Is Emerging Church Leader, Brian McLaren,

Turning His Back on the Cross?

TBC Today: "No Doubt We're In The Last Days" News Tuesday, March 22, 2005

A note from Pastor Kevin Lea follows this article.

Is Brian McLaren becoming an enemy of the Cross of Jesus Christ? While his signature and endorsement on the back of such books as Tony Campolo's "Speaking My Mind" and Dave Fleming's "The Seeker's Way", was horrible enough, that was mild compared to what he has now done.

In the midst of Purpose Driven mania and an apparently sleeping church, Brian McLaren has endorsed a book that calls the doctrine of the Cross a vile doctrine.

That book? None other than Alan Jones' new book, "Reimagining Christianity". Alan Jones in an interspiritualist and mystic in every sense of the word. Take a look at the Living Spiritual Teachers Project, of which Jones is involved. This group of about twenty-five includes Zen and Buddhist monks, New Agers and even Marianne Williamson and her Course in Miracles. The goal of this group is to destroy the belief that Jesus Christ is the only way for redemption and to integrate other world religious beliefs into Christianity.

Not only does Alan Jones believe the Cross to be vile, he says that the spiritual practice of contemplative prayer will draw Christians into the realms of all other world religions. Now on this point, we have to agree with Mr. Jones. He couldn't be more right.

Right now there are two groups of people who are rushing interspirituality and contemplative prayer into the world's midst. The first group consists of those who are not afraid nor do they keep secret the beliefs they hold. They include such as Thomas Merton, Thomas Keating, Wayne Teasdale, Bede Griffiths, Robert Schuller, Tilden Edwards, Alan Jones, Marcus Borg and the list goes on.

The second group, and in a sense a far more dangerous group because they outwardly wear the clothing of sheep, are nothing more than disciples of the first group. They include, to name a few: Richard Foster, Brennan Manning, Bruce Wilkinson, Eugene Peterson, John Ortberg, John Eldredge, Bill Hybels, and yes Rick

Warren and Brian McLaren.

In time, we believe this second group will merge with this first group, proudly and openly. With Brian McLaren's help that task will be accomplished far sooner than some had expected.

<u>http://www.lighthousetrailsresearch.com/SpecialNewsAlertMarch202005.htm</u> [TBC: Contact us for a copy of our Purpose Driven Life critique or read it online at our website: <u>www.thebereancall.org</u>.]

Note from Pastor Kevin Lea: The scriptures are clear that in the last days there will be a great falling away or apostasy from the truth.

- 2 Th 2:3 Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition,
- 1 Tim 4:1 Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons.

The 2 Thessalonians verse indicates the apostasy will allow the Antichrist to come to power and acceptance as the false Messiah. It is increasingly obvious that the church leaders who are turning away from the exclusive gospel of Jesus Christ are in the beginning stages of fulfilling these prophecies. The "Jesus" of Brian McLaren, Tony Campolo and others is not the Jesus of the Bible and their flavor of apostasy is clearly intended to unite the religions of the world into the final, global, false religion which will be the spiritual prop for the false Messiah.

The false teachers in the Apostle Paul's day were trying to mix observance of the law into salvation by grace through faith. In doing so they were preaching another gospel and another Jesus. Paul issued a strong warning to the Galatian and Corinthian church, telling them to turn away from these false teachers.

Gal 1:6 I marvel that you are turning away so soon from Him who called you in the grace of Christ, to a different gospel, 7 which is not another; but there are some who trouble you and want to pervert the gospel of Christ. 8 But even if we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel to you than what we have preached to you, let him be accursed. 9 As we have said before, so now I say again, if anyone preaches any other gospel to you than what you have received, let him be accursed. (NKJ)

1 Cor 16:22 If anyone does not love the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be accursed. O Lord, come! (NKJ)

2 Cor 11:3 But I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, so your minds may be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. 4 For if he who comes preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached, or if you receive a different spirit which you have not received, or a different gospel which you have not accepted-- you may well put up with it! (NKJ)

If Paul were here today, he would issue the same warning to those following the teaching of the men mentioned above. I pray that you will resist the "feel good" and "tolerant" message of these false teachers and instead keep the message of the gospel pure as we see the coming of our Lord Jesus approaching.

What is the pure message? - That all have sinned and have fallen short of the glory of God. The wages for our sins is death in the eternal Lake of Fire, forever separated from a holy and just God. But God did not desire that any should perish, so while we were yet sinners, Jesus, born of a virgin, and who lived a perfect and sinless life, willingly offered up His life on the cross on our behalf, so that all who believed in Him could receive the gift of eternal life. Those who accept Jesus on God's terms will have forgiveness and eternal life. Those who reject Jesus are still lost in their trespasses and sins and will not see life because the wrath of God will abide on them for all eternity. God will not be changing His gospel plan just because Alan Jones' wants to "Reimage Christianity" in order to make it more palatable to the global masses.

Romans 3:23, 6:23, 5:8, 2 Peter 3:9, Matthew 1:23, 2 Cor 5:21, 1 John 5:11-13, John 3:35-36.