

Red Letter “christians,” Biblical or Bible Apostasy?

By Evangelist Sean Bonitto

“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

The Holy Ghost through the Apostle Paul teaches that in the last days, **“...the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine...”**(2Timothy 4:3), and that there will, **“...come a falling away...”** (2Thess 2:3) from Biblical Christianity, and the sound teachings of the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ.

This rejection of sound doctrine and apostasy has manifested itself through many deceptive channels, movements, and satanic devices in these last days. However, it is imperative that we focus on one major apostate movement that has been gaining momentum in these last days, and that is the so called, Red Letter “christian” movement.

What is a Red Letter, “christian?” The official Red Letter Christian website describes a Red Letter Christian, and the ultimate goal of the movement,

The goal of Red Letter Christians is simple: To take Jesus seriously by endeavouring to live out His radical, counter-cultural teachings as set forth in Scripture, and especially embracing the lifestyle prescribed in the Sermon on the Mount...By calling ourselves Red Letter Christians, we refer to the fact that in many Bibles the words of Jesus are printed in red. What we are asserting, therefore, is that we have committed ourselves first and foremost to doing what Jesus said. ”(1)

Tony Campolo, one of the founders of the Red Letter “christian” movement in his book, **“Red Letter Revolution,”** co-authored with Shane Claiborne, has revealed the agenda of the Red Letter “christian” movement, by making the bold statement, “It's time for a new kind of Christianity.”(2)

What is this new kind of Christianity?

The Red Letter “christian” website reveals this “new kind of Christianity” with the following articles, **“Why I Think Jesus Would Bake a Cake for a Same Sex Marriage,” “Sexual Orientation: It's Not a Sin,” “It is Time for the American Christian Church to Surrender the Gay Marriage Fight, Apologize & Share Love,”** and other such like perverse, and blasphemous writings that clearly support the sin of homosexuality, which the Holy Bible clearly condemns as sin, and an abomination in the sight of Almighty God (Leviticus 18:22; Matthew 19:1-12; Romans 1:18-32; 1 Corinthians 6:9-11; 1 Timothy 1:9-10).

To add insult to injury, Red letter “christians” reject the clear Bible doctrine of the penal substitutionary sacrificial atonement of the Lord Jesus Christ on the cross for the sins of the world

(John 3:16-36;Romans 5:1-11;2Corinthians 5:1-21;1John 2:1-2) as only a theory that must be rejected.

While at the same time they endorse books (Rob Bell's book, *Love Wins*) that reject the sound Bible doctrine of everlasting punishment of the ungodly in hell, for all those who have died in their sins without the Lord Jesus Christ (Luke 16:19-31;Revelation 14:9-11).

The article on the Red Letter “christian” website entitled, *“Healing Toxic Faith: Did Jesus die to save us from God?”* reveals their clear rejection of the work of the Lord Jesus Christ on the cross, and His penal substitution which is the very essence of the gospel, and the very purpose why the Lord Jesus Christ came to die on the cross. **“For the Son of man is come to seek and to save that which was lost”** (Luke 19:10).

The word translated **“lost”** here in English is the Greek word, “apollumi” which means to destroy or perish, or to lose depending on the context of the passage. This same Greek word is also found in John 3:16 in the word **“perish,”** which teaches without a shadow of a doubt, that the Lord Jesus Christ came to die for the sins of all mankind, in order for us to be saved from the everlasting judgement and wrath of God in hell, unless one repents and trusts the Lord Jesus Christ by faith alone for their eternal salvation. Notice the context of John 3:16,

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved (John 3:16-20).

It is clear from the passage of John 3:16-20, from the very red letters of the Lord Jesus Christ Himself, which the Red Letter “christians” claim they adhere to, clearly teaches that God sent His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ to die for the sins of all mankind, **“...that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”** This clearly means that if they believe on the Lord Jesus Christ they **“should not perish,”** in an eternal hell, **“but have everlasting life.”**

The words, **“condemned already”** are in reference to those who reject the Lord Jesus Christ, and speaks of the judgement of God that remains on the unbeliever who stands already condemned of his sin, and will receive eternal damnation in hell unless he repents of his sin, & trust the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ by faith alone for his salvation (Luke 13:3;John 3:16;Acts 20:21).

The Holy Ghost finishes John chapter three by solidifying the clear doctrine of penal substitution, eternal punishment, and of the Lord Jesus Christ dying for the sins of all mankind in order to save us from the eternal wrath of God in hell forever, by saying, **“He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him”**(John 3:36).

Therefore the so called, “Red Letter christians” are rejecting a fundamental Bible doctrine concerning the issue of salvation, and have not only rejected the work of the Lord Jesus Christ, but have ironically also rejected His very words tragically to their own eternal damnation, unless they

repent, and trust the true Lord Jesus Christ of the Holy Bible.

The Lord Jesus Christ said, **“Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels”**(Mark 8:38).

As a result of rejecting the work of the Lord Jesus Christ, they also have denied His unique and exclusive claim to salvation for all mankind, where the Master, the King of Glory says, **“...I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me”**(John 14:6). Thus they have embraced a false ecumenical gospel of inclusion, that all religions are relative, or equally valid, and the Satanic lie that there are many ways to heaven.

This teaching clearly reduces the death and shed blood of the Lord Jesus Christ on the cross to a meaningless exercise, and a work of vanity which promotes the spirit of Anti Christ, leaving mankind with absolutely no hope, or escape from hell fire and damnation, in order **“...to flee from the wrath to come”** (Matthew 3:7).

To say it kindly, this is nothing short of utter blasphemy. To reduce the sacrifice of the Lord Jesus Christ on the cross as not being necessary for the salvation of all mankind, is to join with those who mocked the Lord of Glory, and **“...spite in his face, and buffeted him...,”** and to **“...smote him with the palms of their hands”** (Matthew 26:67). This is exactly what so called Red Letter Christianity has done, and is tragically continuing to do. This my friend, is their “...New kind of Christianity.”

As the founder of the Salvation Army William Booth has stated more than a century earlier, when warning the saints of God against the coming apostasy, it is a “...christianity without Christ.”

It is a so called, “christianity” that turns, **“the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ”**(Jude 4). It is clear and utter blasphemy and apostasy, due to the fact it rejects sound doctrine by promoting the sin of homosexuality(Romans 1:18-32), and also rejecting the work of the Lord Jesus Christ by denying His penal substitutionary sacrificial atonement on the cross (John 3:16-36; Romans 5:1-11; 1 Corinthians 5:19-21).

This “New kind of Christianity” mocks the reality of everlasting punishment in hell for the ungodly (Matthew 25:41; Luke 16:19-31; Revelation 14:9-11; Revelation 20:11-15), it rejects the Lord Jesus Christ as the only way, and means of eternal salvation, and embraces the false religions of this world, thus sending multitudes of precious souls, along with their own, to an eternity in hell (Mark 16:15-16; Luke 13:3; John 3:16-21,36; John 14:6; Acts 4:12).

Jesus said in Acts 4:12, yes I said Jesus said in Acts 4:12, because, **“All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness”**(2 Timothy 3:16). Since the Lord Jesus Christ is God in flesh (John 1:1,14), and the Holy Bible is the Word of God (Matthew 4:4), therefore every Word of Holy Scripture is the words of the Lord Jesus Christ from Genesis to Revelation.

Therefore the Lord Jesus Christ said in Acts 4:12 that He is the only way to heaven, and that there is absolutely no other way, or means of eternal salvation apart from Him, **“Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved”** (Acts 4:12).

Thus, it is clear according to the teaching of Holy Scripture, that salvation cannot, and I repeat, cannot be found in the name of Buddha, Mohammed, Shiva, Krishna, Confucius, Allah, or any other, but only and exclusively in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ (John 14:6; Acts 4:12).

Therefore all those who, **“...believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him”**(John 3:36), and are on their way to an eternity in hell, unless depart from their false religion, repent of their sin, and trust the Lord Jesus Christ as the Son of God by faith alone for their salvation (Luke 13:3; John 3:16; Acts 20:21).

The Lord Jesus Christ said in Leviticus 18:22, that homosexuality is an abomination, **“Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it is abomination.”**

The Lord Jesus Christ in Romans 1:26-27 proves without a shadow of a doubt that homosexuality is a sin against God, by giving the example of men and woman violating the **“...the natural use...”** (Romans 1:27) for which their physical bodies were exclusively created, when they dishonour their bodies by changing **“the natural use into that which is against nature”**(Romans 1:26), and pervert **“...the natural use...”** of the body, to fulfil their ungodly lusts, and “vile affections” of homosexuality.

He uses the words, **“the natural use”** which are the Greek words, “phusikos” meaning “natural” and “chresis” meaning “sexual use, and occupation” for which the female body, every female body, and the male body, every male body was made. Thus, He clearly, and conclusively commands that the body of every female is made exclusively for the man, and the body of every man is made exclusively for the woman, in the confines of marriage(Genesis 1:27; Genesis 2:20-25; Matthew 19:1-12; Hebrews 13:4), giving absolutely no justification, nor misunderstanding concerning the ungodly, unnatural desire, and perverse act of homosexuality(Romans 1:24-27). This fact cannot be denied.

Therefore, the Lord Jesus Christ is leaving no room for the erroneous, and deceptive lie of homosexuality being only condemned in the confines of idol temple prostitution, but that the Word of God clearly condemns homosexuality as sin in every circumstance due to its rebellion of **“the natural use”** (Romans 1:26).

His condemnation of homosexuality, is in direct reference to the objective truth of how God naturally created the bodies of males and females exclusively for each other, when He **“made them at the beginning...male and female”** to become **“one flesh”**(Matthew 19:4-5) in holy matrimony, that can only be accomplished between one man and one woman until death dissolves the bond (Matthew 19:1-9; Romans 7:1-3).

Therefore Jesus says in Romans 1:26-27, **“For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet.”**

Red letter “christianity” is a so called “christianity” that ironically rejects the Lord Jesus Christ, not only in His red letters, but also in His black letters from Genesis to Revelation, and is leading multitudes of precious souls to embrace their sin, and sending them to an eternity in hell(Luke 13:3; John 3:16; Acts 20:21).

This is not a new kind of “christianity” but an old form of paganism, and satanic blasphemy, leading its followers blindly into the hands of the Anti Christ, and ultimately, and tragically forever in the Lake of fire (1 Corinthians 6:9-11; Galatians 5:19-21; Revelation 20:11-15).

In conclusion, when examined by the authority of Holy Scripture, so called, Red letter “christianity” is certainly not Biblical, but clear, and absolute Bible Apostasy (2 Timothy 4:1-5), and satanic blasphemy, that has departed, “**...from the faith...**,” and is now “**...giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils**” (1 Timothy 4:1).

If you, your church, or your Pastor are apart of this ungodly, unbiblical, and apostate movement such as the Red Letter “christian” movement, or any other apostate ideology or fellowship, you need to leave that church, along with this Red Letter movement immediately, for your eternal soul is in danger of eternal hell fire, and damnation by embracing these, “**...damnable heresies...**” (2 Peter 2:1) through these false teaches who are “**...even denying the Lord that bought them, and...**” will “**...bring upon themselves swift destruction.**” (2 Peter 2:1).

Again, to you who have been deceived by these Satanic lies, and compromise, the Lord Jesus Christ sends His warning of love to you, by saying, “**As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent**” (Revelation 3:19).

Finally to all those faithful brethren in Christ Jesus who have not removed the ancient landmark of righteousness, but have been “**stedfast**” and “**immovable**” (1 Corinthians 15:58) in the faith of the Lord Jesus Christ, and have rejected these lies that are from the pit of hell, and have held “fast” to the precious Word of God without compromise, be encouraged, do not compromise, for the Master, the Lord Jesus Christ says to you,

Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown. Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name” (Revelation 3:11-12).

NOTES

1. Tony Camplo, **Start Here Page**. Retrieved from <http://www.redletterchristians.org/start/> on April 11, 2013.
2. Tony Camplo, Shane Claiborne, “**Red Letter Revolution: What If Jesus Really Meant What He Said?**” Thomas Nelson. Nashville, TN: 2012. Overview. Retrieved from <http://redletterchristians.org/redletterrevolutionbook/> on April 11, 2013.

***All scripture quotations are taken from the King James Version.**