

I have seen videos of Steve Cioccolanti from Discover Ministries in YouTube. I just wanted to know if he is a faithful, reliable preacher. The videos are compelling but some I don't agree with, like speaking in tongues. What are your thoughts?

Cioccolanti has been criticized (primary by Baptists) as he tends to lean more toward the beliefs of Charismatics.¹ Glenn E. Chatfield, a critic of Cioccolanti, writes the following:

Chatfield: “Cioccolanti’s teachings on eschatology play fast and loose with conspiracy theories, numerology, and space aliens.”

The beast antichrist system is already present in the world.² The apostle John wrote: This is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world (1 Jn 4:3). It is important to stay close to God (Jn 15:4) because this system and perhaps even the man, the Antichrist, is present in the world (2 Thess 2:9).

The bible speaks of a coming end-time one world government and religion (Re 13:1-18).

Numerology is not scriptural but the meaning of numbers in scripture is symbolic.³

Chatfield: His speculations range from rational to bizarre, especially when he starts talking about the “cover-up” at Roswell.

Area 51 has attracted the interest of alien enthusiasts for years. The bible does not teach that the universe is inhabited by aliens. Speaking of the stars, the bible merely says: “He [God] made the stars also (Ge 1:16).” Hypothetically if there were aliens in outer space, they could not be saved because Jesus died for men *in Adam* (Ge 3:15, Ro 5:12–14).

Part of the end time delusion will likely involve so-called aliens which in reality are demons who deceive. The Jesuits have constructed a large telescope named L.U.C.I.F.E.R. to look for these beings who they hope will bring a better gospel.

The apostle Peter wrote:

There were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction. 2 Pe 2:1

¹ Baptists tend to reject the movement of the Holy Spirit.

² The term “conspiracy theory” was coined by the C.I.A.. The Council on Foreign Relations’ working groups are working with the C.I.A. to implement the Georgia Guidestone agenda which will be fulfilled through Project Black Star.

³ Numbers. Symbolic of: One—unity (Deut. 6:4; Matt. 19:6); Two—unity (Gen. 1:27) division (1 Kin. 18:21; Matt. 7:13, 14); Three—the Trinity (Matt. 28:19; 2 Cor. 13:14), resurrection (Hos. 6:1, 2; Matt. 12:40; Luke 13:32), completion (1 Cor. 13:13), testing (Judg. 7:16); Four—completion (Matt. 13:4–8; John 4:35); Five—incompletion (Matt. 25:2; Matt. 25:15–20); Six—man’s testing (Gen. 1:27, 31; Rev. 13:18); Seven—completion (Ex. 20:10), fulfillment (Josh. 6:4), perfection (Rev. 1:4); Eight—new beginning (Ezek. 43:27; 1 Pet. 3:20); Ten—completion (Dan. 7:7); Ten—God’s part (Gen. 14:20; Mal. 3:10); Twelve—God’s purpose (John 11:9; Rev. 21:12–17); Forty—testing (Jon. 3:4; Matt. 4:2); judgment (Num. 14:33; Ps. 95:10); Seventy—God’s completed purpose (Jer. 25:11; Dan. 9:24). Thomas Nelson Publishers. (1996). Nelson’s quick reference topical Bible index (pp. 452–453). Nashville, TN: Thomas Nelson Publishers.

Those who do not receive the love of the truth now (2 Thess 2:10)⁴ will be sent a strong delusion by God (2 Thess 2:11).

Some angels "kept not their first estate" (Jud 6). Giants called Nephilim walked the earth at one time (Ge 6:4, Nu 13:33). David killed the last of them (2 Sa 21:22).⁵ A Nephilim-type being may reappear in the future as individuals take the mark of the beast during the Great Tribulation (Re 13:17). Should one take the mark of the beast at that time, he will be damned to hell for all eternity (Re 14:9-10).

Chatfield: From his church site, under "Core Beliefs," there is this statement about women in ministry: "Women are an integral part of the Body of Christ which is neither male nor female, with gifts differing according to the grace that is given to them." So does this mean that Steve believes women should be in leadership positions such as elders and pastors?

Women were created equal to men (Ge 2:19, 20; Co 3:10). Adam (אָדָם) means humankind. Adam *and* Eve named the animals (Ge 2:19). Headship is not biblical.

Junia (a woman) was called an apostle (Ro 16:7). Her name was changed to man's name by Roman Catholics in the 14th century. Christ's gospel broke down barriers. Women can: preach, teach, lead.

Chatfield: Like many others in the charismatic genre, according to his church's "Core Beliefs," they teach "divine healing" - with members of the church being the healers. I believe this gift was limited to the Apostles. Additionally, he has DVDs teaching this stuff, and he also makes one's "words" important in healing - positive confession stuff, i.e, like the "Word of Faith" (he has a whole section headed, "speak words of life," under prayers for healing).

There is not power in a word itself; but, there is power in an individual's expression of faith. Similarly, there is no power in oil or a prayer cloth; but, there is power in the prayers of God's people which is why elders provide oil or prayer cloths as a point of contact for believers who are ill (Ac 19:11-12, Jas 5:14). Christ, the Great Physician, can heal (Lk 5:12-15).

Chatfield: Cioccolanti does not appear to be like the average WOF, "name it and claim it" teachers from what I could tell, in that he seems stay away from the extreme end.

Believers cannot *name it and claim it*; but, they can ask for God's provision for their needs (Phil 4:19).

Chatfield: In the "pray" section on his church's site, Cioccolanti has many rote prayers, as well as including Scripture about the subject under discussion. A lengthy prayer for his church ends with this statement: "We are a supernatural church, composed of supernatural people doing supernatural things, for we are laborers together with God."

This immediately sends up red flags - in what way does he see his church and people being "supernatural," and what "supernatural" things to they do?

The Holy Spirit moves as he sees fit. Once a man named Uzzah touched the Ark of the Covenant and he was struck dead (2 Sa 6:3-11). The ark had not been moved in the proper fashion which God had given. It is important not to blaspheme the Holy Spirit (e.g. telling him when and how he can move in the world

⁴ Jesus is truth incarnate (Jn 14:6).

⁵ Goliath's head may be buried under cross (1 Sa 17:54) on which Christ was crucified which would fulfilled Genesis 3:15 as the Nephilim symbolize Satan.

today) as it is the unforgivable sin (Mt 12:32). Believers are neither to forbid speaking in tongues (1 Co 14:39)⁶ nor discount the Spirit's movement in the last days [e.g. dreams and visions] (1 Thess 5:20-22) as spoken about by the prophet Joel (Joe 2:28). The bible says that signs will accompany those who believe (Mk 16:17).

Chatfield: Cioccolanti teaches the very aberrant "spiritual warfare" model of "binding" Satan, as well as a whole prayer which includes claiming "the blood" of Christ.

Believers are in spiritual warfare daily. They battle: the world (Jas 4:1-4), the flesh (1 Pet. 4:1-4), the devil (1 Pe 5:8) and invisible foes (Eph 6:12). Christians are told to put on their armor (Eph 6:10-17) and to remain in the word of God (Eph 6:17) because the enemy is filled with rage knowing that his time is short (Re 12:12). A child of God has all authority to tread upon serpents and scorpions (Lk 10:19). The kingdom of darkness has something to fear (Jn 12:31). The child of God does not (Jn 16:33).

Believers cannot bind Satan; but, they can resist him so that he flees (Jas 4:7). Christians are given the ability to stand in evil days (Phil 4:4).

Chatfield: His "prophet's prayer" is claiming during the prayer that the person praying is indeed a prophet!

The apostle Paul encouraged believers to seek the gift of prophecy (1 Co 14:1) which is giving out the word of God simply and intelligently (1 Pt 4:10). Spiritual gifts are for the edification of others not for one's self (1 Co 14:12).

Chatfield: This is not a pastor who can be trusted with solid Biblical teachings.⁷

John wrote:

Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world. By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. 1 Jn 4:1-3

For many deceivers have gone out into the world who do not confess Jesus Christ as coming in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist. 2 Jn 7-8

A heretic is one who denies that Jesus is the Son of God (2 Pe 2:1). Cioccolanti does not appear to do this.

⁶ Tongues are subject to abuse (1 Cor. 14:22-26).

⁷ Chatfield, Glenn E. post in *Watchman's Bag Pipes*: <http://watchmansbagpipes.blogspot.com/2014/01/steve-cioccolanti-pastor-to-avoid.html>