



PSYCHOBABBLE

Much of the religious mush we have been witnessing by gift of gab speakers on TV has been referred to by some as PSYCHOBABBLE. Listeners are being challenged to travel the POSITIVE THINKING road with utter disregard of God's negatives in HIS written Word, the Bible. A principle is lifted out of God's Word, dressed up with catchy lines like "You can't lose with the stuff I use!" This ends up with man in the limelight and God in the shadows. It is a case of lifting the text out of context and ending up with a pretext. One can prove communism from the Bible with this deceptive approach. Using the same approach, one can from the Bible prove that there is no God. The juggling of the Scripture verses for self gain never ends. The Pied Pipers (leaders who make irresponsible promises) are calling us to:

I. UNTOLD WEALTH:

The verse of Scripture usually used and lifted out of context is Mark 10:30

"But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time..."

Their approach is referred to by some as the "Prosperity Doctrine" – the "Hundredfold Guarantee" – the "Give in Order to Get" pitch:

Mark 10:30 is not a blanket promise that anything we give will be multiplied 100 times over back to us. Read the verses preceding the text and see the challenge to the rich young ruler to sell everything he had and give it to the poor to have "TREASURE IN HEAVEN" – and not necessarily on earth.

- We received a communication from Rev. Ike on June 15, 1981 inviting us to invest in his GREEN POWER MONEY SIGN. Rev. Ike said, "Never say cheese – say money."
- Jack Mabley, in his Chicago Tribune article stated it well after receiving many financial appeals from Oral - -- Roberts. He said, "Your local pastor is more accessible than Oral Roberts on his knees in Tulsa praying over 25 mailbags and a box of slightly used handkerchiefs."
- Rev. Al of California asks his mailing constituency to send him \$9.29 (as in Mark 9:29 – read it), to have him pray away your problems barring none.

Are the BABBLERS right in saying all of us can become instantly rich? How about Matt. 26:11?

- The Pied Pipers are also calling us to:

II. BETTER HEALTH:

One verse used by so called healers is Isaiah 53:5

"...with his stripes we are healed."

- Weird lights, a sweet aroma called HEAVENLY SCENT wafting across the room, people babbling in strange tongues. The supposedly healed individual falls backward semiconscious having been "slain in the Spirit." All of it is something to behold. All of it is totally unscriptural. The diabetic is told that he no longer needs insulin. The man with the artificial eye has his eyesight supposedly restored. He can now read with that eye even though it is made with plastic. On and on it goes with great profit to the so-called healer.
- Do I believe that God can heal today? Yes! Do I believe in Divine healers? No!
- Do I believe in healing in the atonement in Isaiah 53:5? Yes – but not for today. All who have trusted Christ as Savior will one day be healed, and so I believe in healing in the atonement for the future. Note the word "shall" – future tense – in Romans 8:18, 21, and finally the words "redemption of our body" in Romans 8:23.
- Is it God's will for all to be healed? No! Note the case of outstanding believers as in the life of Paul in 2 Corinthians 12:7-10, in the life of Trophimus in 2 Timothy 4:20 and Epaphoditus in Philippians 2:25-30.

In Conclusion, let me say that my soul is redeemed, but my body waits to be released – Romans 8:23. As to wealth, our Lord Jesus Christ has riches untold waiting for the believer in the life to come – 2 Corinthians 8:9; 6:10.

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