

Once In Our History It Was All About Truth Part Two

For the most part, the 1970s, were years of a spiritual awakening in America. Many were brought to faith in Christ. People were deeply interested in truth. Sadly, the fervent drive for truth slowed, and was overshadowed by the greed and debauchery of the eighties and nineties. The culture rejected biblical standards of morality, and the church, rather than taking a stand for truth, softened its position on many important issues.

Church leaders reacted to the world's indifferences, not by a strong commitment to preaching, but by a pragmatic (ref. part one) approach to doing church. This has resulted in a wholesale gospel – which is no gospel at all. Theology and doctrine was laid aside for methodology and marketing experts to guide the church. The new model of ministry revolved around making sinners feel comfortable and at ease in the church, then selling them on the benefits of becoming a Christian.

Even the churches ministry to its own has changed. Entertainment has taken over many pulpits across America. Contemporary approaches cater to the ever changing whims of professing believers, and this has caused a climate of an ever changing social club and community center within the church.

Many church leaders have bought into the pragmatism movement without recognizing the danger it poses. Experience, emotion, fashion, and popular opinion are often looked upon as being more authoritative than the Bible in determining what many Christians believe. Christian counseling in many circles reflect that drift, frequently offering no more than experimental and unscriptural self-help therapy instead of solid answers from the Bible.

It has become fashionable to forgo the proclamation and teaching of God's Word in worship services. Instead, churches serve up a diet of drama, music (and sometimes the music doesn't sound Christian at all), and other forms of entertainment. Christ is no longer the focus of the message. While His name is mentioned from time to time, the real focus is inward, not upward. People are urged to look within (by their own power), to try to understand themselves and why they behave as they do. To come to grips with their problems, their hurts; to have their needs met, their desires granted, and their wants fulfilled.

The church today is infected with this type of teaching. And the sad part is that people believe it. Nothing can replace a healthy diet of God's Word, and I mean nothing!

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