

"It May Not Be Politically Correct, But IT IS True!"

Political correctness has become a driving force in education, politics, the changing social mores, business, and personal relationships. In many areas political correctness has done a lot of good, such as equal pay between men and women for the same job, racial equality, awareness of the needs of the disabled, providing health care and services for the poor, and for the protection of children. But in some areas, it has done more harm than good. Take for instance the insistence that banks make home loans to people who cannot afford the payments and will surely default. In some areas the political correctness doctrine has caused division in our country because of its stand on abortion and same sex marriages. Please understand that I am all for justice, equality, and treating others in a God pleasing way. But I am not a big fan of many of the political correctness platforms. One area that I believe political correctness has absolutely no business to pretend to be the authority and to insist to have the last word, and that is in religion.

Following the political correctness doctrine, which wants us to fair and consider the feelings of others, no religion is above or superior over another; all are basically the same so none can claim exclusively that its way is the only way to God. Now many of the religions of the world make exclusive claims: Jehovah Witnesses, Mormons, and Christians. Yet Christians seem to be the only ones that political correctness advocates condemn. Most of all they object to the Christian teaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. As Christians we believe that no one is saved except he who believes in Jesus.

Sadly, many Christians have conceded that the Gospel of Jesus is too restrictive and have watered down the Gospel so it appeals those who deny Jesus is the Son of God and the world's Savior. Perhaps they need to remember the words of Jesus in John 6. Many of His followers turned away and left him when He said that no one can be saved apart from Him. Yet Jesus refused to be politically correct and change His teaching to be more inclusive and appease them. He asked His own disciples, **"Do you want to leave, too?"** Peter reply, **"Lord, to whom should we go? You have the words of eternal life! We believe and know that you are the Holy One of God."** Can you say the same with the conviction of St. Peter!

When St. Paul left the Galatia churches to continue his mission trip after teaching them the Good News of who Jesus is and what He did for us and

our salvation, the Judaizers came in with their false teachings. Like many religions today, they minimized what one believed as being important and rather focused on what one did. Whereas Paul taught one is saved through faith in Jesus' death and resurrection, they taught three distinctly different doctrines. **First** they claimed that one's good works earn eternal life. This is work righteousness and self-justification! **Second**, they insisted that one had to follow the ceremonial laws of Moses to be saved. And **third**, they maintained Jesus' blood did not pay for all our sins. By their standard one could argue that Moslems who do good works are saved, Jehovah Witnesses are saved, and even agnostics, atheists, and terrorists would be saved if they did good works.

Now if this is true, who decides what is and what is not a good work? What magical number of good works does it take to be saved? Certainly this does not come from God's Word. Listen to what the Bible teaches us in the Old Testament. Read: Genesis 15:6; Psalm 130:7; Isaiah 45:22; Isaiah 53:6,10, 12; and Habakkuk 2:4. God's Word clearly teaches that **God** alone saves and we receive this salvation through **faith**.

And let us look at a few of the many New Testament passages that clearly teach us about Jesus and our salvation? Read: Matthew 20:28; John 14:6; Acts 4:12; Romans 1:16; and 1 Peter 1:19-20. They make it crystal clear: **Jesus alone is the Savior.**

Well, then where do today's political correctness advocates and where did the Judaizers in St. Paul's day both base their insistence on the belief that we do not need to believe in Jesus to be save? Both of them reject the **authority** of God's **Word**. They don't care what the revealed Word of God teaches; they base their teachings on human intellectual reason. How reliable are sinful minds? Just as the Judaizers had an agenda to undermine the work of St. Paul, so too it appears that the political correctness advocates have an agenda: destroy the Christian message. Both have been duped by the devil.

Based on our text, what do you suppose St. Paul would tell those Christians today who desire to compromise the Gospel of Jesus Christ to please the political correctness advocates? He would probably tell them what he said of the Judaizers. **“Let them be eternally condemned!” (Literally, “They can all go to Hell!”)**

My friends, understand that it is the devil who wants us to compromise the Gospel of Jesus Christ for the sake of “fairness”. We live in an age when we see nothing wrong with changing the rules to get our way. Look at Bernard Madoff: he changed the rules when he deceived investors of billions. Consider British Petroleum: they refused to follow the rules of safety for the purpose of profit. Look what they have done to God’s creation in the Gulf! Or look at hall of fame professional football star Jerry Rice. He so desperately wanted to win a Nationwide Golf Tournament and qualify for the PGA tour that he had his caddy use a range finder to determine the distance from where his ball lay in the fairway to the pin on the green. Nice technology; but it is against the rules of golf! He was disqualified from the tournament! My point is that so many people think that they don’t need to follow God’s rules in life that they see nothing wrong in the political correctness advocates changing God’s teaching on the one way to salvation!

My friends, as long as I am your pastor you will hear me teach, confess, and share that there is only one way to the Father, one way to heaven, and one Savior: His name is Jesus! As we teach, confess, and believe the Gospel of Jesus, we will receive some wonderful blessings in our daily lives. **First**, we are assured of God’s love and forgiveness. What a tremendous boost this is for our self-worth; what a relief it is for us in our moments of doubt and guilt. The Creator of our vast universe loves you and you and me; and when we repent and look to the blood of Jesus shed on the Cross as the payment for our sins, we are forgiven fully, totally, and unconditionally!

Second, we no longer need to be afraid. How many times do the angels, the prophets, and Jesus Himself tell us, “**Don’t be afraid!**” Stop being afraid now and never be afraid again! Don’t be afraid when your children go on a date, to college or off to war. Don’t be afraid when a relationship ends, your lover dumps you, or your spouse leaves. Don’t be afraid when your job is on the line or terminated, when the economy crashes, or your political candidate loses. Don’t be afraid when sickness strikes or death claims a loved one. Jesus promises to be with us always to the end of the world. God promises, “**Be strong and courageous and don’t be afraid. For the LORD your God is with you and He will never fail you nor forsake you!**” What does God promise us? “...**the LORD your God is with you and He will never fail you nor forsake you!**”

Third, we know that we have eternal life now. Eternal life is ours the very moment we believe. And we have Jesus’ own promise if we continue to

listen to His voice speak in worship, Bible Class, and devotions, no one can snatch us away from Him. We know today that we have eternal life. We are sure now that when we die, we will go to Heaven! Jesus is the way!

And **fourth**, we now have the power to live a new life that glorifies, serves, trusts, and obeys God. In that new life we can follow God's laws, rebuild broken relationships, build new and lasting friendships, enjoy a worry free life, reflect God's love in our love for others, and demonstrate God's compassion in our compassion for the poor. We now do good works not to try to manipulate God; but rather to show our thankfulness to God for His love for us in Jesus Christ, His son!

Some folks get a little pietistic and uneasy with Paul's insistence that the Judaizers, and anyone like them, go to hell. But he understood the real danger in their false teachings. Do you? What danger did the Galatians face due to the Judaizers' teachings that caused St. Paul to become so upset? They were in danger of losing the eternal life! Their salvation was at stake! If they believed the Judaizers they would lose their souls and end up in Hell.

Jesus alone is the **“way, the truth, and the life. NO ONE comes to the Father but by Jesus!”** Believe this, live this, and share this, and you will be with Jesus in Paradise! And **“if anyone tries to teach you a gospel other than what you accepted, (you have my permission to tell him,) ‘Go to Hell!’”** IT MAY NOT BE POLITICALLY CORRECT, BUT IT IS TRUE IJN, amen.