



# GOOD NEWS

for the unsaved WORLD!

(#161)

Those who downplay or ignore holiness (and other truths).

### HOW MANY "BIBLE-BELIEVING CHRISTIANS" WILL THERE BE IN THE LAKE OF FIRE?

We are Bible-believers!  
Look at how many Bible verses we use!

THE PROBLEM IS:  
THE VERSES YOU ARE OMITTING  
AND THE TRUTH YOU ARE REDEFINING!

(We already know that the non-Bible-believers will be there.)



### MANY CHURCH-GOERS DOWNPLAY CERTAIN BIBLE CONCEPTS ...

We don't talk about fear of God, repentance, holiness, judgment, and the like. They are too "negative" and will keep people from joining the church! \*

DON'T CALL "NEGATIVE" OR "POSITIVE" WHAT I CALL "TRUTH"!

... AND FOCUS ONLY ON CERTAIN OTHER CONCEPTS.

We only talk about love, happiness, heaven, forgiveness and the like. They sound "positive" and make people want to join the church! \*

\* (False definition of "church.")

### HALF-truth always results in HALF-lie...

THE "POSITIVE" PART I LIKE

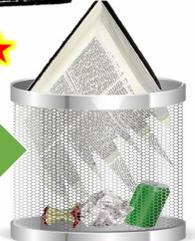


THE LIE THAT FILLS THE VOID.

★ ... and eventually, the LIE wins. ★

YOU DON'T EVEN NEED TO PROMOTE THE LIE. IT IS THE NATURAL RESULT, WHEN HALF THE TRUTH IS MISSING.

THE "NEGATIVE" PART I DON'T LIKE



### There are **CONSEQUENCES** to all this.

When you downplay the truth, and promote half-truth and fakeness...

- ↳ It results in a false "good news."
- ↳ It is not the Good News that saves people!

When you combine this false "good news" with a false definition of "church"...

- ↳ It results in something that fakes can "join."
- ↳ It is not the "body of Christ" that saved people are a part of!

When you convince fakes to "join" this "church," and you leave them thinking they are saved...

- ↳ It leaves you (the one promoting the half-truth) worthy of the lake of fire.

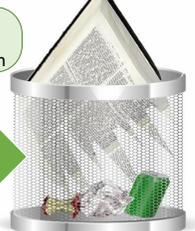
### PEOPLE WHO DOWNPLAY THE PARTS OF SCRIPTURE THEY DON'T LIKE TEND TO NOT SEE THE PASSAGES THAT CONDEMN WHAT THEY ARE DOING.

Jesus and the apostles often warned people about it.

"Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! You shut the door of the kingdom of heaven in people's faces. For you don't go in, and you don't allow those entering to go in."  
Matthew 23:13 (CSB)

"Men will rise up even from your own number and distort the truth to lure the disciples into following them. Therefore be on the alert, remembering that night and day for three years I never stopped warning each one of you with tears."  
Acts 20:30-31 (CSB)

THESE VERSES ARE FROM THE "NEGATIVE" PART I DON'T LIKE



**A horrible judgment awaits them. Ignoring it does not cause it to go away. (Only repentance can do that.)**

All that is left is a terrifying wait for judgment and a raging fire that will consume God's enemies. ...  
Falling into the hands of the living God is a terrifying thing.  
Hebrews 10:27, 31 (GW)

Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels!  
Matthew 25:41b (CSB)

Blackest darkness is reserved for them.  
2 Peter 2:17b (NIV)

'... the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'  
Matthew 25:30b (NIV)

**THESE VERSES ARE FROM THE "NEGATIVE" PART I DON'T LIKE**



**Holiness** – as defined by the Bible – is one of those topics that people tend to downplay.

- ✓ Some *ignore* it.
- ✓ Some *redefine* it (perhaps as some sort of emotional sensationalism).

⇒ **But it's NOT the only topic they do this to.**

Any topic that is related to this "half" of the truth will tend to be neglected.

[Paul's letters] which ignorant and unstable people distort, as they do the other Scriptures, to their own destruction.  
2 Peter 3:16b (NIV)

**How should WE respond?**

**FIRST:** FOCUSING ON ONE SPECIFIC TOPIC, WHEN TALKING ABOUT A SPECIFIC ISSUE, IS NOT THE PROBLEM.

★ The issue is the ongoing emphasis on one aspect of truth and the neglect of others. ★

**AVOIDING TRUTH, BECAUSE WE THINK IT IS "NEGATIVE" OR THAT PEOPLE WON'T LIKE IT OR EVEN IF WE JUST PREFER TO TALK ABOUT SOMETHING ELSE IS A GUARANTEE THAT WE HAVE SLIPPED INTO HALF-TRUTH AND FALSE TEACHING.**

**An EXAMPLE to illustrate this.**  
(This occurred in the early church.)

Some verses say Jesus is God; others say Jesus is a man.  
What happens if we choose to focus on just one of these truths?

The people focused on...	(They neglected or ignored...)	The lie that eventually came...	This resulted in the following heresy:
Jesus is God	(Jesus is human)	Jesus is NOT human.	Monarchianism or Sabellianism
Jesus is human	(Jesus is God)	Jesus is a created being, NOT God.	Arianism

This half-truth distortion can occur with any topic. We will look at some examples that are related to salvation.

**SECOND:** WE DO NOT KNOW IF THEY HAVE REACHED THE POINT OF NO RETURN.

Such a point does exist, and once they reach it, there is no further hope for them.  
(Hebrews 6:4-6; 2 Thessalonians 2:10b-12; etc.)

**SINCE WE DON'T KNOW IF THEY HAVE REACHED THAT POINT ...**

- Having a **GOD-focus.** ⇒ We can pray for their repentance. (We must also deal with any sins and half-truths we may be guilty of.)
- Having a **PEOPLE-focus.** ⇒ We can warn them and encourage them to repent. (Be aware that they may criticize and condemn us, just as their spiritual ancestors did to Jesus.)

**The HALF-truth may sound attractive, but it's deceptive, and leaves people unable to attain what it promises.**

**RESULT: YOU DESTROY YOURSELF; PEOPLE AREN'T SAVED.**

[They] distort what Paul says in his letters the same way they distort the rest of the Scriptures. These people will be destroyed.  
2 Peter 3:16b (GW)

"You have taken away the key to knowledge! You did not go in yourselves, and you hindered those who were going in."  
Luke 11:52b (NET)

**PRAY!!** For those who distort God's truth!

They may talk about forgiveness...

... but they don't tell you that forgiveness cannot come without repentance.

'There is forgiveness of sins for all who repent.'  
 Luke 24:47b (NLT)

(Some passages include a public confession of this repentance, in baptism.)

"Each of you must repent of your sins and turn to God, and be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins."  
 Acts 2:38b (NLT)

13

**PRAY!!** For those who distort God's truth!

They may talk about heaven...\*

... but they don't warn you about the lake of fire awaiting those who do not turn from their sins.

Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels!  
 Matthew 25:41b (CSB)

... a fearful expectation of judgment and of raging fire that will consume the enemies of God.  
 Hebrews 10:27b (NIV)

\* (Actually, we will live on the new earth, not in "heaven.")

14

**PRAY!!** For those who distort God's truth!

They may say you can get saved by "making a decision" for Christ, or if you "repeat this prayer after me"...

... but they don't tell you that only those who pursue holiness will be in God's presence.

Make every effort ... to be holy; without holiness no one will see the Lord.  
 Hebrews 12:14 (NIV)

God has called us to live holy lives, not impure lives.  
 1 Thessalonians 4:7 (NLT)

15

**PRAY!!** For those who distort God's truth!

They may describe heaven\* as a place of pleasure and happiness...

... but they don't tell you that those who are there will be serving God.

The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him.  
 Revelation 22:3b (NIV)

SERVING??  
 HOW BORING!

\* (Actually, we will live on the new earth, not in "heaven.")

16

**PRAY!!** For those who distort God's truth!

They may talk about God's love...

... but they don't tell you that unsaved people do not have this love within them.

... but I [= Jesus] know you, that you do not have the love of God within you.  
 John 5:42 (NET)

Don't love the world and what it offers. Those who love the world don't have the Father's love in them.  
 1 John 2:15 (GW)

17

**PRAY!!** For those who distort God's truth!

They may talk about God's love...

... but they don't tell you that genuine love is inseparable from truth. It does not lie about the truth, or oppose it, or ignore it.

Love ... rejoices in the truth.  
 1 Corinthians 13:6 (CSB)

Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, ...  
 Ephesians 4:15a (NLT)

THOSE WHO DO NOT LOVE THE TRUTH. → They perish because they did not accept the love of the truth and so be saved.  
 2 Thessalonians 2:10b (CSB)

18

## PRAY!! For those who distort God's truth!

They may talk about God's **love**...

... but they don't tell you that *genuine* love is connected to the **fear of God**.\*

(Instead, they view them as incompatible opposites.)

For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him; ...

Psalm 103:11 (NIV)

**WE NEED THIS FEAR!** ... we need to cleanse ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit and live a holy life in the fear of God.

2 Corinthians 7:1b (GW)

\* (The only Scripture passage that treats fear and love as opposites is about God's love vs. fear of *punishment* – 1 John 4:18.)

19

## PRAY!! For those who distort God's truth!

They may talk about **eternal life**...

... but they don't tell you that, without a change in our nature (available only through Christ), we are **dead** in sin.

And you were dead in your trespasses and sins ... But God ... made us alive with Christ even though we were dead in trespasses.

Ephesians 2:1, 4b-5a (CSB)

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 6:23 (CSB)

You were dead ... Then God made you alive with Christ, for he forgave all our sins.

Colossians 2:13 (NLT)

20

## PRAY!! For those who distort God's truth!

They may talk about **freedom**...

... but they don't tell you that people are, by nature, **slaves** to sin; and freedom is the result of obeying Jesus.

Jesus said ... "You are truly my disciples if you remain faithful to my teachings. And you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free. ... I tell you the truth, everyone who sins is a slave of sin."

John 8:31-32, 34b (NLT)

Don't you know that if you offer to be someone's slave, you must obey that master? Either your master is sin, or your master is obedience. Letting sin be your master leads to death. Letting obedience be your master leads to God's approval.

Romans 6:16 (GW)

21

## PRAY!! For those who distort God's truth!

They may claim that God wants you to be **happy**...

... but they don't tell you that what we deserve is **sorrow**... and we need to come to God with the right attitude.

**IT'S YOUR CHOICE!**

**YOU CAN CHOOSE SORROW NOW...**

**OR LATER!**

Grieve, mourn, and weep. Turn your laughter into mourning and your joy into despair. Humble yourselves before the Lord and he will exalt you.

James 4:9-10 (NET)

... all who do evil. [God's angels] will throw them into the blazing furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Matthew 13:41b-42 (NIV)

22

## PRAY!! For those who distort God's truth!

They may offer you **peace and happiness**...

... but they don't tell you that sinners deserve, *and will receive* only **wrath and judgment**, if they don't repent.

"There is no peace for the wicked," says the Lord.

Isaiah 48:22 (GW)

... the mirth of the wicked is brief, the joy of the godless lasts but a moment.

Job 20:5 (NIV)

But because of your stubbornness and your unrepentant heart, you are storing up wrath against yourself for the day of God's wrath, when his righteous judgment will be revealed.

Romans 2:5 (NIV)

23

**The LIE that creeps in, when HALF-truth is promoted, can be even worse.**

The diagram shows an open book with two arrows pointing outwards. The left arrow points to a green box containing the text 'THE POSITIVE PART I LIKE'. The right arrow points to another green box containing the text 'THE LIE THAT FILLS THE VOID.' A red circle highlights the book, and a red arrow points from the book towards the text below.

Lies that *would have never occurred* **IF** the "missing" truth had been acknowledged.

**Without BOTH parts of the truth as "boundaries," there is no limit in how far a person's views can stray.**

24

**The consequences of the "missing" truth?**

**SOMETHING MUST FILL THE VOID!**

When people omit TRUTH that they don't like, the void is filled by LIES. *There is nothing to restrain or limit the seriousness or intensity of the lie.*

**THE WORLD WILL BE HAPPY TO PROVIDE THAT "SOMETHING"!**

It doesn't matter what evil the world may be promoting... there will always be false teachers who are willing to **promote** it.

**THIS IS HAPPENING RIGHT NOW, IN MANY GROUPS THAT CLAIM TO BE "CHRISTIAN CHURCHES."**

25

**PRAY!!** For those who distort God's truth!

They call "evil" good...  
... even though God **warns them against it:**

Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, ...  
Isaiah 5:20a (CSB)

Having closed their eyes to the truth, they tend to become so blind that they cannot recognize the evil. *Their followers end up the same way.*

"They are blind leaders. When one blind person leads another, both will fall into the same pit."  
Matthew 15:14b (GW)

26

**PRAY!!** For those who distort God's truth!

They are willing to **promote** the teachings of the world...  
... even though God **prohibits** it, and requires us to reject the world's values and to change the way we think.

Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him.  
1 John 2:15 (CSB)

Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may discern what is the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God.  
Romans 12:2 (CSB)

27

**How does all this fit with a study on sanctification/holiness?**

**THE KEY POINT IS THIS:**

Half-truths tend to occur in a group.  
People who suppress *one* truth will generally suppress *other* related truths.

It might not be 100% of the time, but those who are willing to downplay holiness will normally be guilty in these other areas, as well.

28

Your **MISSION?** *You already know it!*

**PRAY!!** For those who distort God's truth!

(And repent, if necessary.)

Rather, we have renounced secret and shameful ways; **we do not use deception, nor do we distort the word of God.** On the contrary, by **setting forth the truth plainly** we commend ourselves to everyone's conscience in the sight of God.  
2 Corinthians 4:2 (NIV)

29

**Credits**

SCRIPTURE

- Scriptures marked "NLT" – Holy Bible, New Living Translation, copyright © 1996, 2004, 2015 by Tyndale House Foundation. Used by permission of Tyndale House Publishers, Inc., Carol Stream, Illinois 60188. All rights reserved.
- Scriptures marked "NIV" - Scripture quotations taken from The Holy Bible, New International Version®, NIV®, Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984, 2011 by Biblica, Inc.™ Used by permission. All rights reserved worldwide. (www.biblica.com )
- Scriptures marked "GW" - Scripture is taken from GOD'S WORD®, Copyright 1995 God's Word to the Nations. Used by permission of Baker Publishing Group. All rights reserved.
- Scriptures marked "NET" - Scripture quoted by permission. Quotations designated (NET) are from the NET Bible® copyright ©1996-2006 by Biblical Studies Press, L.L.C. http://netbible.com All rights reserved.
- Scriptures marked "CSB" - Scripture quotations marked CSB have been taken from the Christian Standard Bible®, Copyright © 2020 by Holman Bible Publishers. Used by permission. Christian Standard Bible® and CSB® are federally registered trademarks of Holman Bible Publishers.

PICTURES (original sources; modifications may have been made)

- Megaphone – roshellin / CC0; <https://openclipart.org/detail/167891/megafono>
- Fire – GDJ / CC0; <https://openclipart.org/detail/260976/digital-fire-sound-wave-no-background>
- Bible – Ken Horn, CC BY 2.0 <<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/2.0/>>, via Wikimedia Commons, [https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Open\\_bible\\_isaiah.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Open_bible_isaiah.jpg)
- Trash can – j4p4n / CC0; <https://openclipart.org/detail/303814/rubbish-bin-with-rubbish>

Presentation – Dennis Hinks © 2022.

30