

lose interest. Rick Warren, *The Purpose Driven Church* (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1995), 300.

In an interview with David Kuo, Warren repeated his marginalization of an ecclesiastical focus upon biblical truth: "I am looking for a second reformation. The first reformation of the church 500 years ago was about *beliefs*. This one is going to be about *behavior*. The first one was about *creeds*. This is going to be about *deeds*. It is not going to be about what does the church believe, but about what is the church doing."

Mega-church Pastor Andy Stanley, the son of legendary Pastor Charles Stanley, was asked "What do you think about preaching verse-by-verse messages through books of the Bible?" He answered, "Guys that preach verse-by-verse through books of the Bible—that is just cheating. It's cheating because that would be easy, first of all. That isn't how you grow people. No one in the Scripture modeled that. There's not one example of that."

<http://www.christianitytoday.com/edstetzer/2009/march/andy-stanley-on-communication-part-2.html>

According to church management expert Aubrey Malphurs: "Preaching is only one of many ways to facilitate life change, and *it's not necessarily the best*" (italics added). Aubrey Malphurs, *Planting Growing Churches for the 21st Century: A Comprehensive Guide for New Churches and Those Desiring Renewal*, 3d ed. (Grand Rapids: Baker, 2004), 219.

And what is Malphur's preaching replacement? In another book that he authored he declares: "Most people can count on their

hand the number of sermons that have accomplished significant changes in their lives. While preaching is most important and contributes to life changes, small group activity best facilitates the transformation of lives." Aubrey Malphurs, *Pouring New Wine into Old Wine Skins: How to Change a Church without Destroying It?* (Grand Rapids: Baker, 1993), 179.

Mega-church pastor Joel Osteen also recently pontificated to a *Newsmax* interviewer as to why his congregation at Lakewood Church has numerically grown: "One thing that we do – it's not just our church – but we try to make Christianity, faith, relevant and practical. Another part of it is that it is positive. I mean, there's a lot of things beating people down already. I found most people already feel guilty enough. They already know what they're doing wrong. Not everybody, but most. Our message is try to make it practical, relevant, how do I forgive? How do I have a good attitude? How do I reach my destiny? If there's some times when we don't change, and it's just all *doctrine*, and it's just, 'I'm going to be beat down, I'm going to feel guilty,' that's maybe what pulls some people away (*italics added*)." Amy Woods, "Joel Osteen to Newsmax: Church Should Be Inclusive, Shun Politics," online: <http://www.newsmax.com/Newsmax-Tv/Joel-Osteen-Pope-Francis-ministry-inclusiveness/2013/12/16/id/542188/>, December 13, 2013, accessed 15 December 2015.

1 Tim 4:13- Until I come, give attention to the *public* reading of *Scripture*, to exhortation and teaching.

Isa 55:10-11- For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, And do not return there without watering the earth And making it bear and sprout, And furnishing seed to the sower and bread to the eater;¹¹ So will My word be which goes forth from My mouth; It will not return to Me empty, Without accomplishing what I desire, And without succeeding *in the matter* for which I sent it.

Jer. 23:29- Is not My word like fire?” declares the LORD, “and like a hammer which shatters a rock?

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1 Tim. 1:13- even though I was formerly a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent aggressor. Yet I was shown mercy because I acted ignorantly in unbelief

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Acts 16:1- Paul came also to Derbe and to Lystra. And a disciple was there, named Timothy, the son of a Jewish woman who was a believer, but his father was a Greek.

2 Tim. 1:5-For I am mindful of the sincere faith within you, which first dwelt in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am sure that *it is* in you as well.

Deut 6:6-7-These words, which I am commanding you today, shall be on your heart. ⁷ You shall teach them diligently to your sons and shall talk of them when you sit in your house and when

you walk by the way and when you lie down and when you rise up.

Josh 4:19-24-Now the people came up from the Jordan on the tenth of the first month and camped at Gilgal on the eastern edge of Jericho. ²⁰ ^[h]Those twelve stones which they had taken from the Jordan, Joshua set up at Gilgal. ²¹ He said to the sons of ^[i]Israel, “**When your children ask their fathers in time to come, saying, ‘What are these stones?’ ²² then you shall inform your children, saying, ‘Israel crossed this Jordan on dry ground.’ ²³** For the LORD your God dried up the waters of the Jordan before you until you had crossed, just as the LORD your God had done to the ^[i]**Red Sea**, which He dried up before us until we had crossed; ²⁴ that all the peoples of the earth may know that the hand of the LORD is mighty, so that you may ^[k]fear the LORD your God ^[l]forever.”

Prov. 22:6- Train up a child ^[d]in the way he should go, Even when he is old he will not depart from it.

Luke 2:12-This *will be* a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a ^[f]manger.

Luke 1:41-When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the baby leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit.

John 6:63-It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; **the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life.**

John 6:68-Simon Peter answered Him, “Lord, to whom shall we go? **You have words of eternal life.**

Rom 10:17-So faith comes from hearing, and hearing by the word ^[k]of Christ.

Jas 1:18-In the exercise of His will He brought us forth by the word of truth, so that we would be ^[s]a kind of **first fruits** ^[t]among His creatures.

1 Pet 1:23-for you have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable, *that is,* **through the living and enduring word of God**

Luke 16:27-31-And he said, “Then I beg you, father, that you send him to my father’s house—²⁸ for I have five brothers—in order that he may warn them, so that they will not also come to this place of torment.’²⁹ But Abraham *said, ‘They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them.’³⁰ But he said, ‘No, father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent!’³¹ But he said to him, ‘If they do not listen to Moses and the Prophets, they will not be persuaded even if someone rises from the dead.’”

John 4:25-26-The woman *said to Him, “I know that Messiah is coming (He who is called Christ); when that One comes, He will declare all things to us.”²⁶ Jesus *said to her, “I who speak to you am *He*.”

2 Pet 1:20-21- But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is *a matter* of one's own interpretation, ²¹ for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men **moved** by the Holy Spirit spoke from God.

Acts 27:15- and when the ship was caught *in it* and could not face the wind, we gave way *to it* and let ourselves be **driven along**

Acts 27:17-After they had hoisted it up, they used supporting cables in undergirding the ship; and fearing that they might run aground on *the shallows* of Syrtis, they let down the ^[i]sea anchor and in this way let themselves be **driven along**.

Acts 1:18-Now this man acquired a field with the price of his wickedness, and falling headlong, **he burst open in the middle and all his intestines gushed out**.

Col 4:14- Luke, the beloved physician, sends you his greetings, and *also* Demas.

Matt. 17:24-27-When they came to Capernaum, those who collected the ^[l]two-drachma *tax* came to Peter and said, "Does your teacher not pay the ^[m]two-drachma *tax*?" ²⁵ He *said, "Yes." And when he came into the house, Jesus spoke to him first, saying, "What do you think, Simon? From whom do the kings of the earth collect customs or poll-tax, from their sons or from strangers?" ²⁶ When Peter said, "From strangers," Jesus said to him, "Then the sons are ^[n]exempt. ²⁷ However, so that we do not ^[o]offend them, go to the sea and throw in a hook, and

take the first fish that comes up; and when you open its mouth, you will find ^[p]a shekel. Take that and give it to them for you and Me.”

Matt. 9:9- As Jesus went on from there, He saw a man called Matthew, sitting in the tax collector’s booth; and He *said to him, “Follow Me!” And he got up and followed Him.

Matt. 22:43-44- He *said to them, “Then how does David ^[q]in the Spirit call Him ‘Lord,’ saying,⁴⁴ ‘THE LORD SAID TO MY LORD, “SIT AT MY RIGHT HAND, UNTIL I PUT YOUR ENEMIES BENEATH YOUR FEET”’?”

John 10:34-35-Jesus answered them, “Has it not been written in your Law, ‘I SAID, YOU ARE GODS’? ³⁵ If he called them gods, to whom the word of God came (and the Scripture cannot be broken)

Matt. 4:4- But He answered and said, “It is written, ‘MAN SHALL NOT LIVE ON BREAD ALONE, BUT ON EVERY WORD THAT PROCEEDS OUT OF THE MOUTH OF GOD.’”

Deut 8:3-He humbled you and let you be hungry, and fed you with manna which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that He might make you ^[a]understand that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by everything that proceeds out of the mouth of the LORD.

ACTS 20:26-27-Therefore, I ^[o]testify to you this day that I am ^[p]innocent of the blood of all men. ²⁷ For I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole purpose of God.

Num 6:24-26-The LORD bless you, and keep you;²⁵ The LORD
make His face shine on you, And be gracious to you;²⁶ The
LORD lift up His countenance on you, And give you peace