

Dear Friend,

One of my favorite books in the New Testament is 1<sup>st</sup> John. Several years ago, the Lord had me teach a twenty-one-part series on that short book. The title of the series is **1<sup>st</sup> John – Removing The Gray From Your Gospel**. The series is available at our website, [www.garycarpenter.org](http://www.garycarpenter.org) in Mp3, Video, and PDF format. It is free, as is all of our materials. Oh yes ... it is now available on Rumble.com also at this link:

<https://rumble.com/playlists/RhoTfzfOLIY>

About fifty years after Jesus had ascended into heaven, John was faithfully continuing to obey the instruction of Jesus to teach all nations the same things that He had taught them during His time in bodily form on earth.

**Matthew 28:19-20** Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: **(20) Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, *even* unto the end of the world. Amen.**

I was given the assignment to go through the book of 1<sup>st</sup> John, verse by verse, and find where Jesus had taught that same thing Himself. I did ... and the 1<sup>st</sup> John Series was born. I hope you will take the time to partake of the truth in it. Your life will be changed for the better. John gives a sobering command in the very last verse of that book. It is as relevant today as it was then.

**1 John 5:21** Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen.

An idol is anything that is worshipped that is not the true and living God. Notice the warning is to Christians, not unbelievers. The whole letter of 1st John is addressed to the church, not the world. Why would John need to warn the church not to worship idols? Because, as he said in his letter, there were already many “antichrist” ministers who were teaching and preaching false doctrine ... in the churches! It was happening when John wrote the letter, and it is happening even more today in the modern church.

The biggest idol in the church today is the “fake Jesus” that is being taught from many pulpits, in church and online, around the world. They teach people about a “Jesus” that does not even exist. It is a “fake Jesus” who is not the image of God. We are not to worship any image of God except the One that God provided ... His own Son ... the Jesus we see in the four gospels. There is no other Jesus. Jesus is the express image of God:

**Hebrews 1:1-3** God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, **(2) Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds;** **(3) Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;**

There is no other gospel than the One Jesus taught. Paul warned that there were already false prophets and false teachers coming in to the churches in the first century. They were teaching “another gospel.” Paul was so alarmed that He pronounced a curse upon such teachers.

**Galatians 1:7-9** Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and **would pervert the gospel of Christ.** **(8) But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed.** **(9) As we said before, so say I now again, If any man preach any other gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed.**

Any church that preaches that you can continue to live a lifestyle of sin ... such as adultery, fornication, living as a thief, a drunkard, and so forth ... and that you will still make it to heaven is an “antichrist.” They don’t say

Jesus is not Lord, but they teach opposite to what Jesus taught. Not only will those false teachers/prophets wind up in hell, but so will all those who listened and chose to live sinful lifestyles themselves. That is what accursed means! Eternally separated from God.

There are ministers with huge congregations who teach that the words of Jesus in the four gospels before His resurrection, do not apply to born again people. As an example, they scoff at the idea that the Sermon On The Mount applies to Christians. That is heresy and all who teach it, and all who believe it, will wind up being accursed. That doctrine is not what Jesus taught and they are calling God Himself a liar because they are not holding to the truth brought to us by God's Son ... Jesus Christ.

**1 John 5:10 He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son.**

Any church that denies the teachings of Jesus and says living in habitual sin is okay, has not only erected an idol of a "fake Jesus" for the people to worship, but have also established Baal worship in their church. It is no different than in the Old Testament when they brought statues of Baal and Ashtoreth into the temple of God to be worshiped. Can you imagine them worshipping those idols right in front of the veil of the Holy of Holies? They did it then, and the church is no less doing it today.

But they don't bring in stone idols today. They bring in doctrines that produce "another gospel" that is spawned by devils.

**1 Timothy 4:1 Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;**

Several years ago my good friend, pastor Bronc Flint, had a vision where the people were worshipping Jesus. In the vision Jesus was actually present on the platform of the church where all could see Him. After a few moments, this Jesus looked right at Bronc and winked at him. At that moment, Bronc knew this was a fake Jesus that was not the true Savior at all. The people were worshipping a "fake Jesus" and did not even know they were doing so.

How prophetic that vision was. Many in churches today are doing the same thing and they don't even know it. Please read the four gospels in your Bible again, and again, and again until the Holy Spirit erects the image of the true Jesus Christ within you. There is only one Savior, and He is the One we see in the four gospels. That image needs to be "formed" in you.

**Galatians 4:19 My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you.**

Little children, keep yourselves from idols.

Your fellow servant for Christ,

*GARY*