Apostasy in Church
Absurdity of Prosperity Message

Since the loss of his inheritance in heaven, the enemy has determined to find revenge by causing the church to share in his disgraceful fall. Very much aware that in our own strength it is impossible for us to deny the clamour of our fallen nature, the enemy has perpetually taken advantage of hereditary weakness and hence fully engaged his false insinuations to ensnare all whose trust in God is not. He has devised new schemes and channels with which to assault especially the church. At the nativity of our Lord Jesus in a cuddled Bethlehem manger, the enemy already knew that One had now come with a divine commission to dispute his dominion over mankind, and to finally set the church free. This caused the adversary to tremble much, at the angel’s message attesting the authority of the new born King. Much as it was difficult to fathom the mystery of this great sacrifice of love, the glory and the peace and majesty and the joy of heavenly communion, were mightily manifest abound. That the Son of God should come to this earth as a man, certainly filled the adversary with fearful amazement and with an extreme sense of apprehension, to mention the least. To the enemy, the declaration made in the garden of Eden pronouncing that,

"I will put enmity between thee and the woman and between thy seed and her seed" (Gen 3:15)

had now indubitably translated into the fact that he would not hold any persuasion over the church, any longer.

“And Jesus being full of the Holy Ghost returned from the Jordan and immediately the Spirit driveth him into the wilderness. And he was there in the wilderness, forty days, tempted by satan, and was with the wild beasts.”
"And in those he did eat nothing" (Matthew 4)

In this way, the Lord Jesus clearly verified the authority of his commissioning and that never again would the adversary ever have a leeway for corrupting the church. With these words, Christ highlighted to the church that the great appetite and the excessive over-indulgence in the things of this world, were the grounds for the greatest temptation. And fasting would be the hallmark for a separated life. This is just where the ruin began when the church by the indulgence of appetite disobeyed and finally fell. And yet, it was obvious that when the Lord Jesus charted for the church the path to the Holy Ghost by fasting, He stood in the strength of perfect manhood and possessing the full vigour of body, mind and Spirit, having been surrounded in a daily communion with heavenly beings. Armed with this level of Holy Ghost power, the Lord Jesus was then able to enter the wilderness and cope with the adversary. If the church too had stuck upon this humble pathway of wilderness righteousness, the apostasy of this day would never have ravaged it this much. It had all along been obvious that the seductive excesses of this dark world would be laid by the adversary, right before the church, in order to ensnare her into sharing in the grand fall with the enemy. “If Thou be the Son of God, command these stones that it be made bread”. Not without a massive travail, could Jesus give audience to the enemy. But then “It is written . . .” became the eternal antidote that literally broke the backbone of deception. The question then becomes, “how could the church have bought into the seductive ensnares of over-indulgence?”
Prosperity . . .

The church of Christ in this era has mainly been instituted on the sermons of a prosperity gospel, that has caused her apostate condition. Today’s christians have unfortunately not well appreciated that the current apostasy in the church, undeniably amounts to a house that has literally renounced her loyalty unto the LORD. JEHOVAH the God of covenant firmly honours His pledges to the extent that mankind can literally live off every word that proceeds out of His mouth. In the clamour to sustain her earthly livelihood, the church of Christ committed the greatest blunder ever, by forgetting that the most important foundation upon which her provision was well promised, is righteousness. Then there came the deception, as if in an answer to her prayer, one in the guise of the prosperity gospel from heaven, which she readily accepted without any careful afterthought. Pointing to this reason, over the greater part of her life, the church has virtually engaged in the sermons of a false form of christianity that fronts the spiritually reckless living in compromise with sin. Strewed in the church’s impaired vision of prosperity are all the excesses of earthly wealth and pleasures to the extent that holiness has been sidelined. This has essentially rendered the church spiritually too faint and feeble to even enter the bloodstained path that Jesus charted out for her, on the Cross at Calvary. Though the church well recognized the bloodstained highway of holiness from the beginning, contrarily her act is as though she were not provoked into a bitter controversy with the broader highways of this sinful world. Following His passionate suffering on the Cross, the LORD Jesus unmistakably aggravated the church into an eternal controversy with this evil dark world. It is His undaunted stature on the Cross and the suffering of such a condition of things to exist, that raised to the church a red flag on the parleying with sin, that she may not give the enemy an advantage over her life. By conceding to the disguised demands of this sinful world, nothing good has come out of the church’s worship, neither has God been glorified by her praise. In the absence of holiness, the evidence of christian walk is today worthless to break the stronghold of rebellion in the church and summon God’s might, because human capacity, strength and power have indeed predictably weakened in the face of such a humongous mountain of earthly darkness to surmount. Unfortunately for today’s apostate pastors, while this scenario perfectly rolls out, faith, which is the pillar of christian walk in the church now reposes in God. This kind of weakening of faith is what has opened a huge door to deception and rampart falsehood into today’s house of the LORD. Only a righteousness obedient walk in the highway of holiness can unravel for the church the true defining intent of holiness when the LORD said,

"Above all things, I desire that you prosper” (Isaiah 35:8-9)

In God’s version of prosperity, all opulence was originally intended to draw the hearts of the believers closer and closer to Christ Jesus the Redeemer. And yet all this misconception on prosperity today happens when, on man’s behalf, Christ conquered such temptation by enduring the severest of adversity. JEHOVAH had earlier on marked the bottom-line of his prosperity for man, by firmly asserting that all prosperity must direct the church into a righteous and holier standing with the Creator. By this means, JEHOVAH opened an unlimited floodgate of earthly and heavenly prosperity to the church that hearkens onto His holy command; to be the light of the world. Many spiritually conscientious believers look on the conflict between JEHOVAH and Israel as having a special bearing on the own life of today’s church. Rightfully so, within the demarcations of every christian heart, this JEHOVAH-Israel controversy is often repeated many millions of times a day as mankind battles the sharp arrows of sin that continually strike him. Nonetheless, the LORD’s stand on prosperity remains the same;
The Lord will grant you abundant prosperity—in the fruit of your womb, the young of your livestock and the crops of your ground—in the land he swore to your forefathers to give you. The Lord will open the heavens, the storehouse of his bounty, to send rain on your land in season and to bless all the work of your hands. You will lend to many nations but will borrow from none. The Lord will make you the head, not the tail. If you pay attention to the commands of the Lord your God that I give you this day and carefully follow them, you will always be at the top, never at the bottom. Do not turn aside from any of the commands I give you today, to the right or to the left, following other gods and serving them (Deut 28:11-20).

However, it is the faulting of the word of God in this dispensation, that has largely magnified apostasy today and the blatant practice of open lawlessness and shameless heedlessness in the church of Christ. As pronounced in the word, in his open expression of his intention to prosper mankind here on the earth, nevertheless was it God’s object that such prosperity focus the heart of the church entirely into the perishable decay realm. By design though, God’s ultimate blueprint for man’s creation very much implied that every blessing of prosperity would be able to cause him to be caught up with the Messiah in the glorious gathering at rapture. However, it is now more and more evident and to a greater extent that the conception of this novel plan of God still remains for the most part, misconstrued to the present church. For this reason, the grievous spiritual misinterpretation that today presents the false gospel of prosperity, has by and large wiped-out the church’s authority and honour, to a state of near-irrelevance. With most of today’s believers in this degenerate condition, worship observance has now been seriously reduced to a mere formalism. As one keenly observes the church’s worship services today, it is difficult to miss out on the men-of-the-cloth performing their solemn ministry while the house is thronged by suffering victims upon the altar of sacrifice. So great is the suffering in the present-day church that the ailing virtually remain in affliction with neither deliverance nor healing visiting the altar. While showing how narrowly superficial the wisdom of men is, today’s absence of the Divine presence of the Holy Spirit raises every question before the church, and places the truth of God in an entirely new aspect. Today’s seductive sermons on prosperity and financial wealth transfer, have undoubtedly failed to present themselves watertight to the truth, and instead manifested a serious waterloo at such a critical hour. Caught up in the contemplation of these spiritual settings, today’s holy devout elect of God who have vowed to remain beside the Lord, and resolvedly opted to seek to be separated, will undeniably constitute the rapture church. The amazing manner in which post-modernism in the church has in this day and age beheld itself true to type, thereby faithfully replicating its object worldly values, is what has now re-awakened new impulses on a greater problem at hand. The anonymity and impurity that scorns today’s post-modern lifestyles is what has now permitted pastors to openly confess to living for self, as the christians convert to a more casual relationship with the Almighty. Contrary to their expectation, it is the theological human wisdom being lectured by pastoral graduands of modern-day bible colleges that has most systematically overtaken the guise and caused the Spirit-filled christians to see their meaning more clearly. The Lord Jesus Himself became obedient in every particular to the word of God taught in the Synagogue, but He wisely did not conform to their rabbinical rites and usage, instead choosing to learn the reverence of God Almighty. Likewise should any serious pastoral student have listened to the theological lectures, and instead aptly leaned on the greatest promise God ever released to the church, the promise of the Holy Spirit as the ultimate Teacher. This is the kind of resolve that can break the vicious cycle of corrupt shepherds and shepherdling. Modern christianity in its finest manoeuvring, through its adulterated gospel of ‘sow-a-seed to get your miracle’, has been proven seriously deficient of the prerequisite benchmark of holiness, to the degree that church has today largely become business enterprises whose sole purpose is to gather wealth.
This pitiless fleeing of the Lord’s sheep is what now brings in common scenes of preachers acting comical even on matters that seriously hinge on the Cross and the Blood of Jesus. It is incredible though that the peddlers of money-laundering in today’s church cannot see that their expectations in regard to prosperity are not sustainable by biblical prophecy that define this hour. Neither can the preachers of prosperity admit that they have misapprehended the scripture that they so-claim to teach and uphold. And by the ‘defunct vehicle’ of spiritual fatherhood, from one to another, they have passed on the iniquity. It is as though the scripture in John 1:5 has been painfully fulfilled right before our own eyes when it said,

““The light was shining in darkness; but the darkness apprehended it not” (John 1:5).

God has persistently been seeking to give light to man as he gropes in darkness, causing Jehovah to deliberately use the only means by which he can reach out to mankind. Repentance as authored by the Blood of Jesus will forever continue to remain the only means by which the Lord can help facilitate man’s cross-over from pitch darkness of sin into the brilliant light of the truth. However, for today’s shepherds though, the scenario is much more sophisticated than earlier thought, owing to their ‘learned’ nature. In their pride, the pastors of these last days have seriously and most sombrely scorned to admit that they should receive instructions from any messenger sent by the Lord to advocate repentance. In their deplorable departure from the truth, today’s apostate pastors, evangelists, false apostles and false prophets have lost sight of the Coming of the Messiah, and they know not that He has just tarried behind for the purposes of repentance. In such manner, today’s apostasy has literally caused all the prosperity-preaching shepherds to act as a form of anti-climax, in which they have halted the rest from revival, yet also missing the helpful hand that the Lord has extended at this hour.

“See, I will send you the prophet Elijah before that great and dreadful day of the Lord comes. He will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers; or else I will come and strike the land with a curse.” (Malachi 4:5-6)

The time of this promised endtime revival is nigh and here. Markedly, an indismissible Holy Ghost revival is today beginning to restore righteousness and holiness across the ends of the earth. It is the youthful modesty and grace of this, endtime Holy Ghost revival that will eventually disarm the prejudices of the prosperity priesthood in its totality in order to unconsciously open their minds to the word of God, that the Holy Spirit may speak to their hearts. But while that blessed revival is yet to totally consume the earth, today’s spiritual decay indeed marks a significant departure from the expected norm. This is owing to the fact that any church which especially walks the highway of holiness, should have trusted the Lord’s counsel explicitly on matters of repentance. Furthermore, even in the greatest milieu of money-preaching and prosperity advocacy, the fears on the unexpected return of the Messiah are beginning to be aroused. The church in her best spiritual performance and sensibility knows it too well that never was an earthly confined living, the original intention for which Jesus was sent to the Cross to pay such a horrific heart-wrenching price of redemption. Because of its obvious inborn spiritual shortfalls, the prosperity gospel has completely failed to rebuke the sin that has today intruded the church, and instead opted to accommodate worldliness and spiritual decay within the christian fraternity. Rejoiced as they may seem today, this kind of apostate church cannot however afford the luxury of forgetting the grief and anxiety that their unreadiness will cause upon the return of the Messiah.

““I am the vine; you are the branches. If a man remains in me and I in him, he will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing. If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned. If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask whatever you wish, and it will be given you. This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much fruit, showing
Blessed are they that the Messiah will return only to find them fruitfully hearkened unto the true vine of the glorious vineyard, while woe unto they that will be found in an unfruitful place of prosperity gospel and the sermons of financial wealth transfer. When the church ceases to uphold her stature as the light of the world, then divinity ceases to flash through humanity because gross darkness befalls. Spiritual decomposition of this nature is today responsible for the rampant ungodliness and systems of heathenism that have invaded the church. In a snapshot, it would appear as though for an entire lifespan, the church and her apostate priesthood has lost sight of Him whom they should not have ever forgotten, even for a moment. It is the reason for the heavy manifestation of excessive perversion, love of money, sexual immorality, homosexuality, lesbianism, gayism, even among the pastors. Now, if the Lord is the True Vine upon whom the branches depend for a daily livelihood, how then can anyone forget about Him, even for a moment. The ilk of lawlessness in the house of the Lord has primarily been sustained by the fact that on every opportune occasion for re-awakening, the anxiety of the christian has mainly been relieved, by casting blame on the devil’s act, and yet not by censuring themselves for compromise. Where then is the authority and power of the Blood of Jesus that was shed at Calvary! This kind of reproof by the Holy Spirit is principally designed to enlighten the church on what has negatively impacted her central calling to evangelize the righteous nature of the Redeemer. A derisory fall of this cadre has a lot to do with her being brushed in bad light, to the extent that in most occasions, today’s christian now bears a repulsive, other than attractive image which the heathen would neither long to bear, nor desire to associate with. This does not do any good to disseminating the gospel since it essentially disclaims kinship with God.

The robust rubric of such a disgraceful fall, is what has essentially sustained the momentum of the current most appalling state of perennial spiritual infancy in the church. Unfortunately, this spiritual immaturity is what has now become the hallmark of christian walk today. Needless to say, the falling away from true faith has today well entrenched in the church, even to the extent that believers are now reduced to a despondent batch that could cares less about the word and its inherent power. It is regrettable that this contemptible plummet has gone on globally and virtually undetected for a very long time, and even more so this late in the day. The failure to intuit this seemingly obvious but very sneaky fall in the church, is what has majorly contributed to the loss of sensibility to sin among christians. It is a numbness that has raised the church’s threshold to sin, hence lulling her to eternal damnation, in a form of spiritual gangrene. Sadly, it is so disheartening to realise that the real definition of gangrene is as a matter of fact the local death and decay of the body as a result of lack of blood in that area. It can be said of the church today, that she surely lacks the Blood of Jesus in the body. If she doesn’t repent urgently, this gangrene could as well kill her.

The raising of the threshold to sin and evil simply means that christians gradually become accustomed to not only observing sin in the church, but also accommodating it in their personal lives. This is the careless living of compromise with the world, that has apparently not factored in the fear of the Lord and his holy reputation. Spiritual numbness of this sort is what has exactly besmirched worship to the extent that today christians no longer view their lifestyles as the true worship that Jesus taught on the Cross. If there was any take-home lesson that Jesus emblematically left on the Cross, it was the crucifixion of the flesh. In that most exuberant greatest disposition of love towards the church, as the Lord gave His life on the Cross, He also unveiled to her the biggest secret to a successful christian lifestyle. And that secret literally lay in the complete obliteration of the sinful desires of the flesh in order to be born-again. This is one particular aspect of christian salvation that the larger majority of the present-day christians have least understood. Contrary to the sad association of material possession with success, a true successful
christian lifestyle involves the shunning of sin and walking in absolute holiness for entry into the kingdom of God. The failure by the Pastors to augment their teachings with this novel cradle of the gospel (the Cross), is what has now turned church services into a great dishonour of our time, hence reducing it into mere pascal rituals of human traditions, other than a true worship in the spirit and in the truth. It is surprising though, that a form of faithlessness has gradually encroached into the holy pulpit, with the shepherds veritably lacking the conviction to believe for divine provision from the LORD. This lack of assurance that is currently proliferating among Pastors to the effect that God may not be able to miraculously provide for them in this day and age, is what has unfortunately hatched out a stinging wave of virulent false teachers of the word. This clique has today mutated into a bunch of Pastors who can outrightly lie publicly, in order to loot offerings and the so-called ‘seed’ money from the faithful. They are the false prophets of the day. The priesthood today can openly deceive and feast on the sins of the saints in order to earn their so-called decent living.

They feed on the sins of my people and relish their wickedness (Hosea 4:8).

Promised in the beginning as one of the key landmarks of the last days, it is nevertheless most painful to live to see this apostasy play itself to full course in our time. This level of officious worldliness, with its sullyng post-modernism, right at the centre of the church, is what has finally provoked God Almighty to releasing the horrific pangs of the Rider of the black apocalyptic horse. Though, a necessary step within the prophetic timeline to rapture, this third horseman is intended to shake mankind from his more earthly inclination, back to a heavenly proclivity. The Lord intended that the subsequent global economic crisis unleashed by this horseman is what is meant to reprove this apostate church back to the echelon of her holiness. By collapsing and melting down all the structures of prosperity that had beclouded the christian vision, the Lord Almighty purposed that the release of the black horse purge the hearts of the saints off materialism back to spiritual purity. Such structures of prosperity that had lodged themselves inside the hearts of the christians, include aspects like accumulation of financial stock reserves, idolizing of homes and cars, priding in what they do and have. Surely these structures had robbed God off the attention of man. Even among the Israelites, Jehovah has been super passionate about covenant keeping, reverence, worship diligence and a non-contaminated relationship. God the Father is equally very jealous of the church and deserves the total attention of the believers. This is the rationale for which Jehovah can deliberately crumble down every distraction that may sway mankind away from his complete attention. This, the Lord has previously done with that likewise obstinate generation at the monumental Tower of Babel pride. The dominant endeavours by this third horseman in shaking-up the global economy, is irrefutably a divine effort that is aimed at awakening the church of Christ on the necessity to repent from her corrupt deeds and prepare the righteous way for rapture (Isaiah 40:1-5). Righteousness is the fine linen with which today’s christians ought to clothe their hearts with, in order to enter into this most awaited wedding feast of the Lamb (Rev 19:6-9; Heb 12:14; 2 Cor 5:1-5). By virtue of the global famine that this apocalyptic horseman discharges, an astonishingly parallel corresponding ravaging spiritual hunger has pervaded the church of Christ worldover. This has especially built-up into a humongous spiritual scarcity for the essential gifts of the Holy Spirit in the body of Christ. And that is the reason today’s christians can be heard faking tongues, and false prophets heard counterfeiting the holy voice of God, while regular preachers can be seen faking miracles, etc. There surely is a huge clamour for the Holy Spirit to visit the house at this hour of great need. The visitation of the Holy Spirit is the only intervention that would finally release the much-needed wisdom of God into the current apostate church. All God-loving christians will today agree that if the global economic crunch is what it takes to return the church back to God, then it is a good thing, and so be it. The advantage of the current economic
shake-up can only accrue onto the lives of the christians, in as far as it reprioritizes the quest for eternity in their hearts. Considering the increased pomp of *worldliness* that highlights christian lifestyle today, there is surely no greater awakening that best describes the actions of the man of the **BLACK HORSE**, than this scripture;

15Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16For everything in the world—the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does—comes not from the Father but from the world. 17The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever (1 John 2:15-17).