

ANOTHER JESUS?

JESUS: THE WORD OF GOD! THE BIBLE: THE WORD OF GOD!

There is inherent in the “emerging/emergent church, the possibility of following a false Jesus!

If I follow a totally subjective “Jesus” who I can separate from the Bible, then I can follow a Jesus who doesn’t insist that I become “born again” and a “Christian”.

I can be “missional” and remain in whatever religious tradition I am involved in and still believe I am a “Christ follower”.

"I don't believe making disciples must equal making adherents to the Christian religion. It may be advisable in many (not all!) circumstances to help people become followers of Jesus *and* remain within their Buddhist, Hindu or Jewish contexts ... rather than resolving the paradox via pronouncements on the eternal destiny of people more convinced by or loyal to other religions than ours, we simply move on ... To help Buddhists, Muslims, Christians, and everyone else experience life to the full in the way of Jesus (while learning it better myself), I would gladly become one of them (whoever they are, to whatever degree I can, to embrace them, to join them, to enter into their world without judgment but with saving love as mine has been entered by the Lord."

Brian McLaren

I would hate to try to promote this idea among the house churches in China which have been suffering severe persecution.

Or the Believers Churches of India who are also suffering persecution and even martyrdom.

This idea of “missional” is a lie that I fear may usher people into Hell!

Perhaps every one who uses the term doesn’t mean that. If they don’t, I truly wish they would use another term for being missionary minded, one that doesn’t carry so much baggage.

If I am going to follow the REAL Jesus Christ of the Bible, then I MUST be born again of the “Word of God”!

Then; can I chuck the Bible and follow Jesus “subjectively”, being led only by “The Holy Spirit”?

NO!

The Bible is much more than a road map to lead me to Christ, especially more than the “best way” to get to know Christ.

The Bible is the Word of God, and according to scripture, the Bible is;
“Alive and powerful, sharper than any two edged sword, dividing between the joints and marrow, between the soul and spirit, judging the very thoughts and purposes of the heart”.

Profitable to make one wise unto salvation.

A lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.

Literally “God breathed”

I believe the Bible is the Authority to which we can confidently turn to for resolution of any doctrinal question.

How can I be sure my “beliefs” are correct if I don’t trust in the Scripture?

Jesus himself said that the Scripture cannot be broken!

How easily we are all deceived, we humans have a very strong penchant for allowing ourselves to be deceived!

According to the Jesus of the emerging Church:

It isn’t necessary to believe in the virgin birth to be a “Christ follower”.

It isn’t necessary to believe in “the substitutionary death of Christ;

Jesus died to show God’s Love, not to pay a penalty that I owed.

If I follow a Jesus that is not virgin born, who didn’t die for my sins.

I have been deceived and am lost!

I am not a cold calculating unregenerate follower of a cold book!

No!

I have been born again by God’s Holy Spirit and am on fire with love for Jesus Christ!

I have received this Love by God’s Grace and also love God’s Church and God’s Word (the Bible)!

I long to see the Church following hard after Jesus Christ.

We have a “manifesto”; it is the Bible, the Word of God,

Written by God Himself to guide us and lead us as the Holy Spirit enlightens us and bring that Word alive in us!

As I began reading the Jesus manifesto, I was getting very excited, these are also my feelings.

I want everyone to love the Jesus who saved me too!

As I read further into the manifesto, my “deception detector” set off a couple of “red flags” when the typical emerging buzzwords were used calling us “missional” and calling Jesus an “all inclusive, cosmic Christ”, and the Bible was described as the “best way” to follow Jesus, and a map that leads to the Living Word.

Cosmic Christ?

This term also has a great deal of very heavy baggage!

It is a new age term to describe an inclusive idea of “Christ consciousness”.

"The Cosmic Christ is an aspect of the Cosmic Over-Soul, meaning that every Soul is a reflection of the Logos – the cosmic intelligence within everything. This Cosmic Intelligence has been named God, Christos, Ain Soph, or Parabrahmam. When you understand that you are not the personality/body/mind/complex but the spiritual essence of the Galactic Center, you will experience being, I AM."

Bryan Colmer

I shudder to think about the religious people who are thinking that they are in right standing with God because of their intellectual assent that they give to the bible, or to a religious tradition, or, equally bad, to a clergy man or woman.

I also shudder to think about the rebellious non-religious people who will not repent of their sins and be converted and follow the Jesus of Scripture.

I am not a "Calvinist" or an "Arminian".

I do not intend to follow any human tradition.

After I had been born again by the Holy Spirit, the Bible indeed came alive to me as I began to read everything I was experiencing began to make sense as the Holy Spirit confirmed it by the "Word".

I began to have a "high view" of the Bible.

God has written to us humans and we do well to heed His Words.

I cannot be saved without experiencing the new birth and receiving Jesus Christ into my heart! If I have truly been saved, then I will love Jesus and desire to please him.

I agree far too many Christians get sucked into religious traditions of men and think they are pleasing God.

Let us not start a new, emerging, unbiblical tradition of our own to replace the old one.

Let us follow the only safe path to pleasing The Lord Jesus Christ.

Let us, using the Bible as a template, and following the leading of the Holy Spirit, begin to build firmly on the Solid Rock of God's Word.

No matter how many adjectives I use to describe Jesus or my love and devotion for Him, my manifesto cannot replace the Scriptures.

This very Scripture warns every man to be careful how he builds.

I am very concerned that I would unintentionally yoke myself to any emerging leaders who recommend the other emerging leaders who are, in their books, literally "denying the Lord who bought them".

Sincerely,

Dale Noland