



Free Chapel
Alberton AGF



False Christianity



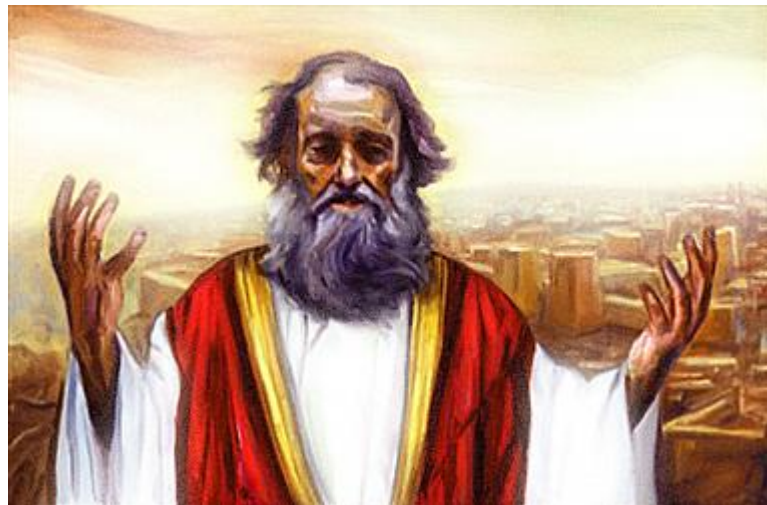
FRAUDULENT
counterfeit
PHONEY false
Illegitimate
 impure
IMMITATION
UNTRUE FAKE
 heretical



Jeremiah 7 (NIV)

This is the word that came to Jeremiah from the LORD:

² “Stand at the gate of the LORD’s house and there proclaim this message:





“The clear evidence of growth is change.”

“If you are not changing you are not growing”

Brian Houston, Hillsong

“The clear evidence of your Christianity is your relationship with God.”

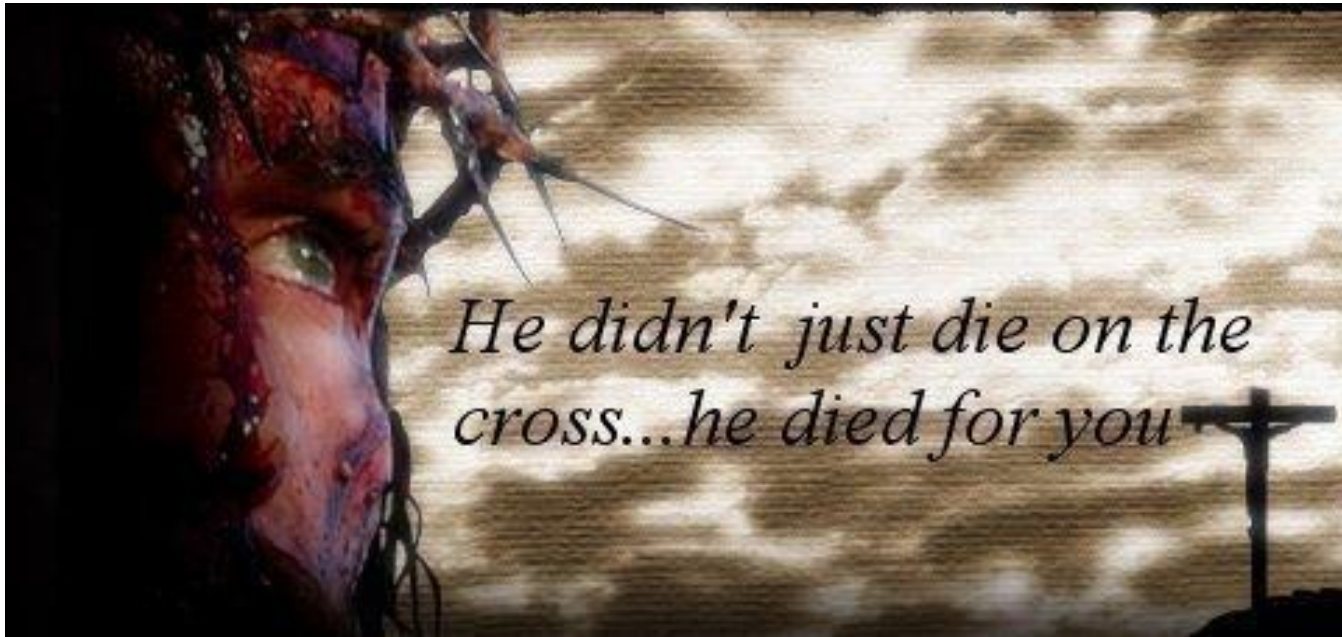
“If you are not devoted to God then you are not a Christian”

Des Burrows, Free Chapel



Shocking! I know.

How do I know that I am
devoted to God?



I believe that your devotion to
God is measured by your
commitment to Him and His work.



Holiness is the very principle of eternal life, the very beginning of eternal life in the heart, and that which will certainly grow up to eternal life

Hebrews 12:14 (NIV)

¹⁴ Make every effort to live in peace with everyone and to be holy;

without holiness no one will see the Lord.



Before we read Jeremiah 7 Some background information.

The great prophet Jeremiah lived during the most **crucial period of Judah's existence as a kingdom.** He saw the destruction of Jerusalem and the holy Temple, **after he had incessantly warned his people to mend their ways before it was too late.**



Jeremiah was born of a priestly family, in the town of Anathoth in Benjamin. His father was the prophet and High-Priest Hilkiah. He began his prophecy during the time of the prophet Zephaniah and prophetess Huldah, in the thirteenth year of King Josiah's reign.



TAKE NOTE!

One of the prophet's famous sayings is the one in which he points out that wisdom, might, and riches, are nothing compared to the happiness that man achieves through real knowledge and understanding of the ways of God:



Jeremiah 7:2-3 (NIV)

*“Hear the word of the LORD, all you people of Judah who come through these gates to worship the LORD. ³ This is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says: **Reform your ways and your actions, and I will let you live in this place.***



Jeremiah 7:4-7 (NIV)

⁴ Do not trust in deceptive words and say, “This is the temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD, the temple of the LORD!”⁵ **If you really change your ways and your actions** and deal with each other justly, ⁶ if you do not oppress the foreigner, the fatherless or the widow and do not shed innocent blood in this place, and if you do not follow other gods to your own harm, ⁷ **then** I will let you live in this place, in the land I gave your ancestors for ever and ever.



Jeremiah 7:8-10 (NIV)

⁸ But look, you are trusting in deceptive words that are worthless.

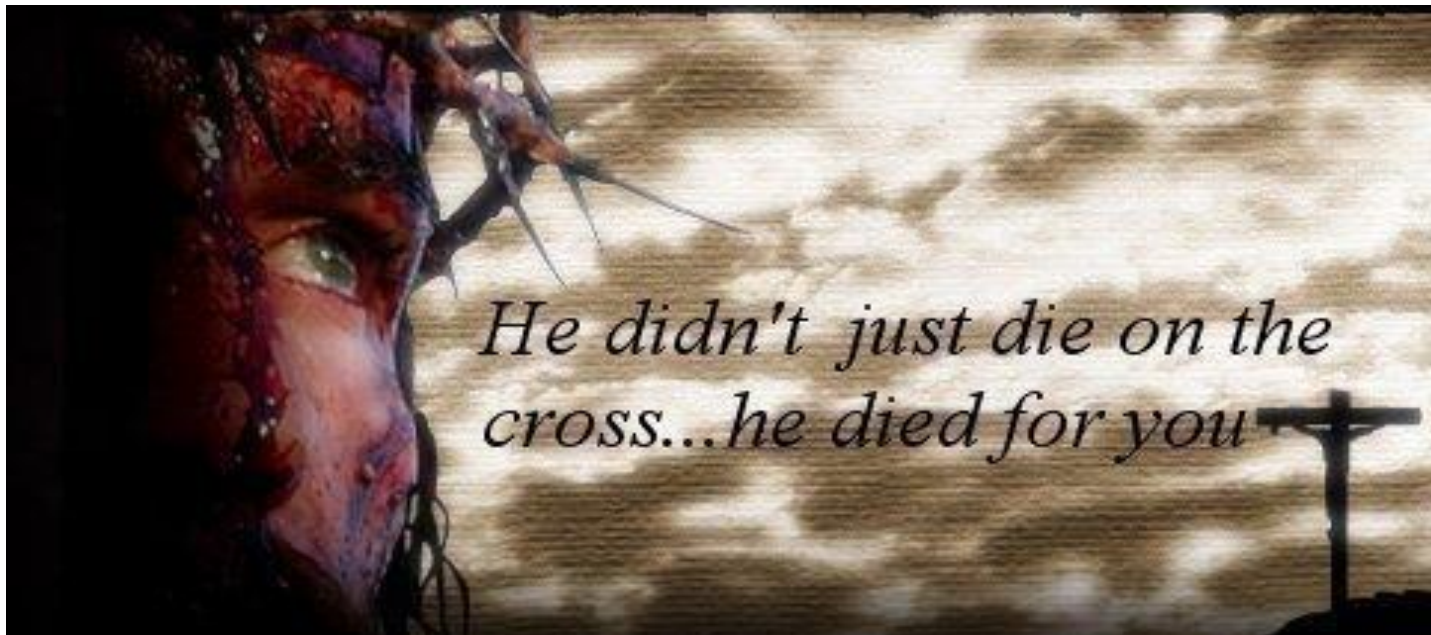
⁹ ““Will you steal and murder, commit adultery and perjury, burn incense to Baal and follow other gods you have not known, ¹⁰ and then come and stand before me in this house, which bears my Name, and say, “**We are safe**”—**safe to do all these detestable things?**



Jeremiah 7:11 (NIV)

¹¹ Has this house, which bears my Name, become a den of robbers to you?

But I have been watching! declares the LORD.





Jeremiah 7:12-15 (NIV)

¹² “Go now to the place in Shiloh where I first made a dwelling for my Name, and see what I did to it because of the wickedness of my people Israel. ¹³ While you were doing all these things, declares the LORD, **I spoke to you again and again, but you did not listen; I called you, but you did not answer.** ¹⁴ Therefore, what I did to Shiloh I will now do to the house that bears my Name, the temple you trust in, the place I gave to you and your ancestors. ¹⁵ **I will thrust you from my presence,** just as I did all your fellow Israelites, the people of Ephraim.’

Jeremiah 7:16-19 (NIV)



¹⁶ “So do not pray for this people nor offer any plea or petition for them; do not plead with me, for I will not listen to you. ¹⁷ Do you not see what they are doing in the towns of Judah and in the streets of Jerusalem? ¹⁸ **The children gather wood, the fathers light the fire, and the women knead the dough and make cakes to offer to the Queen of Heaven.** They pour out drink offerings to other gods to arouse my anger. ¹⁹ **But am I the one they are provoking declares the LORD.** Are they not rather harming themselves, to their own shame?



Jeremiah 7:20 (NIV)

²⁰ “Therefore this is what the Sovereign LORD says: My anger and my wrath will be poured out on this place—on man and beast, on the trees of the field and on the crops of your land—and it will burn and not be quenched.



Jeremiah 7:21 (NIV)

21 ““This is what the LORD Almighty, the God of Israel, says: Go ahead, add your burnt offerings to your other sacrifices and eat the meat yourselves!



Jeremiah 7:22-23 (NIV)

²² For when I brought your ancestors out of Egypt and spoke to them, I did not just give them commands about burnt offerings and sacrifices, ²³ **but I gave them this command:** Obey me, and I will be your God and you will be my people. Walk in obedience to all I command you, that it may go well with you.



Jeremiah 7:24 (NIV)

²⁴ But they did not listen or pay attention; instead, they followed the stubborn inclinations of their evil hearts. **They went backward and not forward.**

“The clear evidence of growth is change.”

“If you are not changing you are not growing”

Brian Houston, Hillsong



Jeremiah 7:25-26 (NIV)

²⁵ From the time your ancestors left Egypt until now, day after day, **again and again I sent you my servants the prophets.** ²⁶ **But they did not listen to me or pay attention.** They were stiff-necked and did more evil than their ancestors.'



Jeremiah 7:27-28 (NIV)

²⁷ “When you tell them all this, **they will not listen to you; when you call to them, they will not answer.** ²⁸ Therefore say to them, ‘This is the nation that has not obeyed the LORD its God or responded to correction. Truth has perished; it has vanished from their lips.’



Jeremiah 7:27-28 (NIV)

²⁷ “When you tell them all this, **they will not listen to you; when you call to them, they will not answer.** ²⁸ Therefore say to them, ‘This is the nation that has not obeyed the LORD its God or responded to correction. Truth has perished; it has vanished from their lips.’



Some pointers for us today from the Prophet Jeremiah.

Verse 3 - ***Reform your ways and your actions, and I will let you live in this place.***

Verse 5 - **If you really change your ways and your actions.**

Verse 11 - **But I have been watching! declares the LORD.**



Verse 13 - I spoke to you again and again, but you did not listen; I called you, but you did not answer.

Verse 15 - I will thrust you from my presence

Verse 19 - But am I the one they are provoking declares the LORD.

VERSE 23 – but I gave them this command: Obey me, and I will be your God and you will be my people. Walk in obedience to all I command you, that it may go well with you.



Luke 9:23-26 (NIV)

²³ Then he said to them all: **“Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me.** ²⁴ For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it. ²⁵ What good is it for someone to gain the whole world, and yet lose or forfeit their very self? ²⁶ Whoever is ashamed of me and my words, the Son of Man will be ashamed of them when he comes in his glory and in the glory of the Father and of the holy angels.



It is time for change and I as your Pastor called to “Build His Church” will be driving that change.

So let us start **TODAY!**
Are you in or are you out



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References / Credits

1. <http://www.insight.org/library/articles/church/how-to-recognize-a-healthy.html>
2. Brian Houston - Hillsong Church.