

A Bad Sign. Published, June 30th 2021. "A BAD SIGN" Paula White at Donald Trump's Inauguration and (Joel Osteen) - John MacArthur Explains

This is a transcript of John MacArthur's sermon on The False Prosperity Gospel.



This came into focus at the inauguration of President Trump in 2017. I was highly disturbing to me when Paula White was called to the podium at the inauguration of the president and she prayed. She is a representative of all that is uncomfortable, unacceptable and even heretical, in the name of Jesus Christ. She's a member of The **Prosperity Gospel, Word Of Faith, Name It And Claim It, Health And Wealth.** I'm not saying that because of some personal animosity toward her. It is somewhat disturbing that she has had multiple husbands and things like that but she represents the kingdom of darkness masquerading as the kingdom of light. And sandwiched in between Samuel Rodriguez and Franklin Graham showed in what proximity the kingdom of darkness can place itself alongside the kingdom of light. There is a new book that I would recommend to you if you really want to read the the history of the movement she's a part of it's called blessed it's written by professor of American religion Kate Bowler who teaches at Duke University. She is a historian. Its not a theological book it is a historical book and it traces the history of the prosperity gospel movement. Oxford university press has published. This very important book. The reviews of this book are really

off the charts, as to the character of its quality. She is part of a movement that includes names like Norman Vincent Pele, Oral Roberts, Joel Osteen Td Jakes, Joyce Meyer, Kenneth Copland, Creflo Dollar. Other names that you hear and that you see if you ever are exposed to quote-unquote Christian television.

It behoves us to understand something of the subtlety of this kind of movement because we want to make sure that we avoid any kind of association with those people. I was thinking about second Corinthians chapter six, that there is no fellowship between light and darkness. There is no time, no place, where we should be unequally yoked together with unbelievers in any kind of ministry, prayer being a ministry. People in that movement have an aberrant view of God. And they have a defective view of God, they have an heretical view of God, that is why the bible is so clear about defining the true God the true God, Father Son and Holy Spirit. The Trinity which by the way is a doctrine you rarely if ever hear explained the doctrine of the trinity, which is the foundation of truth and Christianity. For certain there are all kinds of views of God floating around in our world maybe the common term would be that men have created Gods in their own image. Psalm, 50: 21 says you thought that i was just like you you thought you could make me into your image. There are those who create gods and they are nothing more than a projection of their own humanity. Their own wishes just some insight into that. Here are some misconceptions about God. Popular ones that God lacks ultimate power. God lacks ultimate powers to change things. I have conversations with Larry king before and after we would do Larry king live on CNN network about the the fact that God had to be lacking in power, because if God was Good and the world was full of bad and God didn't change the bad into good, then he didn't have the power. If you keep telling me he would say that God is loving that God is loving and all of this is going on in the world if god is loving then God is impotent, because a loving God wouldn't let this happen. That is God is not omnipotent. That conversation started when 9 11 happened first time. I was on Larry King and he was asking me what is going on here ,what kind of God allows that to happen and 3 000 people to lose their lives in an instant. So God in some people's minds, and in his mind, if he was going to allow for a God he had to allow for a God who was perhaps good but therefore had to be impotent, or there wouldn't be so much bad in the world. God they say has good intentions but he really struggles to see his intentions realized and satan gets in his way. God has all these good intentions but the satan hinders. God and Satan causes things like crime and war and conflict and disaster and destruction and and

so God has these good desires and Satan is out there thwarting all these desires, and maybe we need to come with some kind of a strategy to kind of strip Satan of his power. Maybe we need to chase him away.

And then there is another misconception about God that the real problem isn't that God doesn't have power, it's that God lacks information that God doesn't really have the knowledge necessary he has desires for his Kingdom. A denial of His Omniscience. He has desires to accomplish his will he has desires to bring about salvation, but but he doesn't know the future so he doesn't know what's coming, and when it shows up with the same kind of surprising reality, that it shows up to us he sort of tries to adjust. But he doesn't have any previous knowledge of the future because there is no future to know until it happens. God has no more control of the future than we do they, say, this is a very popular theory about God taught in seminaries. Which is a denial of divine predestination. That is God is not omniscient. He has no more control of the future than you have of the future and he is reacting to everything exactly the way you are reacting the future is unknown to him because it can't be known, because it hasn't happened, so God's just trying to figure it out, as he goes, and so we get him off the hook. He's not really responsible for what just happened because he didn't even know it was going to happen. The true God is perfect in power, perfect in knowledge, perfect in wisdom, perfect in holiness and perfect in sovereign authority. A kind of blasphemy exists at the level of every one of those redefinitions of God this is remaking God in your own image.

Now there's one other thing and this is where we get to Paula White, and those like her, and that is the idea that God is not unique. God is not unique that is he is not really a person transcendent and separate from us. He's not really a person transcendent and separate from us, he shares our nature, he shares our power, he shares our presence, he's sort of mingled in with us and anyone. With enough faith literally puts God into action this is to say that God is not unique he's not transcendent, he's not separate, he's not above and outside of us, he's in and around and through us and we work God by our faith. We are the power of God we are the power that activates him.

Let me just give you a little bit of a background on that there was a book that came out a few years ago called *The Secret* anybody see it, read it millions and millions of copies were sold written by Rhonda Byrne b-y-r-n-e the book is based on pagan Pantheism but Christians read it. Basically it says all things are one with God that's pantheism. God is all and in all and everything is God and God is everything. This is pantheism we are

light, we are the truth, we are the I am, we are God. This is Hinduism this is Deepak Chopra this is God and man are one God, and creation are one God, is the tree God is the floor ,God is the chair, god are the lights. God is everything. This is to appeal to the idea that we have in us divine power we might not say god, but we have divine power to create our own life and out of our choices and our desires we can literally create the world that we want to live in.

Oh, by the way it says in Isaiah 42 8 I am the lord that is my name I will not give my glory to another, yet this is exactly what the book suggests that God in some way is not unique or separate from us, but he is in and around and through us and we literally activate the God power that is resident in us. By our own desires and our own faith and our own words following.

Following the book, the Secret, there is a book called the Shack written by William Young. This book sold in every Christian bookstore across the country. It presents God in the figure of a very large overweight black lady. This is God and the idea is that God is available to you at all times and goes into action based on the faith you have, and the words you speak creative power, uh says uh the Shack is in your words supernatural energy is in your words to create the life that you want. It's called the laws of attraction and what it says is that your thoughts and your words attract reality your thoughts and your words attract reality. The sequence goes like this here it comes know what you want believe, you will get it visualize the fulfillment, speak it out loud and you will attract it like a magnet because you have God power in you. God power to create what it is that you want. Let me say it again know what you want believe you will get it visualize the fulfillment speak it out loud and you will attract it. It works every time with every person just place your order and it's yours. That in a sense is the whole prosperity gospel theology. Your thoughts, your words have creative power. Your life is the reality that you have created what you think and what you believe, and what you visualize, and what you say becomes the reality that you live, because those things attract that reality. You literally have divine creative power, if you like what you get keep saying the same thing, if you don't like what you get start saying something else. So in the book the Secret and the Shack, which popularized this kind of thinking, you just believe what you desire and when you believe it and speak it you will literally cause the universe to start rearranging itself to make it happen for you. Statements like this I'm quoting you have the power and the energy of the universe to create your world you are the designer of your own destiny, you are the author of your own story, the

outcome is what you choose, and you speak.

Where does this stuff come from well apart from the fact that it comes from satan, the deceiver, he could trace it back to the 1800s to a really screwball guy who died in 1866 by the name of Phineas Quimby, in fact Phineas Parkhurst Quimby. He was by his own confession, this is interesting, a mesmerist, there's a lost career a mesmerist, a mysticist a magnetizer and a clairvoyant. Phineas Quimby, who at the same time was a medical doctor and a philosopher.

He launched the idea that your mind has divine power to create your own world he believed that he could see a patient with an illness, not hear a word from the patient, not have any diagnostic technique but clairvoyantly by mesmerism, go into that mind and by tapping into that mind from his mind to the patient's mind. Through the mind of the patient healed the body even though he didn't know what the illness was.

**1800'S**

**PHINEAS  
PARKHURST  
QUIMBY**

**MESMERIST**

**MYSTICIST**

**MAGNETIZER**

**CLAIRVOYANT**

PHINEAZ QUIMBY

He was completely crazy. It was more than that, it was demonic, it was demonic he had no interest in God no interest in religion his major disciple was Mary Baker Eddie, who promulgated Christian science you know what Christian science is, Christian science is like grape nuts. Grape nuts isn't grapes or nuts and Christian science isn't Christian or scientific but the bottom line with Quimby is by your mind you can create whatever you want. And Mary Eddy just took it to the next level and said illness doesn't really exist, at all, it's just a mental state and you can dismiss it, as a reality altogether. Faith then, what you believe, becomes the powerful personal

force of supernatural energy that can overcome all restriction, all restraint and give you the world you want. Quimby went around supposedly healing people. But I read some of the some of the records of this around 1860, it was very interesting that people claimed to be healed, but no one ever knew what they were healed from, because his technique was that he wanted to heal them without knowing what was wrong with them. Pretty hard to verify that but the bottom line is you can have whatever you desire and what do you think they desire wealth, health, prosperity, success fulfillment, satisfaction, the wish list never is like this, humility, brokenness, holiness, sacrifice, unselfishness, love, not so much, not so much not about virtue. It's always health wealth, success, all temporal all material. That's the prosperity gospel. Now if all that sounds familiar, though you haven't read the Shack and you haven't read the Secret, and you haven't read Bless, the history of this it's probably because you have a television and you've been exposed to this philosophy, which in reality isn't nearly as philosophical as it is material it's a Ponzi scheme to make the person proclaiming it rich at the expense of everybody else who's duped. It's a scheme that people in the word faith movement prosperity gospel name it and claim it movement use to get money from Benny Hinn to Marilyn Hickey to Frederick Price to Joyce Meyer to Kenneth Copeland to John Hagee, Robert Tilton, Koontz, Roberts Hagan, all of them all the way down to Paula White. They all claim that every so-called Christian has the personal divine power to recreate life's realities, into exactly what he or she wants. It's all theirs and you use the name of Jesus , the Genie, you rub the magic lamp and Jesus the genie pops out, just waiting to be activated by the power of sovereign faith in a person, to give that person what he or she wants, by the power of attraction. All this in the name of Jesus Chris. Is not just a lie it's a lie that basically preys on those who are desperate. It's a predatory lie, it's , it's for predators who want to become rich at the expense of disappointed troubled people.

I have to give you one more consideration we hear all the time that the largest church in America is Joel Osteen's church, in Houston, Texas. His church meets in what was formerly the Houston rockets basketball arena. Seating tens of thousands of people. He is the newest version of this Phineas Quimby mind creating kind of Pantheistic heresy. Michael Horton has written an interesting book called Christless Christianity on page 68 he says Osteen has achieved the dubious success of making The Name It And Claim it teaching of kenneth Copeland and Benny Hinn main stream. He has brought it into the mainstream you hear somebody like the largest selling Christian author in america Max Lucado say he has two favorite

preachers Joel Osteen and John MacArthur. What said MacArthur, let me be blunt Joel Osteen is a pagan religionist, he is he is a legalist, he is a quasi-pantheist and Jesus Christ is a footnote to satisfy the critics, and to give him access to Christians he believes that men save themselves by their inherent power. He has a definitive book called Your Best Life Now, he says that anyone can create all the dreams that he desires by faith and words, You want health, you want wealth, you want happiness, success, you want a new car, new house, a new job, a new wife, whatever, whatever you literally want you can speak it into existence. Let me give you quotes from his book Your Best Life Now, and oh, by the way this is only your best life if you're going to hell. If you're going to heaven this is not your best life. So for those people who follow him, this may be their best life. Let me quote if you develop an image of success, health, abundance, joy, peace, and happiness, nothing on earth will be able to hold those things from you. That's the law of attraction.

Another quote all of us are born for earthly greatness.

You were born to win, you were born to be a champion,

God wants you to live in abundance. He wants to give you the desires of your heart.

Before we were formed he prepared us to live abundant lives to be happy, healthy and whole, but when our thinking becomes contaminated it is no longer in line with God's word.

Here's another quote, you're thinking positive and he will bring your desires to pass, he regards you as a strong courageous successful person, you are on your way to a new level of glory. God's word is not scripture God's word is the message you are hearing from God and then you speak forth and you attract the reality that you speak. Joel Osteen says, believe visualize, speak out loud and your words release your power giving life to what you want.

Here's some more quotes friend there's a miracle in your mouth.

There's another one listen to this prayer Joel Osteen's prayer.

I thank you father that I have your favor, that sounds like luke 18. oh,

Thank you Father that I'm not like this poor publican.

Here's another I know these principles are true because they have worked for me and my wife.

Well that's a good basis to determine whether something's true they work for you because you're getting rich at the expense of people who are divesting themselves of what they have, on false pretenses. You're at the top of the Ponzi scheme.

He says we even speak into existence a perfect parking spot at the mall.

Here's the theology behind the thinking quote. God has already done everything he's going to do, the ball is in your court.

Really so God's not sovereign. I'm sovereign the ball is in my court. This is hyper Pelagianism. At this point we recognize the real source of Joel Osteen's religion, and all the rest of these people. He is a mouthpiece for satan, so are all the rest of them.

So when I watched says' MacArthur, the inauguration and I see Paula White, in the middle of just terrifying and then I hear the the new president say that she's his favorite preacher to whom he's been listening since 2007, frightening. Why are all these false teachers so successful because they're in line with satan who's the God of this world, prince of the power of the air who rules in the sons of disobedience. This is going to be successful because the fallen world will embrace it. This is false Christianity from hell.

No biblical understanding of God, no biblical understanding of man, no biblical understanding of sin, no recognition of total depravity, man's universal inability to do anything in the flesh that pleases God, let alone think himself to be God who can speak into existence something that he desires . Let me tell you something God does not give the unregenerate man, what he naturally longs for. God doesn't fulfill the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life. And when you say that it is God giving you what you in your natural fallen longings want, you are calling God satan, that's what you're doing. I'll say it again God does not give the unregenerate person what in his natural longings he desires that's the love of the world, the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, the pride of life. God is not in the business of fulfilling evil selfish self-indulgent desires. What the gospel does promise is salvation for the broken and the shattered , and the heart sick, and the guilty, and the fearful and the threatened, who have come to grips with their sin and the judgment of God, and desperately want deliverance.

We have to know, the true God. It's just such a grief to me. I remember the psalm, I said the reproaches that fall on you fall on me, what does that really mean? Well, Jesus when he went into the temple, and he tore into everybody, and threw him out and that must have been, to me that's something , there are a lot of scenes in the gospels I would want to see. That scene is probably the favorite, how does one person throw out tens of thousands of people, his is, this is amazing this is yes. You say but he's divine but he's he's limited to a human expression. What in the world did he do and when he threw them all out he said you've turned my father's house into a into a robbers cave, a robber's den.



You know you can tell when you really love God when you feel the pain of him being dishonored. You know I'm looking at the inauguration like other people I'm saying you know this I'm hoping for the best in the future. I'm hoping for the best. I want to see all the things that anybody would want to see happen in the world, that would benefit life and make life better and protect people, who otherwise might be harmed, and all of that I want the best. I want to see common grace. I guess appreciated in its fullness but I'm realizing even as i watch this that satan is in a high profile position right in between two evangelical leaders

**THE FALSE GOD  
OF THE  
PROSPERTY  
GOSPEL**



**JOHN MACARTHUR**

<https://youtu.be/HDY87Im-Olw>

