

“COME AS YOU ARE”

INTRODUCTION

- A. Some sociologists are now speaking in terms of the present being the “post-Christian age.”
- B. Therefore, we are being told that there is now the necessity for something different in religion to reach those who have moved beyond New Testament Christianity.
- I. WHY WOULD WE NEED A “NEW GOSPEL?”
 - A. Man still needs the Savior – MT 1:21.
 - B. Man needs forgiveness – HE 8:8-13.
 - C. Man still needs the Mediator – 1 TI 2:5.
 - D. The church is no less needed – EP 1:3, 7.
 - E. Just as much need for the Gospel – RO 1:16.
- II. CHANGE OR SUBSTITUTION IS FORBIDDEN.
 - A. To add to or take away from has serious attendant consequences. RE 22:18-19.
 - B. To replace the gospel with another gospel results in the curse of God. GA 1:6-9.
 - C. The need of the “post-Christian age” is a new appeal, we are told, and this new appeal is the, “Come as you are” religion.
 - D. Note how more churches now are visibly presenting to the public the “come as you are” philosophy through signs on their property and various advertisement.
 - E. The book, “No Perfect People Allowed” is “creating a COME AS YOU ARE culture in the CHURCH” (Author – John Burke).
 - F. There is a sense in which we come to God as we are (cp. MT 11: 28-30). “Come as you are” initially pertained to dress, but has now started taking on a more extensive meaning and application.
- III. “COME ARE YOU ARE”.
 - A. The age of selfishness:
 - 1. We are absolutely in the age of selfishness and “Do not expect me to change!”
 - 2. Therefore, “come as you are” is opportune and culturally harmonious. (Cp. LK 9: 23, PH 3: 9, Acts 24: 23-26).
 - B. The age of convenience has arrived in the ultimate extreme:
 - 1. Just as Felix, we do not want to be bothered with the inconvenient (Acts 24: 25).
 - 2. “Many people are daily wearing shorts and flip flops, so, this is what they naturally wear to worship now.”
 - C. The full “come as you are” philosophy is now being seen:
 - 1. Come without belief, repentance, confession, and baptism (JN 8: 24; Acts 17: 30, 31; RO 10: 9, 10; Acts 2: 38).
 - 2. Come as you are with homosexual practices (I CO 6: 9-11).
 - 3. Come with foul language (EP 4: 29).
 - 4. Come with addictions (I CO 9: 24-27).
 - 5. Come with own beliefs (2 TH 2: 10-12).
 - 6. Come with adulterous marriages (MT 19: 9).
 - 7. Come with ill-gotten gains (Luke 19: 8).
 - 8. Come with own gods (cp. PH 3: 18, 19).

CONCLUSION

- A. The scriptures teach: MT 3:7, 8.
- B. 2 CO 7:10