

heresy, but God has a day of reckoning in which He will require the life of these false prophets and their children. Jeremiah 23:1, "Woe to the shepherds who destroy and scatter the sheep of My pasture!" says the LORD. Therefore thus says the LORD God of Israel against the shepherds who feed My people: "You have scattered My flock, driven them away, and not attended to them. Behold, I will attend to you for the evil of your doings," says the LORD.

This is Dr. Matthew McMahon signing off.

of Texas.

KING: And when are you on television?

OSTEEN: We're on different times. We're in the top 25 markets on one of the network stations.

KING: What if you're Jewish or Muslim, you don't accept Christ at all?

OSTEEN: You know, I'm very careful about saying who would and wouldn't go to heaven. I don't know ...

KING: If you believe you have to believe in Christ? They're wrong, aren't they?

OSTEEN: Well, I don't know if I believe they're wrong. I believe here's what the Bible teaches and from the Christian faith this is what I believe. But I just think that only God will judge a person's heart. I spent a lot of time in India with my father. I don't know all about their religion. But I know they love God. And I don't know. I've seen their sincerity. So I don't know. I know for me, and what the Bible teaches, I want to have a relationship with Jesus.

Can we say anything else that would biblically condemn this man other than simply pointing out that false teachers abound, and Osteen is among the most popular?

One of the most popular methods of preaching today by evangelicals is to leave out the law entirely and to present only the Gospel. Antinomians do this. However, Osteen conveniently leaves out both the Law and the Gospel in his preaching. Osteen orates about self-esteem. He is, for all intents and purposes, a New Age guru, propagating anti-Christian philosophies of self-betterment in an arena which reflects little more than a pep rally. For Osteen, God is seen as the Cosmic Bellhop that wants you to live your best life now, and Jesus is the Cheerleader who roots for you on the sidelines as His star quarterback.

However, this kind of teaching is a mockery to God. God will not stand for it. He will allow and does allow false teachers to inflict the world with the agony of error and

self-fulfilling prophecies. If you allow your thoughts to defeat you and then give birth to negative ideas through your words, your actions will follow suit. That's why we need to be extremely careful about what we think and especially careful about what we say...Your words have enormous creative power. The moment you speak something out, you give birth to it" (121-22, 129). He says, "If you are facing sickness today, you should confirm God's Word concerning healing. Say something such as, 'Father, I thank You that You promised me in Psalms that I will live and not die and I will declare the works of the Lord.' As you boldly declare it, you are confirming that truth in your own life" (130). If you can't stomach these, then don't despair, Osteen will feed you more in the other principles he has ready for unsuspecting and gullible people to feed on.

Larry King interviewed Osteen on June 20, 2005. King asked Osteen if he always believed the Gospel. Osteen said, "I have always believed...I just grew up believing." King asked, "But you're not fire and brimstone, right? You're not pound the decks and hell and dam nation?" Osteen said, "No. That's not me. It's never been me. I've always been an encourager at heart. I don't believe in that. I don't believe -- maybe it was for a time. But I don't have it in my heart to condemn people. I'm there to encourage them. I see myself more as a coach, as a motivator to help them experience the life God has for us."

KING: So you didn't go to seminary?

OSTEEN: No, sir, I didn't.

KING: They can just make you a minister?

OSTEEN: You can, you can.

KING: That's kind of an easy way in.

OSTEEN: Yeah, but I think it happens more than you think. But I didn't go to seminary.

KING: So the church in a sense ordained you?

OSTEEN: Right. And then you're ordained through the State

WBNP #11

Good Evening. A Puritan's Mind brings you the old time radio program *The Wild Boar News Podcast* from Sunny South Florida. Welcome, I'm Dr. Matthew McMahon.

Do you know the two most popular admission tickets that Ticketmaster sells? U-2 is #1. And Joel Osteen is #2. According to The Magazine for Church Business Administrators and Para Church Executives: The Church Report - **The 50 Most Influential Christians in America** has voted Joel Osteen in their #2 position.

Following the death of his father, in 1999, he took over as pastor of Lakewood Church in Houston, Texas, despite having completed less than one year of college at Oral Roberts University and never having preached a sermon in his life. Who is more of the fool, the one stepping into a position like that, or those that allowed him to do so? The O'Reilly Factor interviewed Osteen in December 2004 where Osteen stated that while he is an ordained minister, he admitted to having no seminary training. This is not surprise.

Osteen's first book, *Your Best Life Now: Seven Steps to Living at Your Full Potential*, rose to number one on the *New York Times* "Best Sellers" list in December 2004. His book is made up of principles to live by. Principle 1) Enlarge Your Vision. He says, "In other words, God wants to make your life easier. He wants to assist you, to promote you, to give you advantages" (38). God seems to be the great CEO in the sky. Principle 2) is "Developing a Healthy Self-image." Quoting the Message, a heretical twisting of the Scriptures, Osteen says, "The modern-day biblical paraphrase *The Message* related the story about the blind men with an interesting twist: '[Jesus] touched their eyes and said, "Become what you believe."'...Are you believing to go higher in life, to rise above your obstacles, to live in health, abundance, healing, and victory? You will become what you believe" (76). Osteen says, "God doesn't want you to drag through life, barely making it...It is not His preference for you to live in perpetual pain...Become a true believer, knowing that you will become what you believe" (76). Principle 3) "Discover the Power of Your Thoughts and Words." "Our words become