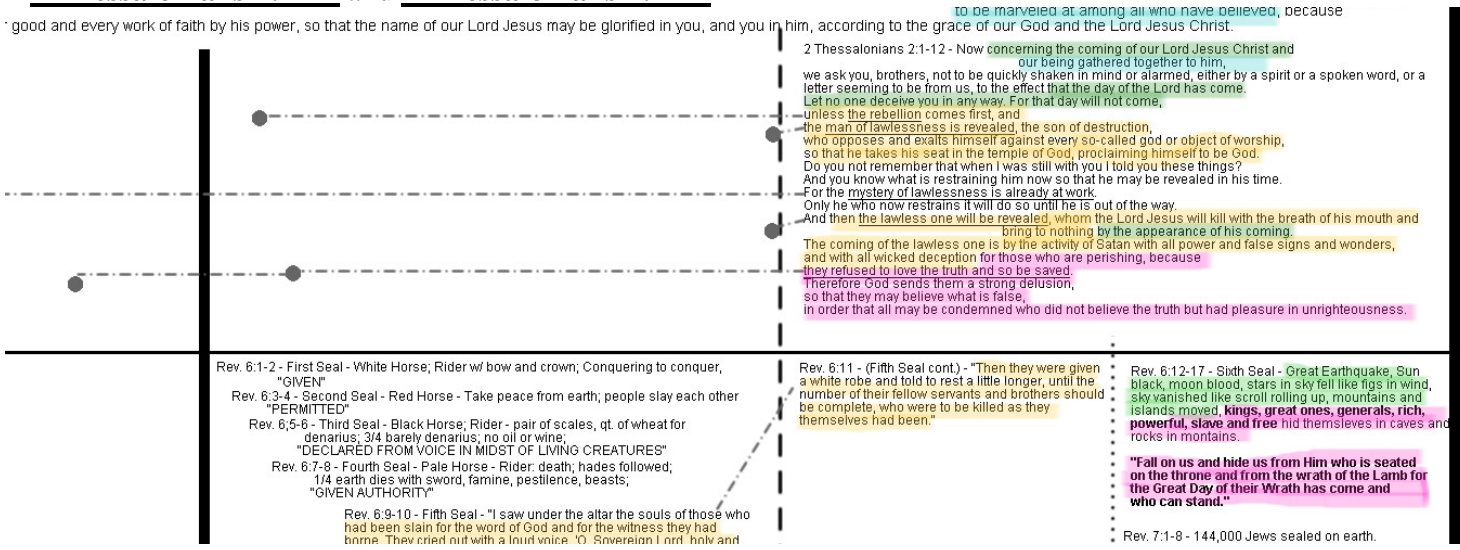


Notes for message 14 of Titanic Faith Series –

“Rapture, Post-Modern and a False Message of a False Jesus”



2 Thessalonians 1:4-12 and 2 Thessalonians 2:1-12



Pre-modern (Up to 1650) –

The natural and supernatural world's exist side-by-side. Thus, both effect each other. The spiritual world effects events in our natural world, but our natural efforts influence the unseen world. The spiritual world is world of reality with many spiritual beings. The source of knowledge or the authority for truth (epistemology) came from revealed knowledge from an authoritative source such as a god. Thus, the ones who held that knowledge or had access to that source held the authority.

This is a **God-centered** world view and there is an **Absolute** Truth.

A few key events:

- 632 – Death of Mohammed
- 1453 – Fall of Constantinople

Modern (1600-1950's) –

Current view of the majority of people in the Western world today. The focus is on reason, science, logic and rationalism. Two main approaches to knowing truth (epistemology):

1. Empiricism – knowing through the senses. This became the modern science with a developed methodology.
2. Reason (logic)

The authority no longer rested with the church (or, those with access to the spiritual). Authority now rested with:

1. those who could demonstrate the absolute accuracy of their knowledge/truth (scientists, scholars, professors, universities, institutions of higher learning)
2. those who had access to enforcing their logic/reason (governments, kings, militant leaders)

This is a **Man-centered** world view and there is a **Method** for man to find the Truth and the right way.

A few key events:

- 1626 - Death of Francis Bacon
- 1632 - Galileo's Relative Motion Theory
- 1727 - Death of Isaac Newton
- 1776 - American Independence
- 1799 - Napoleon Rises
- 1838 - Darwin's Theory of Evolution
- 1865- Mendel's laws of heredity
- 1905 - Einstein's Special Theory of Relativity
- 1914 - World War I
- 1939 - World War II
- 1945 - USA ends WWII with atomic bomb

Post-modern (1960's-present)

A reaction to the very, very negative and violent consequences of the Modern era (oppressive kings, revolutions, Napoleon, World Wars, Hitler, Stalin, etc.) was the questioning of both the man-centered view (Modern) and the God-centered view (pre-modern). No longer are people looking for the "right" way, but "any" way. No longer are people looking for a group direction, but an individual direction. No longer is there room for intolerance. No longer can anyone know what is best for any other individual. Post-modern's epistemology (discovering knowledge and finding truth) finds the way and the truth through pluralism using multiple methods. Thus, they are willing to look to pre-modern methods for finding truth: spiritual, mysticism, etc. And, they are willing to try and approve of multiple methods of finding answers and establishing truth(s) even though they know science is no longer the end of the discussion. Because of this postmodern view concerning Truth, authority, absolutes and knowledge all previous sources of truth, authority, absolutes and knowledge must be deconstructed. Authority will be dispersed and hierarchies will be leveled. This is **Earth/World-centered** and **Pluralism** leads to truth and salvation of man.

A few key events:

- 1948 – Israel becomes a nation
- 1948 – Invention of the transistor
- 1948 – Television and its mass market
- 1962 – Cuban missile crisis
- 1964 – Berkeley Free Speech Movement
- 1975 – First personal computers and that mass market

Book Chapters:

1. The Perfect Storm
2. The Titanic Church
3. Western Culture's Opposition to Christianity
4. Islamic Invasion of Western Culture and Suppression of Christianity
5. The Church in the Seven Year Tribulation: Waiting for a Second Coming Rapture

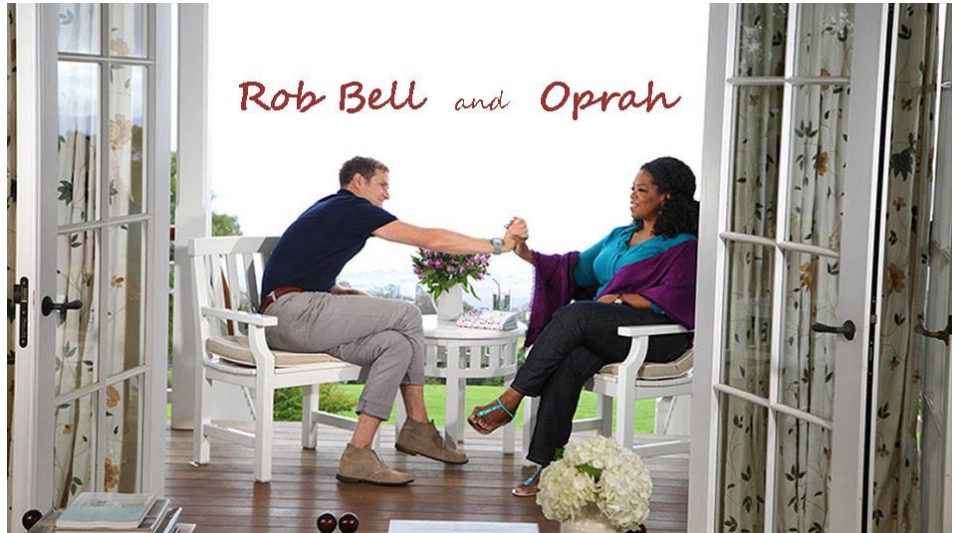
Chapter 2 – The Titanic Church

1. The Church is valid as long as it is fulfilling the Great Commission
2. The Great Commission is to Go and Proclaim Jesus' message
3. The message of Jesus that is proclaimed must match the text of the Gospels and the Apostles
4. Is the message love, peace, tolerance, acceptance of all, non-judgmental?
5. If this is the message the church is proclaiming, but it does not match what Jesus said (Gospels, Apostles, Epistles, OT prophecy) then the church is proclaiming a false Jesus.
6. The majority of Western churches are NOT proclaiming the message of Jesus, so the majority of the Western church is no longer valid.
7. If the majority of today's Western church is not the valid church, then many of the "Christian churches" are false, deceptive and misleading their "followers."
8. The Western church is part of the problem, and does not have the answers.
9. The Western church is not providing "hope", but a false security.
10. The members, followers and seekers involved with the Western church are not following Jesus, but a false, culturally relevant Jesus. And, these followers and seekers do NOT know the difference.
11. The Western Church and their followers are contributing to the problem, but they are calling it hope and "Christianity."
12. The Jesus of the Gospels, Epistles and apostles matches perfectly the LORD of the OT. Jesus is the God of the OT.
13. If a church, pastor or Bible teacher finds it necessary to separate their Christian belief system from the text of Scripture found in the Old Testament, then they are following/seeking a false Jesus.
14. They have compromised the revelation of scripture for a man-centered, man-made message that is philosophically relevant to culture.
15. In the coming days cultural and political events are going to require Christians (believers, followers, seekers, etc.) to choose between the Jesus of Scripture and the false Jesus of Western culture.
16. Those following the false Jesus of Western culture will continue to insist on redefining and focusing on love, peace, acceptance, tolerance, non-judgmental attitude and the fact that we are all sinners.
17. Indeed, we are all sinners, but Jesus of Scripture has saved us and promised to transform us into his image.
18. There is a vast difference between conforming Christianity into the image of your culture and transforming the believing man into the image of the Son of God.
 - a. Conforming: The first is easy, market driven and non-offensive.
 - b. Transforming: The second is challenging, painful and will face tribulation in this world.
19. The easy, market driven, non-offensive Christianity will grow rapidly in numbers of members, but will be rolled over by Islam. This will result in multitudes of Islamic converts.
20. The challenging, painful transformation process will struggle as society (even Christianity) rejects it. It will continue to be purified. This will also be rolled over by Islam, but the results will be multitudes of martyrs and masses being martyred as they proclaim their faith in the Scriptural Jesus.

False Prophets and False Christs???

Rob Bell - "Love Wins" and "Velvet Elvis"

- Quotes from "Love Wins":
 - "We shape our God, and then our God shapes us."
 - "Often the people most concerned about others going to hell when they die seem less concerned with the hells on earth right now, while the people most concerned with the hells on earth right now seem the least concerned about hell after death."
 - "Jesus says, he "did not come to judge the world, but to save the world" (John 12). We can name Jesus, orient our lives around him, and celebrate"
 - "A staggering number of people have been taught that a select few Christians will spend forever in a peaceful, joyous place called heaven, while the rest of humanity spends forever in torment and punishment in hell with no chance for anything better . . . This is misguided and toxic and ultimately subverts the contagious spread of Jesus's message of love, peace, forgiveness, and joy that our world desperately needs to hear."
 - "Of all the billions of people who have ever lived, will only a select number 'make it to a better place' and every single other person suffer in torment and punishment forever? Is this acceptable to God? . . . Does God punish people for thousands of years with infinite, eternal torment for things they did in their few finite years of life? This doesn't just raise disturbing questions about God; it raises questions about the beliefs themselves . . . If there are only a select few who go to heaven, which is more terrifying to fathom: the billions who burn forever or of the few who escaped this fate? . . . What kind of faith is that? Or, more important: what kind of God is that?"
 - "In a letter Martin Luther, one of the leaders of the Protestant Reformation, wrote to Hans von Rechenberg in 1522 about the possibility that people could turn to God after death, asking: 'who would doubt God's ability to do that?' Again, a good question. And so space is created in this 'who would doubt God's ability to do that?' perspective for all kinds of people--fifteen-year-old atheists, people from other religions, and people who rejected Jesus because the only Jesus they ever saw was an oppressive figure who did anything but show God's love."
 - "In a good number of English translations of the Bible, the phrase '*aion of kolazo*' gets translated as 'eternal punishment,' which many read to mean 'punishment forever,' as in never going to end. But 'forever' is not really a category the biblical writers used."
 - "Could God say to someone truly humbled, broken, and desperate for reconciliation, 'Sorry, too late'? Many have refused to accept the scenario in which somebody is pounding on the door, apologizing, repenting, and asking God to be let in, only to hear God say through the keyhole: 'Door's locked. Sorry. If you had been here earlier, I could have done something. But now, it's too late,'"



- "God is doing a new work through Jesus, calling all people to human solidarity. Everybody is a brother, a sister, equals, children of the God who shows no favoritism."
- Quotes from "Velvet Elvis":
 - "When people use the word *hell*, what do they mean? They mean a place, an event, a situation absent of how God desires things to be. Famine, debt, oppression, loneliness, despair, death, slaughter—they are all hell on earth. Jesus' desire for his followers is that they live in such a way that they bring heaven to earth."
 - Concerning no eternal hell: "This reality, this forgiveness, this reconciliation, is true for everybody. Paul insisted that when Jesus died on the cross he was reconciling 'all things, in heaven and on earth, to God. This reality then isn't something we make true about ourselves by doing something. It is already true. Our choice is to live in this new reality or cling to a reality of our own making."
 - "I can't find one place in the teachings of Jesus, or the Bible for that matter, where we are to identify ourselves first and foremost as sinners."
 - "If the gospel isn't good news for everybody, then it isn't good news for anybody."
 - "The most powerful things happen when the church surrenders its desire to convert people and convince them to join. It is when the church gives itself away in radical acts of service and compassion, expecting nothing in return, that the way of Jesus is most vividly put on display. To do this, the church must stop thinking about everybody primarily in categories of in or out, saved or not, believer or nonbeliever. Besides the fact that these terms are offensive to those who are the "un" and "non", they work against Jesus' teachings about how we are to treat each other. Jesus commanded us to love our neighbor, and our neighbor can be anybody. **We are all created in the image of God, and we are all sacred, valuable creations of God. Everybody matters.** To treat people differently based on who believes what is to fail to respect the image of God in everyone. As the book of James says, "*God shows no favoritism.*" So we don't either."
 - "Who does Peter lose faith in? Not Jesus; he is doing fine. Peter loses faith in himself. Peter loses faith that he can do what his rabbi is doing. If the rabbi calls you to be his disciple, then he believes that you can actually be like him. As we read the stories of Jesus' life with his talmidim, his disciples, what do we find frustrates him to no end? When his disciples lose faith in themselves.... God has an amazingly high view of people. God believes that people are capable of amazing things. I've been told I need to believe in Jesus. Which is a good thing. But what I'm learning is that Jesus believes in me. I have been told that I need to have faith in God. Which is a good thing. But what I am learning is that God has faith in me."
 - "It wasn't until the 300s that what we know as the sixty-six books of the Bible were actually agreed upon as the 'Bible'. This is part of the problem with continually insisting that one of the absolutes of the Christian faith must be a belief that "Scripture alone" is our guide. It sounds nice, but it is not true. In reaction to abuses by the church, a group of believers during a time called the Reformation claimed that we only need the authority of the Bible. But the problem is that we got the Bible from the church voting on what the Bible even is. So when I affirm the Bible as God's Word, in the same breath I have to affirm that when those people voted, God was somehow present, guiding them to do what they did. When people say that all we need is the Bible, it is simply not true. In affirming the Bible as inspired, I also have to affirm the Spirit who I believe was inspiring those people to choose those books."
 - "The Bible is still in the center for us," Rob says, "but it's a different kind of center. We want to embrace mystery, rather than conquer it."
- Quotes from "The Zimzum of Love: A New Way of Understanding Marriage"

- "One of the oldest aches in the bones of humanity is loneliness. Loneliness is not good for the world. Whoever you are, gay or straight, it is totally normal, natural and healthy to want someone to go through life with. It's central to our humanity. We want someone to go on the journey with."
- From interviews:
 - Rob Bell was then asked by Oprah when the church was going to embrace same-sex "marriage," to which he responded, "We're close," with Kristen adding, "I think it's evolving." Rob then explained that, "Lots of people are already there. We think it's inevitable, and we're moments ...," at which point Oprah chimed in with, "Moments away from the church accepting it?" Rob's answer said it all: "**Absolutely ... I think culture is already there, and the church will continue to be even more irrelevant when it quotes letters from 2,000 years ago as their best defense.** When you have in front of you flesh and blood people who are your brothers and sisters and aunts and uncles and coworkers and neighbors, and they love each other, and they just want to go through life with someone."
 - An example of "not knowing" in this post-modern age is seen in an interview. Bell provides a classic example of a "response" instead of an "answer". When asked, "Is it irrelevant about how one responds to Christ in this life in terms of determining one's eternal destiny?", Bell said, "'It is terribly relevant and terribly important. Now, how exactly that works out and how exactly that works in the future, we are now firmly in the realm of speculation,"

Peter Enns – his book "The Bible Tells Me So",

- Peter Enns just did an interview (April 29, 2015) with the author of the new book, "The Need for a More Christlike God", Brad Jersak. The book is about the importance of replacing whatever image of God we have with a more Christlike image of God that as revealed in the Gospels. A quote from the book by Brad Jersak:
 - "For our own sakes, we might take a break from trying to convince ourselves that Jesus was and is God and to spend this twenty-first century meditating on the truth that *God is like Jesus. Exactly like Jesus.* When the veil that obscured God was torn in two, what did it reveal? A Suffering Servant who hangs on the Cross (Zech. 12:10)! Thus, every human conception we previously associated with 'God' is uprooted, root and branch!"
- Comments I highlighted and recorded inside the front cover of his book "The Bible Tells Me So" under the heading of Stupid Comments:
 - Page 65 – "For Christians, the gospel has always been the lens through which Israel's stories are read – which means, for Christians, Jesus, not the Bible, has the final word. The story of God's people has moved on, and so must we."
 - Page 78 – "The Gospels are also anonymous, and the names attached to them come to us from early church tradition. Likely none was an eyewitness. The writers relied on stories of Jesus that were circulating orally, perhaps (or probably) going back to what eyewitnesses had seen."
 - Page 86 – "The real Jesus can only be truly understood from a later vantage point – interpreted after the resurrection when the broader implications of who Jesus was and what he did could be better grasped. That is the Jesus the Gospel writers give us, each in his own way... We're all free to put the pieces together as we think best. The bigger point here is that the stories of Jesus's birth behave the way stories do, and we can't wish that away."
 - Page 99 – "Wherever biblical writers talk about the past, we should expect them to be shaping the past as well."

- Page 214 – “More than any other writer of the New Testament, the apostle Paul transforms Israel’s story – beyond even where Jesus and the \Gospel writers took it...To get this radical idea across, Paul had to reimagine his scripture, transforming it from a local and ethnic story into an universal story around Jesus. Paul even would up declaring parts of Israel’s story null and void. . . . For Paul, now that Jesus has come, the Bible was more like clay to be molded.”
- Page 227 – “The present shapes how you think about the past. This was true of those who told the stories of Israel’s past...Sticking to the Bible at every turn, like it’s an owner’s manual or book of instruction, as the way to know God misses what Paul and the rest of the New Testament writers show us again and again: the words on the page of the Bible don’t drive the story, Jesus does. Jesus is bigger than the Bible. For Christians, then, the question is not ‘Who gets the Bible right?’ The question is and has always been, ‘Who gets Jesus right?’ The Gospel writers and Paul couldn’t have made that any clearer.”

Rick Warren –

- “Entertainer and AIDS advocate Sir Elton John (R) greets Pastor Dr. Rick Warren during a Senate Appropriations Subcommittee hearing on funding for global health programs on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C. on May 6, 2015.” (Photo by Kevin Dietsch/UPI)
- “Warren, whose church’s Global P.E.A.C.E. plan has sent teams to serve in 197 countries, added, ‘I’ve actually found it quite easy to work with other governments. They’re not nearly as afraid of the church as the American government is.’ ”



Read more at <http://www.wnd.com/2015/05/rick-warren-jokes-about-kissing-elton-john/#VJCe4CbHXFvBiwgh.99>

- Taken from an online article: “Laodicean church pastor Rick Warren appeared in Congress with pop icon and outspoken homosexual Elton John on Wednesday to ask for more money for AIDS research. They were clearly having such a good time that they started holding hands as you see in the photo After taking their seats at the witness table, the giddy pair laughed and smiled as they held hands, with Warren saying “Amen” and cautioning Elton John that if they kissed it would be “the kiss heard ‘round the world.” Is Rick Warren trying to tell us something here, is there a “coming out” moment in his future? Hard to say at this point, but sure looks like it.” (<http://www.nowtheendbegins.com/blog/?p=33010>)

Joel Osteen – Took over father’s church in Houston, Texas in 1999 which was started by John Osteen in 1959. Weekly attendance grew from 6,000 in 1999 to 43,500 in 2008. Services are broadcast into 100 countries. When traveling Joel’s on-the-road-show called “A Night of Hope” cost \$15 a seat.

- Joel’s first book published by Tom Winters of “Winters, King and Associates” law firm in Tulsa. A Tulsa World article says this:

Winters, King and Associates is a global law firm representing churches, ministries and nonprofits. Thirty of the nation’s largest and fastest-growing churches have been among its 4,000 nonprofit clients in 40 nations.



Tom Winters graduated from ORU law school in 1983. He joined Winters, King and Associates in 1987 which has become a global law firm representing churches and ministries. 30 of the nation’s largest, growing churches have been among its 4,000 clients in 40 countries.

Winters' authors have sold more than 80 million books, and he has negotiated more than \$60 million in advances for them.

Many of them are household names in the Christian world: T.D. Jakes, Tammy Faye Baker, Joyce Meyer.

His biggest-selling book came out of an invitation to have lunch with Joel Osteen, pastor of America's largest church, Lakewood Church in Houston.

"As we were leaving, I told him that if he would like to write a book, I would help him out," Winters said.

His response was, "What would the book be about?"

"I said, 'It needs to be about your life message ... a positive, motivational message.' " Osteen, who writes out his sermons word for word, assembled some of them into what became his book, "Your Best Life Now." It was on the New York Times best-seller list for several months. Winters has now done eight Osteen books, with sales of close to 10 million. (http://www.tulsaworld.com/news/religion/tulsan-is-literary-agent-for-best-selling-christian-authors/article_8ed72215-7801-5ac3-9642-eeefb836c351f.html)

- Books:
 - "Your Best Life Now",
 - "You Can, You Will: 8 Undeniable Qualities of a Winner",
 - "Every Day a Friday",
 - "It's Your Time: Activate Your Faith, Achieve Your Dreams and Increase in God's Favor",
 - "Break Out: 5 Keys to God Beyond Your Barriers and Live an Extraordinary Life",
 - "I Declare: 31 Promises to Speak Over Your Life"
- "Never uses a Bible in the pulpit except to make the beginning proclamation at each service that the Bible is the Word of God."
- Joel Osteen on Larry King live in 2009: "I am an encourager and I don't believe it is my role to condemn anyone. I've always been an encourager at heart. . . . 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. . . . I'm for everybody. You may not agree with me, but to me it's not my job to try to straighten everybody out. The Gospel [is] called the Good News. My message is a message of hope, that God's for you. You can live a good life no matter what's happened to you. And so I don't know. I know there is condemnation but I don't feel that's my place. . . . You know, I'm very careful about saying who would and wouldn't go to heaven. I don't know. . . . 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. . . . I'm going to let God be the judge of who goes to heaven and hell. I just—again, I present the truth, and I say it every week. You know, I believe it's a relationship with Jesus. But you know what? I'm not going to go around telling everybody else if they don't want to believe that that's going to be their choice. God's got to look at your own heart. God's got to look at your heart, and only God knows that."
- Concerning the use of the word "SINNER", Osteen said: "I don't use it. I never thought about it. But I probably don't. But most people already know what they're doing wrong. When I get them to church I want to tell them that you can change. There can be a difference in your life. So I don't go down the road of condemning."
- Osteen focus is on developing a life of good health, abundance, wealth, prosperity and success. Osteen says, "If you develop an image of victory, success, health, abundance, joy, peace, and happiness, nothing on earth will be able to hold those things from you." (Page 5 of "Your Best Life Now")
- In "Your Best Life Now" Osteen teaches that all of us are destined for greatness of every kind: "You were born to win; you were born for greatness, you were created to be a champion in life" (p. 35), and abundance, "He wants you to live in abundance. He wants to give you the desires of your heart...God is turning things around in your favor" (p. 78). "Before we were ever formed, He

programmed us to live abundant lives, to be happy, healthy, and whole. But when our thinking becomes contaminated it is no longer in line with God's Word" (p. 114).

- "God's Word" is not necessarily a reference to biblical text, but is often a reference to:
 - Personal words from God
 - Prophetic utterances by ministry leaders
 - Principles of success laid out by the contemporary teachers within a particular spiritual movement.
- Osteen uses numerous success stories with selected because of their happy endings to prove his point and confirms them with biblical references often twisted out of context.
 - 2 Peter 2:1-3 – "But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction. And many will follow their sensuality, and because of them the way of truth will be blasphemed. And in their greed they will exploit you with false words. Their condemnation from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep."