

**Counterfeit Sermon Series
Part #7 – Prosperity Gospel**

1 Timothy 6:3-10

Matthew 24:4 – Watch out that no one deceives you...

Series Summary

Are there many ways to heaven? Do all religions lead to the same place? This sermon series will begin on Easter Sunday and it will examine the different counterfeit religions that claim to give you power to overcome death and live for eternity. We will begin this series by examining the one authentic way as we strive to follow the one authentic Savior.

**Big Idea – Do not be Deceived, God is not a Vending Machine...
Man Will Reap What He Sows**

Main Passage

1 Timothy 6:3-10 – ³If anyone teaches false doctrines and does not agree to the sound instruction of our Lord Jesus Christ and to godly teaching, ⁴he is conceited and understands nothing. He has an unhealthy interest in controversies and quarrels about words that result in envy, strife, malicious talk, evil suspicions ⁵and constant friction between men of corrupt mind, who have been robbed of the truth and who think that godliness is a means to financial gain. ⁶But godliness with contentment is great gain. ⁷For we brought nothing into the world, and we can take nothing out of it. ⁸But if we have food and clothing, we will be content with that. ⁹People who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap and into many foolish and harmful desires that plunge men into ruin and destruction. ¹⁰For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil. Some people, eager for money, have wandered from the faith and pierced themselves with many griefs.

Three False Teachings found in the Prosperity Gospel

False Teaching #1 – You are a Little God

- **Isaiah 43:10** – "You are my witnesses," declares the LORD, "and my servant whom I have chosen, so that you may know and believe me and understand that I am he. Before me no god was formed, nor will there be one after me.
- **Isaiah 44:6** – "This is what the LORD says - Israel's King and Redeemer, the LORD Almighty: I am the first and I am the last; apart from me there is no God.
- **Kenneth Hagin** – "man...was created on terms of equality with God, and he could stand in God's presence without any consciousness of inferiority.... He made us the same class of being that He is Himself.... He lived on terms equal with God.... The believer is called Christ, that's who we are; we're Christ" (*Zoe: The God Kind of Life*, pp. 35-36, 41).
- **Kenneth Copeland** – Every Christian is a god. ... "You don't have a God in you; you are one," (*The Force of Love*. Kenneth Copeland Ministries, 1987. Fort Worth, TX. audiotope #02-0028, side 1.)
- **Kenneth Copeland** – "When I read in the Bible where He says I AM, I just smile and say, 'Yes, I AM too.'" (*Believer's Voice of Victory* Broadcast, 7/9/1987.)

False Teaching #1 – You are a Little God

False Teaching #2 – As a Christian, You Command God

- **Philippians 2:5-7** – ⁵Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: ⁶Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, ⁷but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.

- **Kenneth Copeland** – "When we use the spiritual laws that God has set up, God must obey what we request." (*Praise the Lord*, TBN, 2/5/86)
- **Kenneth Copeland** – "As a believer, you have a right to make commands in the name of Jesus. Each time you stand on the Word, you are commanding God to a certain extent because it is His Word." (*Our Covenant with God* [Fort Worth, TX: KCP Publications, 1987], 32.)

False Teaching #2 – As a Christian, You Command God

False Teaching #3 – See it, Claim it, Speak it and it is Yours

- **2 Corinthians 5:7** – We live by faith, not by sight.
- **Creflo Dollar** – "Biblical prosperity is the ability to be in control of every circumstance and situation that occurs in your life. No matter what happens, whether financial, social, physical, marital, spiritual, or emotional, this type of prosperity enables you to maintain control in every situation." (Creflo A. Dollar Jr., *Total Life Prosperity* (Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson, 1999))
- **Kenneth Copeland** – "What you are saying is exactly what you are getting now. If you are living in poverty and lack and want, change what you are saying.... The powerful force of the spiritual world that creates the circumstances around us is controlled by the words of the mouth." (*The Laws of Prosperity*, Kenneth Copeland, Ft. Worth: Kenneth Copeland Publications, 1974).
- **Joel Osteen** – "Maybe Alzheimer's disease runs in your family genes, but don't succumb to it. Instead, say every day, 'My mind is alert. I have clarity of thought. I have a good memory. Every cell in my body is increasing and getting healthier.' If you'll rise up in your authority, you can be the one to put a stop to the negative things in your family line.... Start boldly declaring, 'God is restoring health unto me. I am getting better every day in every way.'" (Joel Osteen, *Become a Better You* (New York: Free Press, 2007), 45, 114.)

False Teaching #3 – See it, Claim it, Speak it and it is Yours

Memory Verse

- **Luke 12:15** – Then he said to them, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions."

Application

Counterfeit Challenge – Take the Counterfeit Sermon Series Challenge. Throughout this series, take advantage of the free booklets that are offered and study through them to strengthen your faith and determine the authenticity of Jesus Christ as the one and only Savior of the World!

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