

The Gospel of Self

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake from multiple sources)

Introduction:

A. Matt. 16:13-23

1. Peter's great confession is made by Peter the great stumbling block
2. Peter's character is revealed on these two occasions
 - a. The part of him that acknowledged the Gospel
 - b. The part of him that thought his opinion was part of the Gospel

B. Our current society is obsessed with the self

1. The unofficial philosophy of our day, postmodernism and its inherent relativism, establishes the self as the ultimate standard for truth for the individual
2. Our economic system, capitalism, depends on the enrichment of the self regardless of the cost to others
3. Our government establishes the individual as the basic unit of election

("The Daily Oklahoman" on December 9, 1951 under the byline Elmer T.

Peterson) "Two centuries ago, a somewhat obscure Scotsman named Alexander Fraser Tytler (1747-1813) made this profound observation: "A democracy cannot exist as a permanent form of government. It can only exist until the majority discovers it can vote itself largess out of the public treasury. After that, the majority always votes for the candidate promising the most benefits with the result the democracy collapses because of the loose fiscal policy ensuing, always to be followed by a dictatorship, then a monarchy."

4. Everyone around us lives according to "me, me, me!"
5. Is this the way of Christ?

I. WHAT IS THE GOSPEL OF THE SELF?

A. Definitions

1. The Gospel of me is when we make ourselves the standard of judgment
2. The Gospel of self is when we decide on our own what is right or wrong
3. The Gospel of self is when we interpret the Scriptures to fit our own preconceptions, and not allow the Scriptures to change our thinking
4. The Gospel of me is when we allow our upbringing, society, culture, and education to establish what we believe about the Word of God
5. The Gospel of self is when we think that this sermon and all others apply to someone else

II. THE SCRIPTURES AND THE SELF

A. Prov. 3:5-8; James 4:10, 13-16

B. The dangers of the Gospel of self

1. The darkened mind - Rom. 1:18-23
2. Choosing to live in sin - Rom. 6:15-21
3. Sin begins with the self - James 1:13-16

C. Examples

1. Israel in the period of the Judges - Judges 2:10-12, 20-22, 21:25

2. Jeroboam, son of Nebat - 1Kings 12:26-30; 2Kings 17:21-23
3. Ananias and Sapphira - Acts 5:1-4, 9
4. Simon - Acts 8:13, 18-23

III. APPLICATION

- A. When people begin to think in terms of themselves and not in terms of God, they then follow self and not Him
- B. John 5:19, 30 - Jesus Christ, the Son of God and God the Son, did nothing of His own accord on Earth, but only the will of His Father in Heaven
 1. Even in the Garden of Gethsemane - Mark 14:35-36
 2. 1Cor. 11:1 - We are to imitate Christ
 3. As He never permitted Himself to be distracted from the will of His Father, so we must not allow ourselves to cause us to stumble from His path