

Did Jesus come to make our lives better on earth?

To heal our sicknesses?

To bring us wealth?

To wipe out poverty?

There are churches that teach these things, but we need to look to the Scriptures for our answers.

Joel Osteen of Lakewood church said, if prosperity means God wants people to be blessed and healthy and have good relationships, then he considers himself a prosperity teacher.

Some truth, some fiction.

Osteen said later, “I think prosperity, and I've said it 1,000 times, it's being healthy, it's having great children, it's having peace of mind. Money is part of it; and yes, I believe God wants us to excel ... to be blessed so we can be a bigger blessing to others.”

Again, part truth, part fiction.

Some have gone further as Creflo Dollar, Chuck Benny Hinn, Kenneth Copeland, Eddie L. Long, Joyce Meyer, and Paula White were called before the US Senate inquiry into the tax-exempt status of religious organizations.

Dollar owns two Rolls-Royces, a private jet, a million-dollar home in Atlanta, a \$2.5 million home in Demarest, NJ, and a home in Manhattan that he bought for \$2.5 million in 2006 and sold for \$3.75 million in 2012. Dollar has refused to disclose his salary. There is no disclosure of financial information by Creflo Dollar Ministries.

*2Co 8:21 for we have regard for what is honorable,
not only in the sight of the Lord, but also in the
sight of men.*

That's why you find a posting of Glen Burnie's
income and expenses posted in the foyer.

This is unlike the Roman Catholic church which
does not disclose income or expenses anywhere.

Bishop Bransfield (WV) gave \$350,000 to other
Bishops to cover up pedophilia. He resigned Sept,
2018, but his house was refurbished for \$4.6
million and he was spending \$1,000 each month
for alcohol.

We do not see the call to lose weight or observe special diets or fasts in the NT.

In the OT, there were special instructions on what the Jews were to eat.

Lev 11:7-8 And the pig, because it parts the hoof and is cloven-footed but does not chew the cud, is unclean to you. (8) You shall not eat any of their flesh, and you shall not touch their carcasses; they are unclean to you.

Act 10:9 And on the next day, as they were on their way, and approaching the city, Peter went up on the housetop about the sixth hour to pray. (10) And he became hungry, and was desiring to eat; but while they were making preparations, he fell into a trance; (11) and he beheld the sky opened up, and a certain object like a great sheet coming down, lowered by four corners to the ground, (12) and there were in it all kinds of four-footed animals and crawling creatures of the earth and birds of the air. (13) And a voice came to him, "Arise, Peter, kill and eat!" (14) But Peter said, "By no means, Lord, for I have never eaten anything unholy and unclean."

Now such teachings are doctrines of demons – not of God. Why the change? God built a nation on earth to provide those who would come into a spiritual nation of all mankind.

Gen 12:3 ... And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

Ex 15.26 ... give ear to his commandments and keep all his statutes, I will put none of the diseases on you that I put on the Egyptians,

Joh 18:36 Jesus answered, "My kingdom is not of this world. ...

1Ti 4:1-5 But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and doctrines of demons, (2) by means of the hypocrisy of liars seared in their own conscience as with a branding iron, (3) men who forbid marriage and advocate abstaining from foods, which God has created to be gratefully shared in by those who believe and know the truth. (4) For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected, if it is received with gratitude; (5) for it is sanctified by means of the word of God and prayer.

Why then do we see some churches of Christ
having health fairs – does God want you to avoid
high blood or diabetes?

Things that have recently been advertised by
churches in the Baltimore area!

2Pe 1:3 seeing that His divine power has granted
to us everything pertaining to life and godliness,
through the true knowledge of Him who called us
by His own glory and excellence.

Does God tell to use such things to get Bible classes
or new members?

Joh 6:23-27 ... When the multitude therefore saw that Jesus was not there, nor His disciples, they themselves got into the small boats, and came to Capernaum, seeking Jesus. And when they found Him on the other side of the sea, they said to Him, "Rabbi, when did You get here?" Jesus answered them and said, "Truly, truly, I say to you, you seek Me, not because you saw signs, but because you ate of the loaves, and were filled. "Do not work for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man shall give to you, ...

God proclaimed the reason for Jesus' coming – Mat
1:21 *"And she will bear a Son; and you shall call
His name Jesus, for it is He who will save His people
from their sins."*

Although Jesus healed while on earth, that was not
why He came, but rather to demonstrate His
power!

Joh 12:37 *But though He had performed so many
signs before them, yet they were not believing in
Him;*

Php 3:18-21 For many walk, of whom I often told you, and now tell you even weeping, that they are enemies of the cross of Christ, (19) whose end is destruction, whose god is their appetite, and whose glory is in their shame, who set their minds on earthly things. (20) For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; (21) who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself.

Brethren, we must be careful when we pray.

Poverty, sickness, pain and death are a part of life.

Mar 14:7 For you always have the poor with you,
and whenever you want, you can do good for
them. But you will not always have me.

Jas 4:1-4 What causes quarrels and what causes fights among you? Is it not this, that your passions are at war within you? (2) You desire and do not have, so you murder. You covet and cannot obtain, so you fight and quarrel. You do not have, because you do not ask. (3) You ask and do not receive, because you ask wrongly, to spend it on your passions. (4) You adulterous people! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

Why was Jesus sent?

Luk 4:18-21 *“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, (19) to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.” (20) And he rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. (21) And he began to say to them, “Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”*

What good news did Jesus preach to the poor?

Mat 11:28-30 Come to me, all who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. (29) Take my yoke upon you, and learn from me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. (30) For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

Mat 25:35-40 *For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, (36) I was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison and you came to me.’ (37) Then the righteous will answer him, saying, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you drink? (38) And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and clothe you? (39) And when did we see you sick or in prison and visit you?’ (40) And the King will answer them, ‘Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me.’*

What is the food and drink Jesus speaks of in this parable?

Joh 4:14 but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

Joh 6:27 "Do not work for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you, for on Him the Father, God, has set His seal."

Nowhere is the church instructed to build hospitals
to care for the ill nor food kitchens to feed the
hungry but rather we are told

Mat 28:19-20 "Go therefore and make disciples of
all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the
Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, (20)
teaching them to observe all that I commanded
you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end
of the age."

What is the result of this teaching?

A group of people who realize the way of life taught by Jesus gives abundantly both now and forevermore!

1Ti 4:7-8 Have nothing to do with irreverent, silly myths. Rather train yourself for godliness; (8) for while bodily training is of some value, godliness is of value in every way, as it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come.

If you would have eternal life – recognize that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God and follow his commands.

Act 22:16 And now what are you waiting for? Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away, calling on his name.'