

# Ashamed of the Gospel

## When the Church Becomes Like the World

### Lesson #1 Introduction and Preface to the book

Read Preface 2010 and Preface 1993 and answer the following questions from pages 13-34.

- 1) How did the “Age of Reason” more or less get started?
  
- 2) How has Western Evangelism become weak, worldly and man-centered?
  
- 3) Why should Christians today, need to be careful when gaining information on the internet?
  
- 4) Define Postmodernism.
  
- 5) How did Generation X parent’s teach them to bring worldly trends into the church?
  
- 6) What is the meaning of *Pragmatism*?
  
- 7) Why is pragmatism wrong for a Christian as a rule for truth?
  
- 8) When a church is pragmatic, it’s \_\_\_\_\_ now takes a back seat to \_\_\_\_\_.

- 9) What were the four priorities of the early church?
  
- 10) Because of pragmatism, what are Pastors looking for to help their churches grow?
  
- 11) How did Modernism set the stage for Theological Liberalism to come into the churches?
  
- 12) What were the Modernists trying to make the church like?
  
- 13) Where have the most devastating assaults of the faith usually come from?
  
- 14) What happens when we use worldly devices to build the church?
  
- 15) What is the meaning of Worldliness?
  
- 16) What should the overriding goal be of any local church of Jesus Christ?
  
- 17) What is the author's complaint regarding the philosophy of pragmatism?



8) What will happen if Timothy does not preach the Word according to **2 Timothy 4:2-4**?

9) What are the Biblical marks of success for a church?

10) “The appropriate goal in the ministry is not \_\_\_\_\_, but \_\_\_\_\_.”

11) List the nine marks of a faithful Pastor according to **2 Timothy 4:1-5**.

12) “The entire \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_ minister revolves around the \_\_\_\_\_ of God- \_\_\_\_\_ it, \_\_\_\_\_ it, and \_\_\_\_\_ it.”

13) What does the “Market-Driven” philosophy say about Biblical preaching and truth?

14) What happens when one becomes an “ear tickling” Christian?

15) What two choices do we have when adversity strikes in the ministry?

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### Lesson #3 The User-Friendly Church

Read chapter Two and answer the following questions from pages 57-78.

- 1) What type of environment are church growth experts telling Pastors to provide?
- 2) How are Pastors today counseled in how and what to preach?
- 3) What happens to a local church when the “user-friendly” philosophy is applied?
- 4) What is the fall out to a preoccupation with unbelievers in a local church?
- 5) How is Scripture being compromised in the market-driven churches?
- 6) What is at the heart of the user-friendly church?
- 7) What doctrine is carefully skirted in user-friendly churches?
- 8) What is the downfall when a marketing plan is applied to the local church?

9) What must a faithful Pastor stress in light of the advances in modern communications?

10) What kind of message did Peter and John deliver in **Acts 4:2**?

11) “It is the \_\_\_\_\_ of faithful church \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ the churches \_\_\_\_\_.”

12) When a church carefully and consistently exercises church discipline, what does it communicate to the unregenerate?

13) “The \_\_\_\_\_ of God was a central \_\_\_\_\_ in the early church. Believers and \_\_\_\_\_ alike were \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ Him.”

14) What areas in the church is the user-friendly philosophy down-grading?

15) What two major doctrines do market driven leaders usually begin to question?

16) What verses would you use to destroy the false teaching of Conditional Immortality, Annihilationism or No Hell doctrines?

17) When you downplay God’s wrath, what are you really doing to evangelism?

18) What is the answer against the “Market Driven” church philosophy?

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### Lesson #4 Gimme That Show-Time Religion

Read chapter Three and answer the following questions from pages 79-99.

**Romans 13:11-12** And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed. 12 The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light.

- 1) What is meant by “*the Age of Exposition*”?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 2) “In show business, \_\_\_\_\_ is irrelevant; what really matters is that we are \_\_\_\_\_ . Substance counts for \_\_\_\_\_ ; \_\_\_\_\_ is everything.”
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 3) Entertainment is used by the world for what three deterrents in the Christian life?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 4) What can destroy people’s appetites for real worship and the preaching of the Word?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 5) Why does it matter what medium you use to communicate?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 6) Because of pragmatism, the church is hiring what kind of people on the church staff?

- 7) "Pragmatism has elevated \_\_\_\_\_ growth over \_\_\_\_\_ growth."
- 8) "Pastors and church leaders are to be concerned with the \_\_\_\_\_ of the ministry, God will see to the \_\_\_\_\_."
- 9) When does the goal for pragmatism in the church become wrong?
- 10) Can one be pragmatic and Biblical? Why or why not?
- 11) What is the churches' only legitimate goal?
- 12) Can we accelerate or supersede the divine process?
- 13) A Biblical understanding of which doctrine, would put an end to what's going on in many of our churches today?
- 14) How does the church hinder the desire for *true holiness*?
- 15) What do we need to be careful to harmonize and why?

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### Lesson #5 All Things to All Men

Read chapter Four and answer the following questions from pages 101-115.

**1 Corinthians 9:19-22** For though I am free from all men, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win the more; 20 and to the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might win Jews; to those who are under the law, as under the law, that I might win those who are under the law; 21 to those who are without law, as without law (not being without law toward God, but under law toward Christ), that I might win those who are without law; 22 to the weak I became as weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some.

- 1) What made Paul effective in the ministry?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 2) “Paul’s \_\_\_\_\_ was \_\_\_\_\_ a non-negotiable.”
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 3) What was Paul trying to teach in **1 Corinthians 9:19-23**?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 4) How are we to use our Christian freedom we have in Christ?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 5) What does freedom from the Law not mean?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 6) How is our spiritual life to be governed?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 7) What does the grace of God teach us in **Titus 2:12**?



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### Lesson #6 The Foolishness of God

Read chapter Five and answer the following questions from pages 117-130.

**1 Corinthians 1:18** For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.

**1 Corinthians 1:21-23** For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe. 22 For Jews request a sign, and Greeks seek after wisdom; 23 but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness,

- 1) When is intellectual and academic respectability not a worthy goal?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 2) “Divine \_\_\_\_\_ may not always \_\_\_\_\_ wise under \_\_\_\_\_ evaluation.”
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 3) What did the converts in Corinth think human wisdom could do to divine revelation?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 4) What has caused more leaders and institution’s to go on the downgrade?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 5) “It is impossible to elevate \_\_\_\_\_ wisdom without lowering \_\_\_\_\_ truth?”
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 6) What does human wisdom cater to?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 7) What does the gospel demand of people?

8) How is divine wisdom viewed by the world?

9) What can worldly wisdom not do?

10) “Although Paul was willing to become a \_\_\_\_\_ to all, he was \_\_\_\_\_ willing to \_\_\_\_\_ the gospel or \_\_\_\_\_ God’s design for preaching it.”

11) Human wisdom’s way of salvation gives the glory to whom?

12) What is God interested in doing in people’s lives?



8) How does **Romans 1:15** capture Paul's desire regarding the gospel?

9) Where does the gospel receive its power?

10) What is the vehicle that communicates God's transforming power of the Gospel? Scripture?

11) What was Paul's starting point in sharing the Gospel?

12) How is the wrath of God supposed to make us feel?

13) How is the Gospel to be preached?

14) In presenting the Gospel we must always "keep the \_\_\_\_\_ on the \_\_\_\_\_,  
not the \_\_\_\_\_."



7) How did Paul frame his message?

8) How did Paul reveal the true God to the people in Athens?

9) What was Paul urging the people to do with the one true God?

10) What did Paul say that God commanded of all men?

11) What was the response when Paul brought up the resurrection of Christ in his message?

12) What were the results of Paul's message on Mar's Hill in Athens?

13) What is the three-fold response one can have toward the Gospel?

**Quote:** "Paul related to Athens without compromising the message." **John MacArthur**



- 8) Is faith and repentance a response of the sinner or a gift from the Lord? Support with Scripture.
- 9) How is the faith of the elect activated?
- 10) What are the means God has chosen to use to bring salvation to the elect?
- 11) “God \_\_\_\_\_ our salvation. Christ \_\_\_\_\_ our salvation. The Holy Spirit \_\_\_\_\_ our salvation.”
- 12) What role does good works play in our salvation?
- 13) Why do a lot of Christians not study or strive to understand the Sovereignty of God?
- 14) What does a firm understanding of the sovereignty of God do to people?
- 15) What is the test for the validity of every evangelistic endeavor?

16) Why do preachers adjust and tone down the message of the Gospel?



8) What are the primary biblical goals for the church?

9) “Church \_\_\_\_\_, not just \_\_\_\_\_, are supposed to be \_\_\_\_\_.”

10) What is true biblical discipleship?

11) What can cause a church to stagnate, decline, and ultimately fail?

12) What is the church’s ultimate goal?

**Read** chapter Ten and answer the following questions.

1) What is meant by “*cognitive defiance*”?

2) What does a pragmatic church do to a Christians discernment and why?

3) To the market driven churches, what is more important than doctrinal soundness?

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### Lesson #11 “Carried About By Every Wind”

Read chapter Eleven and answer the following questions from pages 205-217.

**Ephesians 4:12-14** for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, 13 till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; 14 that we should no longer be children, tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting.

- 1) What have we learned in the last twenty plus years of pragmatism’s influence in the church?
  
- 2) What has made the church a laughing stock to the world?
  
- 3) How does the church today encourage “apostasy”?
  
- 4) What has worldly pragmatism done to the church?
  
- 5) What is the one lesson the author wants us to learn from this book? Why?
  
- 6) What must the church resist?
  
- 7) What is the relationship between the Word of God and regeneration? Support with Scripture.

8) “The doctrines of \_\_\_\_\_ sovereignty and \_\_\_\_\_ do not mean that the \_\_\_\_\_ will be saved whether they hear the \_\_\_\_\_ or not. Scriptures says \_\_\_\_\_ has ordained the \_\_\_\_\_ as well as the \_\_\_\_\_.”

9) What is the only thing that has the power to transform a sinner’s heart?

10) How do we make the Bible come “alive”?

11) The Word of God always accomplishes one of two ends. What are they?

12) What is a preacher to be concerned with when preaching?

13) Why have churches resorted to superficial nonsense in their churches?

14) What does **Hebrews 4:12** say the Word of God has the ability to do?

15) How are we to destroy the “strongholds” mentioned in **2 Corinthians 10:4-5**?

16) What is an absolute necessity in our sanctification?



- 7) What is the difference between Absolute versus Authentic?
  
- 8) What are the results of endless deconstruction of Christian doctrines?
  
- 9) What's wrong with the pastor of the largest user-friendly church denial of failure of their strategy?
  
- 10) "The Emerging Conversation may \_\_\_\_\_ and diffuse, but its \_\_\_\_\_ within evangelical Christianity will \_\_\_\_\_ be \_\_\_\_\_."
  
- 11) What is the author's great concern regarding the break of the Emerging Church?
  
- 12) How can Christian leaders fight off the slippery-slope that leads the church on the down grade?



- 7) Where did Spurgeon place the blame for the decline in the churches?
- 8) What is the danger of unity and harmony at all cost?
- 9) Why did Spurgeon recommend a doctrinal statement for the Baptist Union?
- 10) What were the two ways that people responded to the downgrade controversy?
- 11) “Fellowship with \_\_\_\_\_ and vital \_\_\_\_\_ is participation in \_\_\_\_\_”
- 12) Why couldn't the Baptist Union discipline anyone for false teaching within its ranks?
- 13) What is wrong with the spirit of “latitudinarianism”?
- 14) Why must a doctrinal statement be precise and avoid language that is vague?
- 15) Why did the weak doctrinal statement pass so overwhelmingly?



8) What are we to do to be able to stand?

9) Who are those who have nothing to fear?

10) How are we to be mindful of our own spiritual state?

11) What happens when you mingle good and bad theology together?

12) Why do Christians tone down the hard doctrines of the Bible?

13) What did Spurgeon mean by “we will escape these wolves with everything, or we will be lost with everything?”

14) What does the doctrine of the atonement consist of?

15) What happens to a person who is given over to skepticism and doubts?

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### Lesson #15` “Charles Finney and American Evangelical Pragmatism”

Read chapter Appendix Three & Four and answer the following questions from pages 291-304.

**2 Timothy 2:15** Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

13) Why did Finney never come to the understanding that conversion is a work of God?

14) Why did MacArthur think it was unfortunate that Finney chose a preaching ministry?

15) Why was Finney’s training as a lawyer harmful to him as a student of the Scriptures?

16) Define *Hyper-Calvinism*?

17) Why did Finney struggle with the biblical view of human depravity and Divine Sovereignty?

18) What was Finney’s ruling principle in interpreting every biblical doctrine?

19) “Finney discarded the \_\_\_\_\_ teaching of \_\_\_\_\_ in favor of \_\_\_\_\_ reason.”

20) How was Finney able to get away with a faulty theology in the churches?

21) How did Finney view revival from a theological perspective?

22) What is wrong with the statement: God’s “object is to do the greatest amount of good possible.”

23) What good did Finney contribute in regard to preaching?

24) What happened spiritually to the people that Finney and his co-workers ministered too?

25) What is Finney’s legacy on American Evangelical Theology & Methodology?

#### **Read Appendix Four: Carnal vs. Spiritual Wisdom**

1) “Do not go the way of \_\_\_\_\_ reason or \_\_\_\_\_ the rules of \_\_\_\_\_ wisdom.”

2) According to worldly wisdom, why does direct Biblical preaching not win people?

3) What does God's wisdom show us?