

Joel Osteen Controversy

Letters of LOVE and Hate

VOLUME 2

Subject: Attacking men who have a vision

I read what you and others have written.

But I am writing to tell you this that they are busy doing what they are doing because their vision is bigger than man can comprehend and not you or people like you can stop that vision.

You are like the many who sees christianity as a life of poverty and eating the humble pie of suffering read for yourself the scripture and pray for insight to know the hope of the calling God has placed on you and the RICHES of Glory which God has put in the saints in light.

Salvation is a package which is fully complete in it is healing, in it is Prosperity, in it is divine life, life , peace and joy in the Holy Ghost.

It is God who is the righteous Judge of all. We are the ones to judge angels not our fellow men.

Jesus Himself is an expression of what he preached. He lived the good life. He had a house, he paid taxes, he gave lives a meaning with his saving words.

Use the ministry you have to draw men unto God not to pull down men who would have recieve [sic] salvation through the gospel which these men who have given themselves to the work of God.

Soul winning is God's number one job which you can get involved in as you are idle. That is why you are looking at others instead of doing the number one Job delegated us by Jesus which is to go into the world and preach the gospel making disciples of all men.

I pray that the eyes of your understand be enlightened to see and understand what the revelation of his power is in you.

Signed,

Ajay Anthony

Subject: Osteen

Excellent web site! I really appreciate your article:

<http://www.iconbusters.com/iconbusters/docs/letter/letter.htm>

Here is something I sent to him regarding the airplane incident:

Nice going, you hypocrites. Nasty behavior on an airplane is not exactly witnessing. Your dad, who I knew through my late grandfather, had much more class than you two. You rich, sleazy, televangelist trash is exactly what turn people off from Christianity.

You know, just because you prepared your daddy's sermons does not make you a pastor. I've always considered you nothing more than a motivational speaker. That assumption was proved correct when you couldn't stand up to Larry King's questioning of the Salvation doctrine, and it was also proved today, when I heard this disgraceful news of your abhorrent behavior on an airplane.

Shame on you! I will be returning the leather-bound edition of *Your Best Life Now* I got as a gift. You may have money, Joel and Victoria Osteen, but it doesn't buy class, respect, or a ticket into heaven.

Sincerely,
Colby S. Bauer

Subject: New to your site

Mr. Winburn,

I'm afraid I am a bit overwhelmed after reading some of the information on your site. I've believed myself to be a Christian for 30 years, but am I? I was looking up some information on Joel Osteen when I found your site. I live in Houston and am keenly aware of the Osteen's. I have never agreed with their theology (?) but had never thought of it in the terms you describe.

I'm also confused about your pages on The Beast, obviously referring to the Pope. Again this is new to me.

So, I guess my question is, "what do I do with this information?" I try to sift the opinions of men through the truth of the Bible, but as you are acutely aware, men can parse even the Bible for their own devices. So, even you may fall in the category. I don't say that to attack, but more as a challenge for me--a challenge to not be deceived.

Thank you for the opportunity to contact you. If your time allows I would appreciate a response and your input.

You and your website is giving me much to consider and learn. I am looking forward to the journey.

Subject: Joel Osteen

Having grown up in a fundamentalist [sic] background, and attended probably the most fundamentalist of Christian colleges, I am something of an expert in recognizing Pharisaism. [sic] It's not only the content of what you say that is wrong, but even more so the attitude of pride and condemnation you exude.

Why do you worry so much about Joel Osteen? Jealousy? In your theological view the elect cannot be deceived into believing a false gospel, and the non-elect cannot be rescued from deception since God has not chosen them--- so what exactly is your point? You persuade no one of anything but Pharisees who are likeminded. Your "ministry" is fruitless and entirely negative. If Osteen has lost his way in one direction fearing to offend anyone, you clearly have lost your way in another making a career of offending virtually everyone, believers and non-believers alike. Do you take pride in that?

Signed,
Paul R. Nitz

Subject: Your Post

Rand,

I found your post while reading about Victoria Osteen getting kicked off a plane for arguing with a stewardess. I must say I am heartened to see there are still a few real christians out there.

I was raised on a steady diet of works in the church I grew up in and have recently escaped that fully. Only through many long years of study have I finally come to realize that we can do *nothing* to please God. My journey has taken me from a belief that we must fully earn our salvation progressing on to the felling that Christ *makes up* for our deficiencies and onward to that most insidious lie that it has been done, but we need to reach up and grab on to our salvation (the check in the bank theory).

Through many years of word by word bible study (finding the meaning to each greek or hebrew word as we go along) a small group (6) of us have since come to the conclusion that man is bad, fully and completely to the core. It is only by the *pure grace* of God and by *His choice* that we may be saved. It is indeed few ("puny in number") who believe this. ***There is not a single organized church in our town that does not preach some form of works if only by virtue of our acceptance. How sad.*** Yet we believe that where 2 or 3 are gathered in His name - God is there. And so we meet. It is a slow way to study, but rewarding. Since 1998 we have studied in depth 3 books of the Bible (Revelation, Romans, and Galatians). We find it amazing that the Holy Spirit has guided us into such a revelation of His majesty and are humbled to be in the presence of His Holy ***Living*** Word.

There is but one recurring theme to the Scripture -- God has the ultimate power, authority, and wisdom to choose those whom he chooses and to change them

into a new creation. This is not to say I understand this concept as a human, but I must embrace it as it is a biblical truth. We do not believe we may judge an individual as only God knows the heart, but we do find it scriptural to judge doctrine based on God's Living Word.

It is hard as an egotistical human to admit I cannot do one good thing pleasing in His sight, but I thank God for His gift freely given.

Subject: Joel Osteen

Hello,

I read some of your material.

I use to be like you looking at the speck on my brothers eyes when I had a plank in mine.

You see you think you know God, but reality none of us really know God completely ,He does what He wills and works through who He wants to ,even talking through a donkey.

You spend all this time talking about your brothers in Christ, yes, brother in Christ and what they are doing wrong.

My brother, did God leave you in charge to oversee other believers? Go to Luke 9:49-50.

He said to his disciple go to all nation and make disciples in my name. Is this what you are doing, I don't think so.

You know what I would like to do for the Lord, is open a rehab for men that have a drug addiction. Their is no time to be investigating who is preaching what across the world the Holy Spirit will take care that in his time not mine or yours. Well excuse my spelling, is any.

A Brother In Christ,
Carlos Padron

Subject: Seeking the Truth

Peace be with you Mr. Winburn,

I recently stumbled upon your website while searching for information regarding an incident that took place last month involving Pastor Joel Osteen and his family while traveling toward their vacation destination. Needless to say I was a little disturbed by what I found (although the details remain unclear), however I was more disturbed by the article I read on your website ("An Open Letter to the Deceived..."). Not because of the reason's you might think, that like many of his strong supporter's I was "shocked and appalled". But simply because after studying your findings and comparing them to what the scriptures say I find myself having to agree with you. And this is not an easy thing for me to admit, since I have been a member of Lakewood for about 2 years nowYou see my wife and I are still very early in our journey's toward Christ, and even though the church has been very kind to us we have had many discussions concerning the types of messages (and lack there of) that we have felt are missing at times. Especially at the Spanish service where a lot of our fellow "countrymen" can be very stubborn and ignorant about who/what our Lord Jesus really is. We both left the Catholic church in search of God's real church, thinking that we had found it here. But the truth is that the more we see people each week show up late, leaving early, half naked, eating, talking on cell phones, and kids playing & screaming it makes us wonder if we only just found the same kind of church again packaged differently. Reading your article has only forced me to re-examine what has been weighting [sic] on my heart for quite some time, as well as where my real faith lies. In my heart I believe in God's word as "TRUTH" as well as "ALL" that it teaches and warns of, which is why I feel that we must ask for the Lord's help to guide us to a true house of worship where ever that may be.

I am curious though about a few things on your website. You list many names of false Christian's today, however some names (and I don't know many)

that I did not see listed were names like John Hagee or David Jeremiah. What is your opinion on their teachings? Also there are 2 names that you did mention (Hal Lindsey and Jack Van Impe) that I would like to know if/why you feel they do not represent the true word of God? I know I ask a lot of questions (perhaps maybe not the right one's) but I am just one who seeks knowledge and wants to learn more about our heavenly Father and our Lord and Savior Jesus!

A brother in Christ

Subject: Joel Osteen

I happened to come upon your open letter on the internet to the “deceived of Lakewood Church” when doing a Google search on Victoria Osteen. (I confess to being curious about a news item today regarding her temper tantrum on a recent Continental airlines flight.)

While I do not wish to criticize a preacher, I have long felt that the feel-good, power of positive thinking message that Joel Osteen preaches is more about tickling ears and winning supporters than saving souls. I am totally turned off by any preacher who “sells” God as some kind of cosmic sugar daddy.

The Word of God is not a loose leaf book where we can remove or skim over the parts that don't suit our flesh or our agenda.

Houston, TX

Subject: Joel Osteen

Hi Rand,

You may remember my contacting you around July-2005 regarding the Osteen Interview on Larry King Live. At that time I told you I would send a copy of the

letter I wrote to him; in an attempt to pattern after the style of the *Screwtape Letters*.

I hope that you accept my apology for this response being at least six months delayed. I thought it best to give Mr. Osteen time to respond to my letters, which I am almost 100% certain he "received", because I contacted his Secretary and sent this letter to him my postal mail and email to his address and also to his Secretary.

But it seems that since all the letters he had received from Christians all over the country who are upset about his "sermons" his only acknowledgment seems to be to complain about the "judgmental, self-righteous" Christians who are "verbally attacking" him.

As promised, though much delayed, attached is the letter.....

Mr. Joel Osteen
P. O. Box 23297
Houston, TX 77228
July 15, 2005

My Dearest Mr. Osteen,

What a tremendous interview you gave on the Larry King show on Jul-3-2005! Your winning smile and obvious love and acceptance of all religious faiths—irrespective of their beliefs—{and as long as they are sincere}—is quite commendable. I myself would love to be a regular attendee of your church, but I am so busy these days, traveling throughout the globe, not much time is left for just one congregation.

Your own doctrine is admirable and I particularly liked your pious answer to the question about whether those who do not believe that Jesus Christ is the only Way will go to heaven—whether they are Muslim, Jewish and even the Atheist.

My motto as well: Honor God with your life, live a life of integrity, live to give, teaching practical principals and reaching the mainstream of society is important above all! And keep teaching the ancient “New Age” heresy packaged with just enough Christian terminology to fool the masses. Just for kicks, continue to throw them a little Scripture at the end.

To use your own words, in response to Mr. King’s question about if it was hard to live a Christian life, you do not believe in following rules and stuff... you just live your life.

Your vacillating, non-committal and sanctimonious response—while at the same time adamantly claiming to take the Bible literally was brilliant! Indeed your refusal to call same-sex marriage and abortion a sin, splendid response to again reiterate your church’s acceptance of everyone and refusal to call anyone a sinner. So carry on with practicing your philosophy of “no condemnation”. Label them faults, mistakes, weaknesses—but most of all continue to keep them in the dark about their true condition before a holy God.

Your similar ambiguous, evasive and downright cowardly response when asked by a caller about whether it is true—that Lucifer would be the last one to enter heaven after the rapture—was also tactical. Keep up the “I don’t know” answers—people will like you better, most will identify with you and besides in times when relativism reigns—this type of response is popular.

Though you may want to consider cleaning up your answer a little more next time, because to the thinking person, it does appear contradictory to claim belief that J. C. is the Way... and then to say that you do not know if those who do not believe will go to heaven. Well, on the other hand, I guess its okay. Since you yourself made mention several times, “they can see your heart” {whatever that means} and will probably overlook the elusive, spineless, shuffling and cowardly responses to some of the most important questions anyone, anywhere, at any time will ever ask. After all, we are only talking about matters of eternal consequences.

Therefore, it does not really matter much what is said as long as it is not the truth. Remember, entertain and flatter them, make them comfortable in their confusion and deception. While it is true that faith without works is dead, let their

focus be on their works and let their faith be strong and resolute—in their works. This will be easy as it appeals to the natural, unborn-again, unredeemed man's prideful mind. May you continue to do your part in making sure that they go peaceably and quietly to hell.

Continue to avoid the word "sin" and tread very lightly around the word "hell". We do not want to sound too much like the "book", in which J. C. and his followers in the NT mentions both words literally hundreds of times, not to mention the thousands of times in the OT; every since that incident in the "garden". I still can't believe it! One small conversation, one minor "independent" decision, one little indulgence, and He makes such a big deal and sends J. C. down here to rescue the whole human race of vermin! He never made one offer to do the same for us, which {in my opinion} would have been a lot simpler and cleaner than resurrecting all those corpses {both those on His side and those on our side} in the near future! Because of the obvious insult to us, {His refusal to let that little stunt our uncle pulled slide by} we made the decision immediately after to disassociate with and remove ourselves from His presence in heaven and relocated all our forces below.

In summary, my comrades and I are still furious over the outcome of the "incident" which took place on the "hill" 2,000 years ago and we are relentlessly pressing forward with increasing fervor to deceive, discredit, and destroy, destroy, destroy at all costs! -----Anyway, {looks like I got carried away} just being reminded of "that" whole incident again. As for you, just keep mixing in some of the truth here and there. You are doing a fine job!

Your host, Larry King has given much too many interviews with the Enemy's servants. So, I was truly delighted to see your face! Let us hope that you were effective in uprooting whatever truth those zealots may have "planted and watered" during those previous shows. Especially those in particular who never seem to have any opinion of their own, so sold out they are for the Enemy that they are always talking non-stop about that book He inspired! Away with those judgmental, fire and brimstone fanatics! They make me sick!

May your congregation of 30,000 grow to 30,000,000. As you know, we are progressing well in much of the remainder of western civilization¹; Europe is coming along fine. Much of America was somewhat resistant to us up to the first

part of this century {in my opinion they got off to a bad start with the “Founding Fathers” and those stupid documents and laws}, but we are long past that era and are now—{albeit still working feverishly} we are immensely enjoying the fruits of our many years of diligent labor in that country. I, myself received much recognition {and my biggest demotion in centuries} from the bosses below for my noteworthy efforts on that front! (More about the details of that at some other time).

However, {and I say this affectionately} our easiest and most cherished work is done inside {what would be} the Enemy’s own house. This is exactly why your Sunday morning motivational speaker {Tony Robbins} style show is working so well these days {mixed, like you said} with a Bible verse at the end just to make them feel like they went to church. Well, anyway they are attending church {The Church of Our Father—Satan}.

I almost forgot, special orders from the Boss below: In case you have already done so, get rid of that irritating pulpit! It is so unnecessary and offensive. The old-fashioned pulpit sends out the wrong message to all the nice people attending the ice rink, sporting events, conferences, business workshops, conventions, personal growth seminars, etc. And don’t worry, we will see to it that you receive all of the necessary funds for continued improvement of the new Center.

As long as you remain committed to saying what the masses want to hear, I am confident of continued growth! Keep up the evil work! And I will remember to put an extra ton of coal on the fire to welcome your arrival.

Yours truly and affectionately,

The First Cousin of Lucifer—Also known as Beelzebub—the Father of Lies

Subject: Joel Osteen

I have read your hateful, divisive (remember, God hates division) remarks about Joel Osteen. While I know he is not perfect (who is?), it is my prayer that God will judge you as a judger. And the same goes for your comments about Billy Graham.

I pray that God will measure out judgment to you as you have measured out yours.

God is the author of salvation, not you. God decides who is in the family, not you.

I pray for your soul, that you will learn the peace and love of God. And, that 'In That Day' God will not say to you, "depart from me you worker of iniquity, I know you not."

Bob Hurley

Subject: You are absolutely right

After seeing the article about how Osteens where thrown off a airplane, I found your site. I believe you are absolutely right. I live here in Houston and have seen several of his shows. I have studied different religions and churches. What he preaches is not correct? My main problem is how a person that asks people to follow the lord lives in a palace of gold. Why didn't he allow Katrina victims to stay at his huge church? Why didn't he spend Christmas at home and give a homeless person the money he is spending in Vale. I am not saying he has to live in total poverty, even catholic priest, monks and nuns don't so poor. But show a little restraint and use your money to help people not to drive around in a Benz and wear Rolex and 500 dollar suits. I cant see how 30,000 people can be duped so easily but we also could never understand how an entire country could follow Hitler. Never give up even saving one person from this crook is worth the effort.

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