"Is It Time for a New Version of Christianity?"

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Greetings in the Name of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

I have an idea. You want to hear it? Do you? Here it is: Why don't we Christians just do away with the whole unbelievers go to Hell belief we have confessed for 2000 years and start teaching that Hell doesn't exist and all people go to heaven? What do you think? I know we'll have to get out our erasers and rub out all those passages in our Bibles that teach about Hell, but, hey, just think about how much more popular we Christians would be. The accusations hurled against us for being exclusive and intolerant would cease. Who could accuse us of such things if we taught that all people go to heaven?

On second thought, maybe this isn't such a good idea. After all, if we deny Hell's existence and start teaching that everyone goes to heaven, what would we do with Jesus? We wouldn't really need Him anymore, at least not in the way we've always confessed Him, as the Son of God who was conceived by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary and came down from heaven to save us by living the perfect life we can't live and dying on the cross for our sins. Maybe we should think about this. Hmmm . . . Oh, wait a minute, I know, we'll just make Jesus into a good, moral man whose life provides us with an example to follow. Yeah, that should do it.

Of course, we'll have to make a few more deletions and adjustments to Scripture if we are going to make this new version of Christianity work. I know what some of you conservative, Biblebelieving Christians are thinking, that we'll have to delete all of Scripture from the third chapter of Genesis to the end of Revelation, since all of it is about humanity's fall into sin and God's plan to rescue humanity from sin through Christ. Not really. You need to get with the times. We don't need to delete it all; we just need to change our perception of Scripture. We'll just start teaching that Scripture is no longer the revealed, inerrant, verbally-inspired Word of God, but only the words of men about God. That way, we can just pick and choose which parts of Scripture we want to keep as is and which parts we want to either discard or reinterpret in a way that jives with our new version of Christianity.

That's ridiculous, you say? Why? Christians have been doing this very thing for some time now. Many Christians accept such things as women's ordination and homosexuality as a legitimate, alternative lifestyle, among many other things. There are even many Christian ministers who deny the six days of creation, the Virgin Birth of Christ, all the miracles done by Christ during His earthly ministry, and, if you can believe it, even the Resurrection of Christ. How do Christians accept things forbidden in Scripture and deny things taught by Scripture? They change Scripture from the Word of God into the words of men about God and then simply discard or reinterpret those Scripture passages that teach those things in a way that jives with their version of Christianity.

Thus, to put the new Hell-less, Christ-less, all people go to heaven version of Christianity into place, we would simply be following the long-standing precedent set by other Christians. So, spread the word. Hell no longer exists. Christ is not our Savior, but just an example for us to follow. All people go to heaven. Oh, happy day! Everyone will love us Christians now!

Dear friends in Christ, all sarcasm aside, the idea proposed here, as utterly ridiculous and blasphemous as it sounds to true Christian ears, is already being promoted and is gaining steam.

Carlton Pearson, nationally-known evangelist and founder of the Higher Dimensions Center in Tulsa, OK, claims to have received a revelation from God a few years ago that Hell doesn't exist and that all people go to heaven. When he first began teaching his new-found "gospel of inclusion," he suffered greatly. He lost the majority of his flock and the luxurious church building where he served was foreclosed upon. But, none of this stopped Pearson from preaching his new version of Christianity. And now, the tide is turning. His flock is growing, and many ministers are jumping on his coat tails and preaching the same "gospel of inclusion." In fact, Pearson is so confident and optimistic that his new version of Christianity will catch on that he recently boldly proclaimed, "Within the next five years, everyone will be preaching inclusion!"

Not everyone, Mr. Pearson! Some of us will continue to preach the truth, no matter how unpopular or politically incorrect it may be. And the truth is this: "Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father except through Him" (John 14:6). All people do not go to heaven. Only those who have faith in Jesus Christ as Savior go to heaven. All unbelievers go to Hell. I know that belief is not popular with the world, but, gee whiz, that's what the Bible says and that's what all genuine Christians believe.

My friends, do not be naïve. This new Hell-less, Christ-less, all people go to heaven version of Christianity could soon be coming to a church near you. May the Holy Spirit grant you ears to hear and eyes to see, that, if it does, you may reject it for the Satanic lie it is and cling in faith to the truth of God's Holy Word.

In Christ,
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