

# God, the Gospel, and Glenn Beck

*Note from Pastor Kevin Lea follows these two articles.*

Dr. Russell Moore - Guest Columnist - 8/30/2010 11:00:00 AM



A Mormon television star stands in front of the Lincoln Memorial and calls American Christians to revival. He assembles some evangelical celebrities to give testimonies, and then preaches a God and country revivalism that leaves the evangelicals cheering that they've heard the gospel, [right there in the nation's capital](#).

The news media pronounces him the new leader of America's Christian conservative movement, and a flock of America's Christian conservatives have no problem with that.



If you'd told me that ten years ago, I would have assumed it was from the pages of an evangelical apocalyptic novel about the end-times. But it's not. It's from this week's headlines. And it is a scandal.

Fox News commentator Glenn Beck, of course, is that Mormon at the center of all this. Beck isn't the problem. He's an entrepreneur, he's brilliant, and, hats off to him, he knows his market ([see video news report](#)). Latter-day Saints have every right to speak, with full religious liberty, in the public square. I'm quite willing to work with Mormons on various issues, as citizens working for the common good. What concerns me here is not what this says about Beck or the "Tea Party" or any other entertainment or political figure. What concerns me is about what this says about the Christian churches in the United States.

It's taken us a long time to get here, in this plummet from Francis Schaeffer to Glenn Beck. In order to be this gullible, American Christians have had to endure years of vacuous talk about undefined "revival" and "turning America back to God" that was less about anything uniquely Christian than about, at best, a generically theistic civil religion and, at worst, some partisan political movement.

Rather than cultivating a Christian vision of justice and the common good (which would have, by necessity, been nuanced enough to put us sometimes at odds with our political allies), we've relied on populist God-and-country sloganeering and outrage-generating talking heads. We've tolerated heresy and buffoonery in our leadership as long as with it there is sufficient political "conservatism" and a sufficient commercial venue to sell our books and products.

Too often, and for too long, American "Christianity" has been a political agenda in search of a gospel useful enough to accommodate it. There is a liberation theology of the Left, and there is also a liberation theology of the Right, and both are at heart mammon worship. The liberation theology of the Left often wants a Barabbas, to fight off the oppressors as though our ultimate problem were the reign of Rome and not the reign of death. The liberation theology of the Right wants a golden calf, to represent religion and to remind us of all the economic security we had in Egypt. Both want a Caesar or a Pharaoh, not a Messiah.

Leaders will always be tempted to bypass the problem behind the problems: captivity to sin, bondage to the accusations of the demonic powers, the sentence of death. That's why so many of our Christian superstars smile at crowds of thousands, reassuring them that they don't like to talk about sin. That's why other Christian celebrities are seen to be courageous for fighting their culture wars, while they carefully leave out the sins most likely to be endemic to the people paying the bills in their movements.

Where there is no gospel, something else will fill the void: therapy, consumerism, racial or class

resentment, utopian politics, crazy conspiracy theories of the left, crazy conspiracy theories of the right; anything will do. The prophet Isaiah warned us of such conspiracies replacing the Word of God centuries ago (Is. 8:12–20). As long as the Serpent’s voice is heard, “You shall not surely die,” the powers are comfortable.

This is, of course, not new. Our Lord Jesus faced this test when Satan took him to a high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the earth, and their glory. Satan did not mind surrendering his authority to Jesus. He didn’t mind a universe without pornography or Islam or abortion or nuclear weaponry. Satan did not mind Judeo-Christian values. He wasn’t worried about “revival” or “getting back to God.” What he opposes was the gospel of Christ crucified and resurrected for the sins of the world.

We used to sing that old gospel song, “I will cling to an old rugged cross, and exchange it some day for a crown.” The scandalous scene at the Lincoln Memorial indicates that many of us want to exchange it in too soon. To Jesus, Satan offered power and glory. To us, all he needs offer is celebrity and attention.

Mormonism and Mammonism are contrary to the gospel of Jesus Christ. They offer another Lord Jesus than the One offered in the Scriptures and Christian tradition, and another way to approach him. An embrace of these tragic new vehicles for the old Gnostic heresy is unloving to our Mormon friends and secularist neighbors, and to the rest of the watching world. Any “revival” that is possible without the Lord Jesus Christ is a “revival” of a different kind of spirit than the Spirit of Christ (1 Jn. 4:1-3).

The answer to this scandal isn’t a retreat, as some would have it, to an allegedly apolitical isolation. Such attempts lead us right back here, in spades, to a hyper-political wasteland. If the churches are not forming consciences, consciences will be formed by the status quo, including whatever demagogues can yell the loudest or cry the hardest. The answer isn’t a narrowing sectarianism, retreating further and further into our enclaves. The answer includes local churches that preach the gospel of Jesus Christ, and disciple their congregations to know the difference between the kingdom of God and the latest political whim.

It’s sad to see so many Christians confusing Mormon politics or American nationalism with the gospel of Jesus Christ. But, don’t get me wrong, I’m not pessimistic. Jesus will build his church, and he will build it on the gospel. He doesn’t need American Christianity to do it. Vibrant, loving, orthodox Christianity will flourish, perhaps among the poor of Haiti or the persecuted of Sudan or the outlawed of China, but it will flourish.

And there will be a new generation, in America and elsewhere, who will be ready for a gospel that is more than just Fox News at prayer.

## **Have We Anointed An Unworthy Shepherd?**

**By Jan Markell**

[www.olivetreeviews.org](http://www.olivetreeviews.org)

August 31, 2010

Could we say that the church has failed to wake up very many people so, by default, a Mormon -- Glenn Beck -- has made quite a stir and has become an official spiritual leader? He rallied hundreds of thousands last weekend with themes of faith and love of our country. Americans are desperate and fearful of what is coming upon this land so they look to a Mormon for leadership. I am glad his Saturday event was successful for just some of these reasons:

\* Americans came to celebrate America after the highest leaders in our land have trashed her around the world.

\* They focused on what was right in America and they also honored our military.

\* Faith and patriotism were lifted up -- two items that the Left despises.

\* Attendees were passionate -- traveling thousands of miles and, once arriving in D.C., walking for miles, even if handicapped.

\* Conservative Americans must gather together to fortify one another. Such events strengthen one another and offer hope. Finding kindred spirits in a depressing age is essential.

\* Whether the Left heard or not, the attendees sent a message that they are fed up. November is around the corner and they had better look out.

In light of the positive aspects of the honoring America weekend, could there possibly be a down side? **I tried to do a fair and balanced radio program last Saturday, August 28, with Brannon Howse, former Mormon Ed Decker, and apologetics' expert Eric Barger.** We raised a few issues, and you can hear them [here](#). I have received some thanks for the honesty and integrity of the two hours, and a few hate e-mails and calls for the position the panel took, which will be explained in the paragraphs below.

The theme of the Friday gathering of spiritual leaders and the Saturday rally was an encouragement to turn back to God. The not-so-subtle theme was "many faiths, but one God."

I believe many conservative Christians would have been relieved if Glenn had not brought out Mormon doctrine that very few are familiar with. He stated at the Saturday event that the American Indians are the "chosen people" -- blatant Mormon doctrine. The crowd applauded in approval. You can [view that here at the 4:30 mark.](#)

He stated -- and has affirmed this on his radio and television programs -- that God is the only answer. While much was troublesome last weekend, who else is sticking their neck out saying we have to turn back to God and gathering hundreds of thousands in the process? It would be wonderful if Franklin Graham or even Joel Rosenberg could attract a half-million people and deliver the true gospel. We aren't quite there yet. Again, by default, we defer to Glenn Beck.

The weekend opened on Friday night, August 27, with Glenn's "Divine Destiny" program which again, is straight out of Mormonism. Many participants have implied, or blatantly stated, that Glenn is a "saved Mormon" or on the way to becoming one.

**Friend and frequent radio guest John McTernan, was present both days** just to observe. [He writes on his blog,](#) "There were several prayers offered at the Friday event and none were made in the name of Jesus. I was deeply grieved after I left.

*"On Saturday, I attended the rally. If it had been just political, I could accept Beck as a leader; however, it went way beyond that. I am not questioning anything about Beck's character or motives. What I am deeply grieved about is that this was not led by the real church of the Lord Jesus Christ. Is America in such desperate spiritual condition that masses of Christians will follow a Mormon for spiritual revival?"*

*McTernan continues, "The sheep in America are desperate and fearful of what is coming, so they look to a Mormon for leadership. A Mormon leading a meeting like this for America turning back to God should have God-fearing pastors in America on their knees crying out to God for mercy. I am grieved, not so much with Glenn Beck, but that the church is so pitifully weak that a Mormon can now lead God's people, and they do not see the spiritual danger."*

What are major Mormon beliefs and how do they play into this scenario? When God is the professed focus of the August 27-28 weekend, what is the deeper meaning? And Glenn is outspoken about his Mormon faith. He so-stated that fact many times over the weekend and in the weeks and months leading up to it. It was not subtle or hidden. But Glenn does not bring out the bullet points below because it reads like science fiction.

**Mormon theology teaches:**

- \* God was born and raised on another planet.
- \* He has a harem of wives.
- \* They produce spirit-babies that are sent to earth; there they gain bodies and earn sainthood.
- \* Jesus is the brother of Lucifer.
- \* Jesus is the chosen/elected savior by a council of gods from other worlds.
- \* America is the promised land, not Israel. The holy city is Independence, Missouri, not Jerusalem. Jesus' latter-day agenda is to return to Missouri.
- \* The U.S. Constitution is as sacred as the Book of Mormon. In the latter days, it will be under siege and will be saved by Mormons. Thus, we must "reclaim America" to save the Constitution and usher in a genuine age of Mormon leadership. They want to build a Mormon kingdom on earth, similar to modern day Dominionists/Kingdom Now proponents within Christianity. Founder Joseph Smith had a socialistic philosophy and wished to have a society that shared things in common.
- \* America's founding fathers were "spirit babies" who created a "sacred Constitution."
- \* Salvation is works-based and not through grace and faith.

This is what Glenn Beck believes. Is the god of this system, this faith, the one he referred to when he stated, "Today, America turns back to God?" Is his god concept one we can turn back to?

For greater insights, [visit the Web site](#) of former Mormon and radio guest, **Ed Decker**. Also visit the [apologetics' site](#) of **Eric Barger**.

[Brannon Howse](#) has done extensive radio programs and written cutting-edge articles on this issue for over a week.

**Jim Garlow**, a popular and influential pastor who partnered with the Mormon faithful in California to defend traditional marriage, was quoted recently in [CNN's Belief Blog](#), saying, "I have interviewed persons who have talked specifically with Glenn about his personal salvation -- persons extremely well known in Christianity -- and they have affirmed (using language evangelicals understand), 'Glenn is saved. He understands receiving Christ as Savior.'" "

In short, Mormonism has a different holy book, father, Jesus, concept of grace, salvation, end-times, etc. You cannot be a "saved Mormon." Evangelicals who should know better already call him a "brother in Christ." Some of them share the Mormon "dominion" of the earth and this is their connection. Promoting this false end-time theology of making the earth perfect seems to trump everything else. *We can't save the earth and make it perfect. Jesus Christ has to return to do that.*

So, was the following the purpose? Brannon Howse has posted a story at his [Worldview Weekend site](#) that the *LDS Examiner* states through Mormon writer Greg West, "As a Mormon, I have to consider an unintended message throughout Beck's work, which has culminated in this event. That message is: *'Mormons are Christian believers. Despite nearly two centuries of misrepresentation and religious envy by sectarian Christianity, Beck has achieved the visibility, prominence, and has had the time day after day, week after week, to speak openly and truly about his core beliefs. Those statements of faith have disoriented and confused those who had previously believed the lies about Mormons.'*"

**West has proved our point. "Evangelicals and Mormons Together" will be next. Why not? A Mormon successfully called a nation back to God.**

Most who stand with Glenn, however, do not embrace this theology. Some Christian leaders are just deceived and others think it is hip and cool to align themselves with a man who is so prominent and so pro-America.

[John McTernan states](#), *"I know Mormonism real well. There is a Mormon prophecy that America is going to be nearly destroyed with the Constitution hanging by a thread. A Mormon savior would arrive and lead the Mormon church to save America. I can see this coming into play real soon. Maybe the revival Beck is talking about is a massive conversion to Mormonism."*

We sincerely hope Glenn Beck will become a true brother in Christ. We can pray to that end and also that Christian leaders will sharpen their discernment and understand the disservice they are doing to the body of Christ by exalting an unsaved man, and allowing him to be a virtual shepherd over millions of Americans who just want to take back America.

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**To listen to the roundtable discussion on air last Saturday, August 28, with Jan's guests Brannon Howse, Eric Barger, and Ed Decker, [visit this link](#).**

*Note: Due to volume, we cannot reply to e-mails although all are read. To unsubscribe, scroll to the very bottom and click "safeunsubscribe."*

Awaiting His return,

Jan Markell

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*Note from Pastor Kevin Lea: I hope these two articles have helped the reader discern the very subtle deception that is sweeping into the "church" in these last days. We must remember that those who are not bond slaves of the biblical Lord Jesus are in fact working for the enemy and we shouldn't be yoking with them.*

*There is a great example from scripture that should be our guide in discerning what the Lord thinks about this debate. It comes from Israel's history during the days of the kings when the Jews were divided between the northern ten tribes (Israel) and southern two tribes (Judah). Israel had departed from God and was worshipping idols. Judah was also at times suffering under poor leadership, but they still desired to serve the true God.*

*When Amaziah became king of Judah, he mustered Judah's military to protect the nation from the people of Seir (Southern Jordan today), but was afraid the numbers were not sufficient to ensure victory. Therefore, he hired mercenary soldiers from the northern ten tribes of Israel to supplement his forces. But God sent a prophet to Amaziah warning him that if he allowed the idol worshipping northern tribes of Israel to join his army, then they would all be defeated by the people of Seir.*

*2 Chronicles 25:7-9: But a man of God came to him, saying, "O king, do not let the army of Israel go with you, for the LORD is not with Israel-- not with any of the children of Ephraim. "But if you go [with the hired troops from Israel], be gone! Be strong in battle! Even so, **God shall make you fall before the enemy**; for God has power to help and to overthrow." Then Amaziah said to the man of God, "But what shall we do about the hundred talents [of silver] which I have given to the troops of Israel?" And the man of God answered, "The LORD is able to give you much more than this." (NKJ)*

*Amaziah listened to the prophet and repented, sent the troops from northern Israel home and was victorious in battle. Those who read the rest of the story (2 Chronicles 25) will see that Judah still paid a very high price for Amaziah's disobedience in trying to establish this unholy alliance.*

*In the New Testament, God has made it very clear that we are not to join with those who do not serve our Lord Jesus. I have found that whenever we disobey God, bad things happen. Based on this fact, the idea of Christians embracing a Mormon as their leader will not end well.*

*2 Corinthians 6:14-17: Do not be unequally yoked together with unbelievers. For what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? And what accord has Christ with Belial? Or what part has a believer with an unbeliever? And what agreement has the temple of God with idols? For you are the temple of the living God. As God has said: "I will dwell in them and walk among them. I will be their God, and they shall be My people." Therefore "Come out from among them and be separate," says the Lord. "Do not touch what is unclean, and I will receive you." (NKJ)*

*As a final point, true revival in this country cannot come without repentance on the part of the people to turn away from the sins that are an abomination to God. The scriptures are clear that God will send a delusion and judgment in the form of evil rulers, other nations attacking and "natural disasters" upon a people that turn away from the God of the Bible and commit sins against His law. Unless we stop slaughtering babies in the womb, embracing every form of sexual immorality that Hollywood and the multi-billion dollar porn industry can put out, etc. etc., then we will never see a "constitutional republic" again, no matter what Beck and others attempt to do. (See Deuteronomy 28 and Leviticus 26).*

*True Christians can have hope in the midst of the rapidly increasing collapse of America; our Jesus is coming soon. When He does, He will be setting up His Kingdom and it will never be moved! Halleluiah!*