

A CHURCH



CORRUPTED

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A CHURCH CORRUPTED

By: E.A. Coeey

Not so very long ago in a small town there was a group of people who loved to read their Bibles and decided to start a Bible study and so started meeting in their homes praying for one another, studying the scriptures and sharing all that they had with one another **just like a family!**

They ate together, sang together, played together, laughed together and comforted each other and because they were growing ever closer, from time to time there would be disagreements, personal conflicts and hurt feelings **just like a family!**

Occasionally there would be more serious incidents requiring strong intervention and discipline, as well as medical emergencies and tragedies requiring constant prayer and visitation of the afflicted. Then there were those who would suffer a financial loss such as the loss of income or loss of property and for a while support was provided! But regardless of the challenge or transgression they stayed focused on their faith in God while working to love one another in spite of their shortcomings and petty differences! **Just like a family!**

Their numbers increased and before long the Bible Study group realized they were growing too big and needed a larger place to meet! Soon they raised enough money to purchase a barn which required a lot of work and renovation but services could be held while the transformation from a barn to a church building was accomplished! So they began to hold worship services! They were teaching, they were preaching, they were baptizing and it wasn't long before people from miles around began to hear about this barn that had become a church and felt lead to visit! Revivals were held and many were saved and burned with love for the Lord! A number of them were sent forth to share the good news of Jesus Christ far and wide! People felt the love of Jesus Christ manifested in its members and became a part of the **"Family of God"!**

Before they knew it the barn was too small to contain everyone that wanted to attend and the decision was made to build a big beautiful church building so with the offerings and donations they had received and with more coming in there was just enough to make it happen and contractors were called in, estimates were given and soon work was underway!

As work progressed services continued at the little barn and overflowed into the barnyard, so they opened the big double doors and windows and continued with open air services (weather permitting)! But as busy as it was the pastors, teachers and core members worked to make sure that everyone felt welcomed and loved regardless of their appearance or financial situation. Rich or poor, well-educated or under educated, healthy or afflicted everyone felt the love of the **"Family of God".**

After months of work the announcement was finally made... "It's finished!" and everyone began to clap and praise the Lord, people were hugging and shaking hands. There was a big celebration as everyone shared a pot luck dinner and prepared themselves for the big move into the new building!

The following week as many as could worked side by side to ensure that everything was clean and prepared for worship services and sure enough that Sunday the first service ever was held in the new building, it was a time to give thanks for all the blessings they had received, so prayerfully and humbly they dedicated their building to the Lord and His service and began to minister as they always had and for a time everything continued as it always had!

The services held in the building earned it a reputation as the “House of God” because a “**Family of God**” ministered to the community that over the years had grown up around it, becoming a large city. Of course as the city grew older and larger the original members grew older as well and began one by one to pass over and be with the Lord.

And so it followed that one by one the leadership was replaced with younger men who for a while followed the traditions of those that had come before them, but overtime as attendance began to decline somewhat the new leadership decided they needed fresh and innovative ideas that appealed to a younger generation.

Over time slowly but very surely the practices and foundational teachings of the Church began to change as little by little, bit by bit, line by line the solid, strong bible based doctrinal teaching that had produced a **true family of believers** was compromised and began to change.

The modern new teaching soon allowed for the introduction of New Age “easier to read” and “more accurate” bible versions! For many these new versions quickly became the bible of choice! However because there were many different versions other than the traditional King James to read from, the ability of the Pastor and those attending worship services to read scriptures aloud in unison as one body of Christ Jesus became severely hampered! It resulted in such confusion that reading the scriptures aloud together was soon cast aside!

Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ. For in him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily. *Colossians 2:8-9*

With new age bibles becoming a part of worship it wasn't long before a number of new age philosophies associated with words such as holistic, synergy, paradigm, visualization and actualization began to be heard from the pulpit. Empowering terms such as “god within, “personal power”, “name it and claim it” which suggested that the power of god within could be channeled to bring forth the desires of the heart and manifest physically visions of long dreamed of achievements and possessions!

Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. *Matthew 7:15*

Before long word got around that the Church had become an exciting, fun, feel good place to worship! There was energy in the air as praise and worship teams worked to play music that seduced, enthralled and prepared those in attendance with repetitive entrancing tones for the worship service to come!

Now the Spirit speaks clearly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, **giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils**; Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron; *1 Timothy 4:1-2*

Sermons became motivational, directing those in attendance to “live their best lives” as a word of faith message was shared by spiritual leaders who preached a prosperity gospel! Teaching that “generous love offerings” given to support the Church could result in the faithful being blessed with a much more **enriching** gift from God! Miraculous mass healing's were witnessed and at times “**holy laughter**” was enjoyed by all!

But there were **false prophets** also among the people, even as there shall be **false teachers** among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. And **MANY** shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of. And through covetousness shall they with **feigned words make merchandise of you**: whose judgment now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not. *2 Peter 2:1-3*

Definitions

Privily: 1. Secretly

Pernicious: 1. Having a harmful effect, especially in a gradual or subtle way.

Feigned: 1. Simulated or pretended; insincere.

“Make Merchandise of You” is the same as Make Money off of You!

This phrase refers to the deceptive practices and teachings which would lead you to believe that “the more you give in offerings the more you make in blessings” and that the return on your faith will fulfill the desires of your heart.

At other services many became “drunk in the spirit” and experienced throes of spiritual ecstasy manifested by disabling physical convulsions. Often prophetic words of knowledge were imparted as many began to speak in “unknown tongues” and receive spiritual enlightenment! The Church grew and grew and was expanded and became a MEGA CHURCH where crowds in great numbers flocked to worship services to hear the message that assured them of a life well lived and rewarded with their hearts desires!

For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables. *2 Timothy 4:3-4*

Yes things had certainly changed; the Church had become everything that everybody could ever want... It was popular, it felt good, it lifted everybody up, and promised miracles of healing and lives filled with glory and riches!

**THIS WISDOM
DESCENDETH NOT FROM ABOVE,
BUT IS EARTHLY, SENSUAL, DEVILISH.**

JAMES 3:15

The Church Building which had once been referred to as the house of God and the home of the “**Family of God**” who had taught in spirit and in truth to the faithful for years and years had become a beautiful inspiring place of worship for all who saw it from without. But within it was no longer a “House of God” because the “**Family of God**” who taught “in spirit and truth” was no more! It had instead become a profitable enterprise whose leaders enjoyed the best of everything as its members were entertained, indoctrinated deceived and so became “A Church Corrupted”!

In writing "A Church Corrupted" an effort is made describe a church faithful to teaching and preaching the Gospel of Jesus Christ, which after years of honoring Gods Holy Word is corrupted over time, as bit by bit the truth is diluted with false teachings. This describes a number of deceptions being practiced in many mega churches today, as well as smaller mainstream churches throughout the world! Illustrating how little by little false prophets, teachers and doctrines have "crept into the church unawares" more and more churches today have allowed core doctrines upon which a true "Christian" church is built to be compromised and true worship to become paganized.

These are wells without water, clouds that are carried with a tempest; to whom the mist of darkness is reserved for ever. For when they speak great swelling *words* of vanity, they allure through the lusts of the flesh, *through much* wantonness, those that were clean escaped from them who live in error. While they promise them liberty, they themselves are the servants of corruption: for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in bondage. **2 Peter 2:17-19**

Sadly the music is no better and in fact prepares the listener to receive the deception to follow. What appears to be praise and worship music is in reality soulish rather than spiritual. This type of music seduces and emotionally engages its listeners with immersive repetitive beats and tunes which in a number of services can last for an hour are much longer.

Mesmerizing in their effect and often producing a state of euphoria this music prepares the mind to receive suggestive messages from the stage, and then the pulpit as the deceptive message that follows begins to build upon it in an effort to excite those in attendance to a fever pitch, resulting in manifestations of uncontrollable physical seizures and spasms which are (I believe) demonic in nature! Keep in mind there are only two sources of musical inspiration... One is God the other Satan.

This is not true worship; it is a FALSE GOSPEL that caters to fleshly desires! Such is the condition of some of the most active and thriving churches today which are not churches in the "spirit and in truth" but have become counterfeits which feed the worldly desires of those attending them. The Bible warns of times such as these...

For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away *their* ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables. 2 Timothy 4:3-4

Those verses from 2nd Timothy are worth repeating because it warns us that the time described **WILL COME** and **We (I believe) are living in them!** In response many false teachers have stepped forth to accommodate such a mindset and will gleefully their followers so far astray that the truth will become a distant memory. Doing it all in the name of Jesus while driving beautiful Limousines and traveling long distances in their privately owned Jet planes.

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. Therefore *it is* no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works. 2 Corinthians 11:13-15

Please take a moment to consider your current relationship with Jesus Christ, is the Jesus you are worshipping the Biblical Jesus?

The One Who... In the beginning was the Word and was with God and the Word (who) was God. By whom all things were made by Him and without Him was not anything made that was made! Is that the Jesus you worship?

Because if that Jesus, the same one that was hung on a cross and suffered and died for your sins is the one you worship then I pray that you are not in a church corrupted! If you are then you are not worshipping in spirit and in truth and so to put it gently GET OUT! You are under a deception, Read your Bible! It Says My people are destroyed by a lack of knowledge.

Read this... I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel: Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed. As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed. *Galatians 1: 6-10*

And this... Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort *you* that you should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints. For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ. *Jude 1:3-4*

And This... These are spots in your feasts of charity, when they feast with you, feeding themselves without fear: clouds *they are* without water, carried about of winds; trees whose fruit withers, without fruit, twice dead, plucked up by the roots; Raging waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame; wandering stars, to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness for ever. *Jude 1:12-13 (KJV)*

The bible makes it clear that the faithful in Christ are to have nothing to do with false teachers, false worship, false doctrines or anything that would lead us astray!

If you are reading this and you **do not** have a relationship with the risen Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord the message following this is for you! Because someday you will die and upon the instant of your death you will appear in judgement before the Lord God, and you will appear to life everlasting or eternal damnation in Hell.

If you are in Christ Jesus then He has died to pay for your sins so that because of His sacrifice you only die once and will spend eternity with Him! However if you reject Him or refuse to make a choice you will experience the second death which is eternal torment. Your eternal destiny is really up to you!

I have often heard it said if God is so good how could He send anyone to hell?

The fact of it is He doesn't send anyone to hell! An eternity in Hell is a choice you make! He has made a way for you to escape because He is "rich in mercy and not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance" and be saved! But He is not a tyrant who will force you to take advantage of the "Gift" He has purchased for you with the blood of His Sons Sacrifice on the cross! The truth is this...He has prepared a place for them that put their faith and trust in Him and he has prepared a place for them who want nothing to do with Him. He will not force YOU to go to either but Hell is the default.

Think about it, it's a lot like turning on a flashlight while taking a walk on a dark night! You can choose to turn on the light so you can see where you are going, or choose not to switch it on and walk in darkness (darkness being the default). Which makes more sense?

The Bible says that... in Him "Jesus" was life and the life was the light of men and that the light shines in the darkness but the world refuses to accept it (*Read the Gospel of John 1st Chapter*)!

It all boils down to this...You can be born twice and die once **or** be born once and die twice (your natural death first and your eternal death in hell referred to in the Bible as the second death which is a never ending event filled with fire)! Which would prefer?

However, before you make that decision it might be a good idea to take a few moments to consider the following questions...

- 1. Are you a Good Person?**
- 2. Do you believe you have done enough good deeds to earn your way into Heaven?**
- 3. Have you always conducted yourself in a forthright and considerate manner when dealing with others throughout your life?**
- 4. Have you been charitable, loving and kind everyday possible?**

If you answered yes (or pretty much) to all those questions then congratulations you are pretty much like most of us. Doing the best we can to be the best person we can be! So within the framework of society and its laws you can pretty much for the most part call yourself a good person! However regarding eternal consequences based on Gods law how do we measure up?



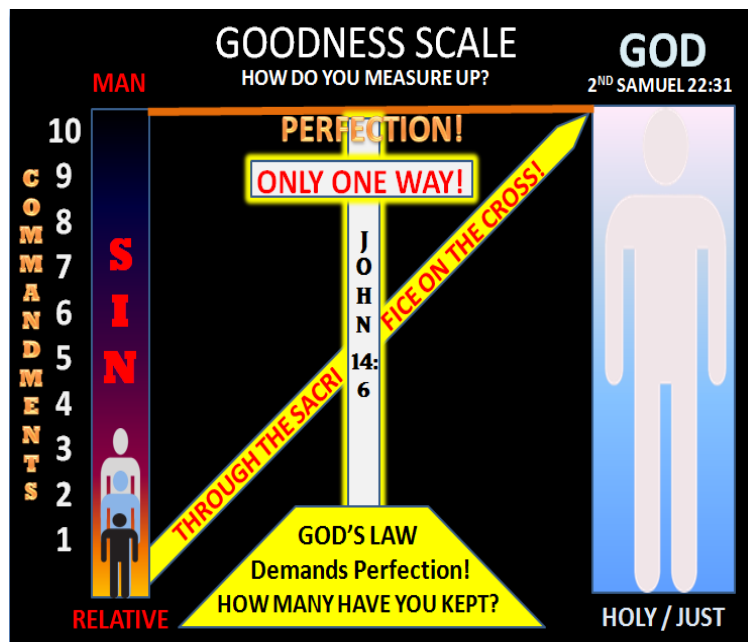
Well to be sure... Let's check Gods Laws. **The Ten Commandments.**

- 1. You've Never told a Lie, Right?** Because that would make you a Liar!
- 2. Never Stolen anything (no matter how small), Right?** Because that would make you a Thief!
- 3. You've Never used Gods name as a Curse word, Right?** Because that would make you a Blasphemer!

4. Never Lusted after anyone, Right? Because that would make you a Adulterer! (*Jesus said lusting after someone is the same as doing it*)

5. Never Hated anyone, Right? Because that would make you a Murderer! (*Jesus said hating someone in your heart is the same as murder*)

How are you doing? We have covered 5 of the 10 commandments, if you answered “Yes I Did” to even one of them you are guilty of sin and if you have sin in your life you are destined for death and hell. I’m sure if you are honest with yourself you are guilty of more than one!



But so are the rest of us, every single one of us! None of us measure up! **For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: Romans 3:23 & 3:10** Then we read this verse... **For the wages of sin is death! Romans 6:23 (a)**

So if all have sinned then what hope is there? How can anyone be saved? Because there is a “Redeeming Hope” that is promised! The last part of that last verse we just read speaks to the Mercy of God and finishes **Romans**

6:23 (a) with this... **but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

Romans 6:23 (B)

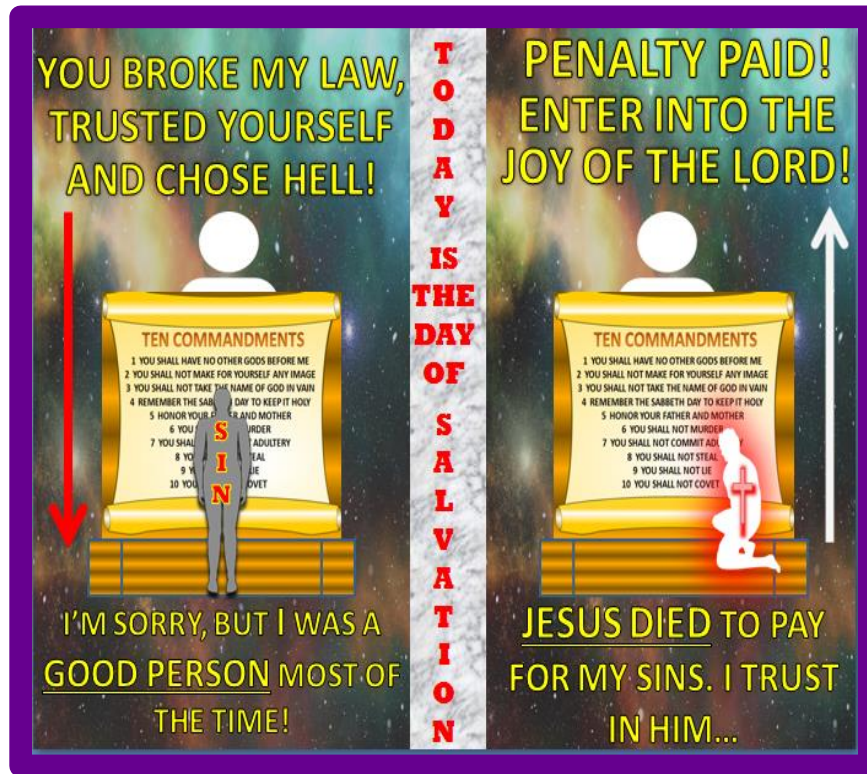
All you have to do is humble yourself (swallow your pride), admit you are a sinner, confess and repent (be sorry for your sins and turn away from them) then accept God’s gift by putting your trust and faith in Jesus Christ as your Savior who sacrificed Himself on the cross to pay for your sins. Please read the following verses of promise...

If you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. Romans 10:9-10



You I and everyone we know will one day find ourselves standing in front of the God of the universe and we will give an account of ourselves!

When your day arrives, what will you say?



A Personal Note

Please allow me to share a personal thought with you if I may regarding my motivation for writing “A Church Corrupted” which would be you dear reader, please understand that this message is an act of love towards you and all who will take the time to read it. It is written to everyone everywhere regardless of status, station, culture, race or religion.

Herein I have simply testified to what I believe to be the only hope for our world and the eternal destiny of every single one of us! Because I believe we are living in perilous times and that the signs of these times are evident and that whenever possible scripture demands that deception be exposed to the light of the true gospel!

In so doing it is my prayer that this message opens the eyes of both the deceived Christians who read this and find themselves caught up in a false church and the lost souls who are unsure and unbelieving! That the eyes of both be opened to the deceptions that surround them! For the misled believer a return to true faith and worship. And for the unsure and unsaved a change of heart and the surrender of worldly pride to Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior!

Please be assured that every message I share is done with the purest of intentions for which I seek no gain or glory but only that Gods will be done in the lives all whom it touches! For the Bible says...

Blessed is the man that trusts in the LORD, and whose hope the LORD is. *Jeremiah 17:7*
 Greater love hath no man than this that a man lay down his life for his friends. *John 15:13*

What a friend we have in Jesus!

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 in which we live!

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Your tomorrow is not guaranteed - today is the day of salvation!

Read the Bible daily and apply what you read. A good place to start is the Gospel of John.

Bible Verses of Life - John 14:6, John 3:17, Romans 3:23, Romans 3:10, Ecclesiastes 12:14,
 Romans 5:8, John 3:16, Romans 6:23, Romans 10:9-10, 2nd Samuel 22:31, John 14:6, James
 4:14 and Hebrews 9:27.