “Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.”).
 - (b) And again he repeated the lesson (Matt. 19:13-14).
 - (2) This view of Jesus portrays Him as one who always maintained a syrupy sweet positive mental attitude. This Jesus is never negative, he never lifts his voice in anger, never gets sharp and tough. He is essentially presented as an effeminate, soft spoken cream puff. *This is not the real Jesus found in the Bible!*
- B. The real Jesus could be as tender and gentle as a lamb (e.g., Jn. 1:29), but he was also powerful and tough as the “lion of Judah”:
 - (1) The real Jesus raised His voice: **Jn. 12:44**: “Then Jesus cried out and said, ‘He who believes in Me, believes not in Me but in Him who sent Me.’”
 - (2) The real Jesus used negative terms: **Lk. 13:3-5**: “I tell you, no, but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish. 4 ‘Or do you suppose that those eighteen on whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them, were worse culprits than all the men who live in Jerusalem? 5 ‘I tell you, no, but unless you repent, you will all likewise perish.’”; **Jn. 8:44**: “You are of your father the devil, and the desires of your father you want to do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own resources, for he is a liar and the father of it.”
 - (3) When questioned, the real Jesus spoke back strongly: **Matt. 21:23-27**.
 - (4) Jesus was tough on error and its false teachers: **Matt. 22:29**: “Jesus answered and said to them, “You are mistaken, not knowing the Scriptures nor the power of God.”
 - (5) The real Jesus was tough in action when he cleaned out the temple: Jn. 2:14-17.
 - (6) This same godly principle was taught in Jeremiah’s day and it needs to be applied in more pulpits today (**Jer. 1:10**: “See, I have this day set you over the nations and over the kingdoms, To root out and to pull down, To destroy and to throw down, To build and to plant.”; **Ezek. 6:11**: “Thus says the Lord GOD: ‘Pound your fists and stamp your feet, and say, ‘Alas, for all the evil abominations of the house of Israel!’”).
 - (7) False teachers and false doctrine must be identified (**1 Tim. 1:19-20**: “having faith and a good conscience, which some having rejected, concerning the faith have suffered shipwreck, 20 of whom are

Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I delivered to Satan that they may learn not to blaspheme.”; 2 Tim. 2:17-18: “And their message will spread like cancer. Hymenaeus and Philetus are of this sort, 18 who have strayed concerning the truth, saying that the resurrection is already past; and they overthrow the faith of some.”).

- (8) Some brethren object to openly marking false teachers, they say, “identify the doctrine, but not the man” (**Rom. 16:17**: “Now I urge you, brethren, note those who cause divisions and offenses, contrary to the doctrine which you learned, and avoid them.”). False teachers must be openly condemned and their influence destroyed. It is tough and criticism will come. But who are we following? The real Jesus or “another Jesus”?

But still others preach “another Jesus” when they preach...

4. 7 The Tolerant Jesus Without the Strict Jesus

A. Many view Jesus as tolerant of everything and anything!

- (1) Perhaps one of the most oft quoted, and misapplied, teachings of Jesus is “Judge not, that ye be not judged” (Matt. 7:1).
- (2) Also, some quote Jesus’ condemnation of the Pharisees as if that means we have license to do anything we wish in service or worship to God and no one has the right to criticize us (“Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone” Matt. 23:23).
- (3) Certainly the real Jesus taught us tolerance and patience, but these passages are twisted and do not teach we can do as WE WISH when it comes to serving and worshiping God! Jesus does not give **unquestioning** acceptance!

B. To present Jesus as unquestioningly tolerant and accepting of anyone and anything is a false Jesus, it is “another Jesus”! **e.g., homosexuality**

- (1) Jesus was patient and tolerant, but he never compromised the Truth!
- (2) Jesus was strict with the Truth: **Matt. 11:28-30; Matt. 7:13-14; 7:21-23**
- (3) Contrary to those who misuse Matt. 7:1 (“Judge not, that ye be not judged”); Jesus taught us to judge...but he taught us to judge righteously (**Matt. 7:1-5**).
 - (a) Jesus did not say “don’t judge” but rather, make sure you don’t judge hypocritically and hypercritically, using a different standard on others than upon yourself.
 - (b) “Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment” (Jn. 7:24).
- (4) Jesus taught strictly:
 - (a) “For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven” (Matt. 5:20).
 - (b) In condemning the Pharisees Jesus did not condemn them for strictly following God’s Law, but for not doing **ALL** of God’s Law, “these ought ye to have done and not to leave the other undone” (Matt. 23:23).
 - (c) And Jesus told his disciples to practice what the Pharisees preached not what they practiced. “All therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, that observe and do; but do not ye after their works: for they say, and do not” (Matt. 23:3).
 - (d) Jesus did not come to establish a religious system whereby man was free to do as he pleases! Matt. 28:18-20; Jn. 14:15; **1 Jn. 2:3-4**

But still others preach “another Jesus” when they preach...

5. 8 The Temporal Jesus Without the Spiritual Jesus

- A. Many worship another Jesus that is an earthly, temporal Jesus.
- (1) Some see Him as interested in reigning on earth (premillennialists, dispensationalists).
 - (2) Others stress His healing to make people “feel better.”
 - (3) They use this teaching to emphasize the social gospel (health-wealth-prosperity; food-fun-frolic).
 - (4) But, they worship “another Jesus,” not the true Jesus Christ of the Bible.
- B. The real Jesus dealt with the physical, but his emphasis was on the eternal spiritual matters (**Jn. 20:30-31**: “*And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book; 31 but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.*”).
- (1) The social gospel is opposite to the true gospel because it stresses the outer, physical man, not the inner spiritual man.
 - (2) In the social gospel, somewhere the real Jesus gets lost or remade in the image of a social director, rather than a teacher and savior of the souls of men.
 - (3) But the real Jesus emphasized that the spiritual came before the physical, not the other way around. “*For ye have the poor always with you; but me ye have not always*” (**Matt. 26:11**).
 - (4) The real Jesus stopped feeding the crowd bread, because his purpose was to show them the Bread of Life and all they wanted was to fill their bellies (**Jn. 6**).
 - (a) The real reason they sought Jesus: **Jn. 6:26**: “*Jesus answered them and said, ‘Most assuredly, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw the signs, but because you ate of the loaves and were filled.’*”
 - (b) Can you imagine the “social gospel” Jesus standing up today and saying: **Jn. 6:27**: “*Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to everlasting life, which the Son of Man will give you, because God the Father has set His seal on Him.*”
 - (c) What was the result of his teaching? What happened when the people realized that food, fun and frolic was not the gospel message? **Jn. 6:66**: “*From that time many of His disciples went back and walked with Him no more*”
 - (5) The disciples in the New Testament church understood the priority of the spiritual (**Acts 6:2**: “*Then the twelve summoned the multitude of the disciples and said, ‘It is not desirable that we should leave the word of God and serve tables.’*”).

But still others preach “another Jesus” when they preach...

6. 9 The Forgiving Jesus Without the Rebuking & Condemning Jesus

- A. Many people want only a forgiving Jesus.
- (1) The woman caught in adultery is often used as an example of not judging, rebuking or condemning others (**Jn. 8:7**: “*So when they continued asking Him, He raised Himself up and said to them, ‘He who is without sin among you, let him throw a stone at her first.’*”).
 - (2) Of course Christ was always ready and willing to forgive.
 - (a) In Luke 5:17-26 a palsied man (**Lk. 5:20**: “*When He saw their faith, He said to him, ‘Man, your sins are forgiven you.’*”).

- (b) In Luke 7 Jesus healed a sinful woman (**Lk. 7:37**: “And behold, a woman in the city who was a sinner, when she knew that Jesus sat at the table in the Pharisee’s house, brought an alabaster flask of fragrant oil,”; **Lk. 7:39**: “Now when the Pharisee who had invited Him saw this, he spoke to himself, saying, ‘This Man, if He were a prophet, would know who and what manner of woman this is who is touching Him, for she is a sinner.’”; **Lk. 7:47**: “Therefore I say to you, her sins, which are many, are forgiven,”).
- (c) The thief on the cross (**Lk. 23:42-43**: “Then he said to Jesus, ‘Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom.’ 43 And Jesus said to him, ‘Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise.’”).
- (3) Admittedly, to characterize Jesus in such a way has a basis in truth but to do so exclusively without recognizing his terms of forgiveness is a distortion, a falsehood and preaching “another Jesus.”
- B. The real Jesus rebuked and condemned sinners and those in error:
 - (1) Eight times in Matthew 23 Jesus rebuked and condemned the scribes and Pharisees as “hypocrites,” “blind guides,” a “brood of vipers,” “whited sepulchers full of dead men’s bones.”
 - (2) Jesus even rebuked those closest to Him (**Lk. 9:55**: (in reference to James and John and bringing fire down a Samaritan village) “But He turned and rebuked them, and said, ‘You do not know what manner of spirit you are of.’”; **Matt. 16:23**: (Peter) “But He turned and said to Peter, ‘Get behind Me, Satan! You are an offense to Me, for you are not mindful of the things of God, but the things of men.’”).
 - (3) Later his disciples acted the same in rebuking those in error
 - (a) Stephen rebuked the Jews: **Acts 7:51-53**: “You stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears! You always resist the Holy Spirit; as your fathers did, so do you. 52 Which of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? And they killed those who foretold the coming of the Just One, of whom you now have become the betrayers and murderers, 53 who have received the law by the direction of angels and have not kept it.”
 - (b) Peter strongly rebuked Simon the sorcerer: **Acts 8:21-23**: “You have neither part nor portion in this matter, for your heart is not right in the sight of God. 22 Repent therefore of this your wickedness, and pray God if perhaps the thought of your heart may be forgiven you. 23 For I see that you are poisoned by bitterness and bound by iniquity.”
 - (c) Paul rebuked Peter to his face before all (Gal. 2:11-14).
 - (d) Jesus had taught that sin is too serious not to take action: Matt. 18:15-17.
 - (4) And so likewise, to be Christ-like we must rebuke error and the erring (**1 Tim. 5:20**: (in reference to elders) “Those who are sinning rebuke in the presence of all, that the rest also may fear.”; **2 Tim. 4:2**: “Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching.”; **Titus 2:15**: “Speak these things, exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no one despise you.”; **Gal. 6:1-2**: “Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted. 2 Bear one another’s burdens, and so fulfill the law of Christ.”).

And, last of all, still others preach “another Jesus” when they preach...

7. 10 The Saving Jesus Without the Judging Jesus

- A. Many religious people only know a Jesus who saves: **Jn. 3:16**: “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”

B. But the real Jesus is not just a Savior, He will one day also be our Judge (**2 Tim. 4:1**: “I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom.”; **Acts 17:30-31**: “Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, 31 because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead.”).

(1) Jesus will Judge everyone (**Rom. 14:10-12**: “For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. 11 For it is written: “As I live, says the LORD, Every knee shall bow to Me, And every tongue shall confess to God.” 12 So then each of us shall give account of himself to God.”; 2 Cor. 5:10).

(2) Jesus not only pronounced salvation, but also condemnation and wrath (**Jn. 3:36**: “He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.”; **Matt. 3:11-12**: “I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, whose sandals I am not worthy to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. 12 His winnowing fan is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clean out His threshing floor, and gather His wheat into the barn; but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.”; 2 Thess. 1:7-9)

III. CONCLUSION:

I. Do you believe in:

- ☛ The Baby Jesus Without the Lord Jesus? If you do, you believe in “another Jesus”!
- ☛ The Compassionate Jesus Without the Angry Jesus? If you do, you believe in “another Jesus”!
- ☛ The Tender Jesus Without the Tough Jesus? If you do, you believe in “another Jesus”!
- ☛ The Tolerant Jesus Without the Strict Jesus? If you do, you believe in “another Jesus”!
- ☛ The Temporal Jesus Without the Spiritual Jesus? If you do, you believe in “another Jesus”!
- ☛ The Forgiving Jesus Without the Rebuking & Condemning Jesus? If you do, you believe in “another Jesus”!
- ☛ The Saving Jesus Without Judging Jesus? If you do, you believe in “another Jesus”!

2. Invitation:

- ✓ **Hear:** Rom. 10:17
- ✓ **Believe (faith):** Heb. 11:6
- ✓ **Confess:** Matt. 10:32; Rom. 10:10; Acts 8:36-37
- ✓ **Repent:** Acts 2:38
- ✓ **Baptism:** Acts 2:38; 8:38; 22:16; 1 Pet. 3:21; Acts 2:47; 1 Cor. 12:13
- ✓ **Faithfulness:** Col. 1:18-23; 2 Pet. 1:3-11