

Have You Seen What We've Seen? (Observation 5)

Dear Friends in Christ Jesus our Lord, ([pdf copy attached](#))

In this Teaching Email we're going to discuss several unbiblical religious practices within Christianity that promote the sins of **presumption** and **false expectation**. Don't think that this doesn't concern you and your family — it does! These two interrelated sins began with Adam and Eve as they believed Satan's lies. And ever since that fateful day, presumption and false expectation have continued unabated in human souls. Presumption and false expectation are sins we've discussed many times over the past 40 years, most recently in our 4/9/2021 Teaching Email, "[You Are The Last Jackass...](#)" <[https://restorationministries.org/download/100.4-8-2021%20\(1\).pdf](https://restorationministries.org/download/100.4-8-2021%20(1).pdf)> and also in *Facing Your False Expectation And Presumption*, <<https://restorationministries.org/download/86.11-24-2020.pdf>>. Let's look at why this topic is so essential for you and those closest to you to understand.

"Keep back Your servant from presumptuous sins; Let them not rule over me. Then I will be blameless, and I shall be innocent of great transgression"

(Psalms 19:13).

"If we deliberately keep on sinning after we have received the knowledge of the truth, no sacrifice for sins is left, but only a fearful expectation of judgment and of raging fire that will consume the enemies of God" (Hebrews 10:26,27)

A particularly crucial aspect of the sins of presumption and false expectation plagues a lion's share of Christians. It's *presupposing* that their lives are acceptable to our heavenly Father, so therefore they can slide along spiritually as they follow their own will and goals. But in 2Peter 1:10,11, the apostle insists that followers of Jesus grasp the *life and death* significance of presumptuously thinking they're in right standing with our Lord even if their lives are barren and unfruitful (v.8): "*Therefore, brethren, **make every effort to confirm your calling and chosenness. For doing these things** [qualities cited in vv.5-7], you will never fall. For so the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be richly supplied to you.*"

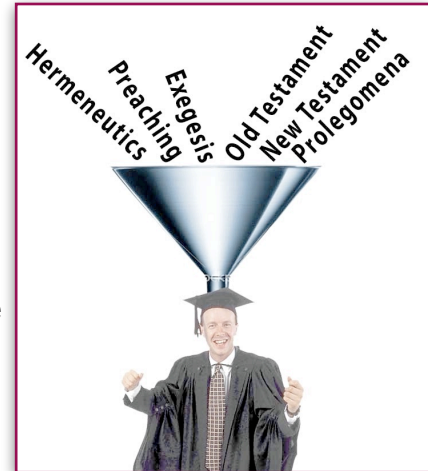
In a Teaching Email from 2004, ***Lessons From The Feasts***, we cited this sad account:

Mike was given a prophetic warning by the Holy Spirit to tell a retired head of a major denomination, "***There is nothing written about you in heaven!***" That old gentleman sadly replied, "Twenty-five years ago my brother told me the same thing." All the years during which he'd risen to the top of his denomination he'd been propelled by his own presumptuous view of himself. Now, 25 years later, our Father wanted to warn him one last time that nothing about him had been recorded in heaven — not even in the Book of Life. That's scary, isn't it? Please, be sure that *you* have absolutely no presumption or false expectation about your eternal destination. Ask the Holy Spirit to confirm His presence in you, and that you're on the pathway to eternal life.

For many Christians in general, presumption and false expectation start with their misplaced confidence in their denomination or congregational leadership. Yet behind the scenes so many clergy are obsessed with (1). **expository preaching and systematic**

theology (2). the Hellenist precept that **man is the center of importance** and pursuit of happiness is man's chief goal. No wonder that Christianity is overflowing with people who are *passive* about any Lordship of Jesus in their lives and/or doing their part in fulfilling our Father's will. Most congregations do have the few active who are genuinely helping others out of love. But others among the active few are more involved with keeping the religious system running smoothly rather than being at the forefront of extending the Kingdom.

So, what are these seminary-implanted obsessions which underlie sermons week after week and lull hearers into ongoing passivity in their own spiritual lives?



(1). Expository preaching exhaustively details the meaning of a particular verse or passage.

This approach goes hand in hand with **systematic theology**, which is man's attempt to put together an orderly, rational and coherent account of the Bible. A tragic side effect of systematic theology, however, has been much of the division within Christianity and its many thousands of denominations and sects. All too often logic-driven theologians have been far more concerned with congregants developing an *orderly understanding of God* than they have been in championing a *way of life that applies His commands* to everyday situations and relationships and decisions. Systematic theology deals with concepts. By contrast, *assisting Christians to live the way of the Lord* involves discussion of biblical truths for practical application, along with encouragement, admonition and spurring on each person to fulfill Father's will in their lives.

Because expository preaching is so prevalent, let's expose its deficiencies:

Expository preaching to the flock is not biblical!

Scripture never describes "preaching" to people who already follow Jesus as their Lord and are indwelt by the Holy Spirit! In the New Testament, preaching is directly related to *presenting the gospel* — the good news of the kingdom of God and salvation in Christ — to people who *haven't heard it before* or who have just recently heard it and *need a fuller picture* of what it means to them. This means that most often preaching was connected with *evangelizing unbelievers*, proclaiming the good news to people who aren't yet in the family of Christ.

For more on this, see Spot 5, *Dialoguing vs Preaching: Who's Talking?* <<https://restorationministries.org/download/5.spot-on.pdf>>.

Expository preaching produces life-long spiritual infancy! (see 1Corinthians 3:1,2)

Let's look at two probably unfamiliar words here which describe if you're being taught like a child or being treated like an adult. Expository preaching is based on a *pedagogical* approach to instruction in which the listener is considered a child who needs a step by step explanation of biblical text. By contrast, an *andrological* teaching approach uses the discipling practice Jesus used to develop mature followers for whom He is Lord of their lives. This method treats adults as adults who've already had numerous life experiences. Therefore biblical instruction focuses on applying God's

commands and helping the learner to mature in loving service to our Lord as His beloved slave/servant. You'll know you're being treated as an adult when these aspects are taking place in your instruction:

- Questions for clarification and application are encouraged.
- Discussion along with role modeling by the instructor help to further your putting God's commands into practice. Think again about Jesus's instructional style, a must in developing mature Christians who live responsively with Him as their Lord in fulfilling their Father's will. Our Lord's way combined instruction, questions and discussions, accompanied by personal role modeling. Studies reveal how crucial this approach is, because you'll retain 70% of what you see, hear and discuss, and 90% of what you see, hear, discuss and practice. But consider this alarming fact: you'll retain only 10-20% of whatever you just hear — and you being a *silent listener* is the essence of expository preaching.

It's in light of our Lord's method of instruction — *leading to a way of life that pleases His Father* — that He identifies the following individuals:

“My mother and brothers are those who hear God's word and put it into practice” (Luke 8:21).

“Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine and puts them into practice is like a wise man who built his house on the rock” (Matthew 7:24).

“The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you” (Philippians 4:9).

We've emphasized in numerous materials that the Hebraic method of biblical instruction always leads to application. A specific application from God's Word undergirds a particular Christ-like character quality and action which reveals to others our Lord's point of view in you. When you establish a certain life application from God's Word, you're saying, *“This is who I am in obeying God's commands, and I do it out of my love for Him.”* We've said many times that the majority of the 1060 commands in the Newer Testament concerning your attitudes or actions are given in the plural for followers of Jesus to apply together in their family or faith family.

You can't miss Paul's intent in 1 Corinthians 12:11-20 that we are indwelt by the Holy Spirit must operate like a body — intimately belonging to each other as each does his or her part to serve the other parts. Instruction, discussion, questions, and role modeling are a must if a group is to cooperate *“one in Spirit”* (Philippians 2:1,2).

When you view God's commands as something that must be *mutually* applied, you rely on making sure that questions and discussion are encouraged. In regard to instruction, you're not focused on imparting information. Rather, the emphasis is much more on what someone is *going to do* with what you share, and helping them apply it to their life — even showing them how to. This is the pattern of Jesus as He trained His disciples: He taught, discussed, entertained questions, and role modeled — and then sent them out to do the same.

If you're an adult, don't let yourself be treated like an inexperienced child by a pulpiteer. There's a regrettable consequence if you're dealt with like this: you will *excuse yourself* from any responsibility to the Lordship of Jesus in your life, and continue to be a *spiritual infant*

who constantly needs to be spiritually suckled. Clergy who have depended on expository preaching and are obsessed with systematic theology have perpetuated widespread presumption and false expectation throughout Christendom that spiritual dormancy is okay. This can be eternally disastrous! Some have labeled expository preaching as "out-of-touch, having no application to human experience." We agree!

Bible text alone versus relational application.

You're probably unaware of a battle that took place several decades ago between two camps of religious curriculum publishers. One camp, supported by expository teachers, designed materials that focused on Bible content alone, believing that this would result in mature Christians. Sadly, generations right up to the present day have proven that concept to be erroneous. Sinful lifestyles among Christians who are well aware of Bible content are as common as among the unbelieving population at large.

In the other camp were those who, like Jesus and the Newer Testament writers, recognized that close, meaningful relationships among learners helped ensure that instruction of God's Word was more likely to be put into practice. You see this pattern in God's Word, which is the sole truth for man to live by and which overflows with relational awareness and connectedness.

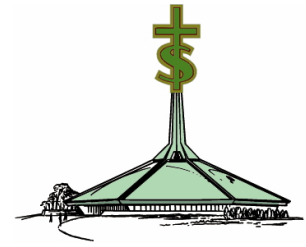
In the curriculum battle over *text alone* versus *relational application*, profit-bent Christian publishers sided with the expository apologists. You can read about our first confrontation with the expository method in Mike's account of what happened to him while attending an interdenominational seminary (1978-82). It's in Chapter 4, "*Hellenism Invaded Christianity And Conquered It*" in **Restoring The Early Church** <<https://restorationministries.org/download/3.restoring-the-early-church.pdf>>.

(2). Hellenist philosophy dominates much Christian teaching today. This human-focused way of thought puts **man rather than God at the center of all things**. While many Christians may acknowledge the existence of one true God, their outworking of that concept finds that their god is *who they want him to be* — a deity who serves their interests and meets their desires. The widespread rotten fruit of Hellenism is that there's *no fear of God* nor is there a call *to repent for sin*, either individually or collectively. False religious teachings abound in which humans, not God, are the central focus of life. Many of these errant teachings spawned by Hellenism discredit the God of the Bible as well as the truth of His commands. An example is the deceiving **Health and Wealth Gospel** which we have warned against before.

The Humanist worldview which places man rather than God at the center didn't originate in the Bible. It was developed by Hellenist-influenced "free thinkers" of the 19th century. For these "thinkers", pursuit of happiness is mankind's ultimate quest. No validity is given to sacrificial service to our Lord. Ralph Waldo Emerson, a major proponent of this deceit, has influenced Christianity through the guise that "**worldly prosperity is how Father shows His love for people.**" This lie is carried out by self-serving religious leaders who frequently dupe the poorest and neediest in the United

States. These listeners are told that if they plant a seed of faith with their money, it will grow into a big ministry to save the world. They're also promised that God will reward them by giving them the harvest of funds they sow.

Religious leaders who expound this lie are numerous, including Oral Roberts, Robert Tilton, Jim and Tammy Faye Bakker, Joel Osteen, Creflo Dollar, Kenneth Copeland, Reverend Ike, and Kenneth Hagin. You might have heard some of their deceptive slogans: •**“If you give your money to God, God will bless you with more money.”** •**“Invest in me, and God will invest in you.”** •**“God wants people to be prosperous.”** •**“If you suffer, it’s because you don’t have enough faith.”**



Please, be very careful that in your own “pursuit of happiness” you become obsessed with the pursuit of material wealth. Remember the words of our Lord Jesus about the pursuit of money and how hard it is for the rich to enter heaven. Please trust HIS words and not these greedy liars. (See Matthew 6:19-21; Luke 16:13,14,19-31; Luke 18:25; 1Timothy 6:10; Hebrews 13:5.)

Finally, it’s vital that we who follow Jesus not give way to presumption or false expectation. We wrote in a recent Observation that our heavenly Father is pulling the carpet out from people who’ve had a false confidence in everything occurring just as they had planned. If you’re one of those who’ve already had the carpet pulled out, please don’t look back at what you may be deceived into believing you had a right to. It’s time to press forward to the only confidence our Father is going to allow His children to have — the absolute confidence in our Lord Jesus as we serve as His beloved slaves/servants. Repentance with loving obedient trust will *get us there* by His grace, and repentance with loving obedient trust will *keep us there* by His grace.

Mike & Sue

P.S. A few weeks ago the Holy Spirit showed Mike another shirt to print. Below are Mike and our dear friend Ron (of Ron and Nicki) wearing their T-shirts on the same day. The backside of the T-shirt has Jesus with the words, “A relationship with Jesus is based on love, forgiveness and compassion!”

We used an Avery 8938 T-shirt transfer. (A pdf of the transfers is attached.) With so many people despising others, we hope that you too would be willing to remind people of the character qualities of Jesus that really matter – *love, forgiveness* and *compassion*.

