

I've been recently watching the documentaries Father of Lights and Holy Ghost and feel incredibly blessed and encouraged by them. However, when I went to research more on Todd White, I found a site that said he was a false teacher. I understand why certain Christians say people like Joyce Meyer and Joel Osteen are false teachers, but I have been greatly blessed by reading one of Joyce's books. I don't think you have to throw the baby out with the bathwater. I'm a Christian of just over 4 years so I still need to double check any movies, books, etc. that I get into. So my question is: Is Todd White a good example to follow up on and learn from media/books/videos/etc? Are his teachings Bible based? Why or why not? Same question goes for Joel and Joyce. Thank you so much for your time.

Todd White is a false teacher who claims that creation is “waiting for the sons of man to be made manifest”. He is part of the Latter Rain cult.¹ White departs from historical biblical Christianity in that he perverts the teaching of Roman 8:19. Regarding this passage John MacArthur wrote:

All creation is personified to be, as it were, longing for transformation from the curse and its effects. [T]he revealing. Lit. “an uncovering,” or “an unveiling.” When Christ returns, God’s children will share His glory.²

Latter Rain cultists teach that men should take dominion of the earth to change it in preparation for Jesus’ return. Unfortunately, they look *around* rather than looking *up* as the bible instructs (Is 40:26). Christians are good stewards of the earth. They are to be more concerned with dying souls; however, rather than dying trees. Environmental theologians are people and earth-centered not Christ-centered. Men must be saved from their sins (Mt 1:21). James wrote: Whoever turns a sinner from the error of his way will save his life from death (Jas 5:20a).

Joyce Meyer is a false teacher who claims that Jesus stopped being the Son of God for a time. No cult or ‘ism will ever get by Jn 1:1: In the beginning was the Word and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. Cults and ‘isms mix truth with error (Ga 5:9). Meyer claims that Jesus was born again. The bible teaches that Jesus is holy and could not be corrupted (Ps. 16:10). He was like all men yet without sin (Heb 4:15). Meyer teaches that Jesus paid for man’s sin in Hell (e.g. a continued atonement after the cross). Jesus however; said “It is finished” (Jn 19:30). Meyer claims that Jesus went to hell where he was tormented. The bible teaches that Jesus descended into the lower parts of the earth. There is no mention of an additional battle there (Eph 4:9). Meyer teaches that men are little gods. The bible teaches that God is the creator (Is. 40:28) and men are his *creation* (Gen. 1:26, 27).

Joel Olsteen is a false teacher from the Word Faith movement (e.g. ‘name it and claim it’ theology). He mixes occultic practices of visualization³ into his teaching, as well.⁴ If Olsteen’s claims are to be believed, then one can speak or visualize himself out of sickness and/or out of debt.⁵ Though God does heal individuals and relieve them from various burdens when asked, he is not a celestial butler. Olsteen’s “Jesus” also fought Satan in hell. Men don’t need a pep talk, they need the truth. The apostle Paul did not preach and teach self-improvement. He taught that men must die to self (1 Co 15:31).

¹ Also known as Dominionism, Third Wave, Latter Rain, Kingdom Now, Joel’s Army, Manifest Sons of God, Charismatic Renewal and Charismania.

² MacArthur, J., Jr. (Ed.). (1997). The MacArthur Study Bible (electronic ed., p. 1708). Nashville, TN: Word Pub.

³ Also called positive confession.

⁴ Popularized by David Cho from Korea.

⁵ An element of the New Age heresy.

Jesus said that men must be born again (Jn 3:7). The bible is not people-centered. It is God-centered. Jesus said take up your cross and follow me (Mt 16:24).

Ecumenical movements seeks to unite all religions (Re 13:1-18). While Christian unity is desirable, Jesus said, "I came to divide" (Lk 12:51). Cults and 'isms exclude God's holiness and man's need for repentance from their watered down message (Ac 26:20). Adrian Rogers said, "If you take part of the truth, and try to make that part of the truth, all of the truth, then that part of the truth becomes an untruth." These and other false teachers speak of "*the holiness*" but not *Christ's* holiness. Jesus said: "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me (Jn 14:6)."

Men don't need grins, they need the gospel. The apostle Peter said, ""Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ *for the remission of sins* (Ac 2:38a, emphasis mine). God does not sit on heaven's throne and say *let's make a deal*. God says *this is the deal*. Men must believe in the Jesus of scripture.

Paul wrote: Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened (Ro 1:20–21). Vain imaginations are willful (Jer. 18:12) and deceitful (Prov. 12:20). If one has a vain imagination such as *I can live for the devil and still be saved*, he is mistaken.⁶ Trust in the Jesus of scripture avoids such vain imagination (Jer. 3:17). Jesus said: If you love me, *you will keep my commandments* (Jn 14:15, emphasis mine). It is the Christian's job to cast down these imaginations and to bring into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ (2 Co 10:5).

⁶ Movement called Free Grace theology whereas Paul wrote: Know ye not that the *unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God*? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God (1 Co 6:8–10, emphasis mine).