

Scripture is the Only Way TM

Bryed Billerbeck
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Abstract

This document examines unbiblical teachings found within major Christian denominational streams and evaluates them using Scripture as the final and sufficient authority. Applying the biblical framework of truth versus error—rather than denomination versus denomination—it identifies doctrines and practices that distract from, distort, or replace the true Gospel of Jesus Christ. The analysis addresses Roman Catholic, Mainline Protestant, and Charismatic / Word of Faith movements, acknowledging that many individuals within these traditions sincerely love God while simultaneously warning that false or compromised teachings can lead believers away from the sufficiency of Christ and His finished work.

The purpose of this document is not condemnation of people, but discernment regarding teachings. Scripture consistently warns that false gospels, extra mediators, elevated traditions, experience-driven theology, and cultural accommodation can quietly undermine faith, weaken repentance, and produce counterfeit Christianity. By comparing doctrinal claims directly against Scripture, this work equips readers to distinguish biblical truth from human tradition, spiritual counterfeit, and doctrinal drift—so that allegiance remains fixed on Christ alone.

Purpose & Scope

Purpose.

To identify and expose teachings within Christian denominations that conflict with or dilute biblical doctrine, and to reaffirm the centrality of Christ, the authority of Scripture, and salvation by grace through faith alone.

Scope.

This document:

- Examines specific doctrinal errors or distortions present in:
 - Roman Catholicism
 - Mainline Protestant denominations
 - Charismatic / Word of Faith movements

- Evaluates each teaching using **explicit Scripture**, not denominational authority or personal experience.
- Distinguishes between **people** (who may be sincere believers) and **teachings** (which may be unbiblical).
- Highlights how doctrinal drift leads to distraction from repentance, the cross, judgment, and regeneration.
- Provides a comparative summary contrasting the biblical Gospel with denominational deviations.

What this document is not.

It is not an attack on individual believers, nor a claim that all members of these denominations are unsaved. It is a doctrinal analysis intended to call attention back to biblical truth.

Foundational Premise

1. **Christ and His Word are the sole standard of truth.**
No church, tradition, experience, or authority may stand alongside or above Scripture. Where doctrine contradicts the Word of God, it must be rejected regardless of institutional age, size, or influence.
 2. **False teaching can coexist with sincere faith—but it remains dangerous.**
Scripture warns repeatedly that false gospels, added mediators, works-based salvation, and experience-driven theology can deceive even well-intentioned believers and lead them away from saving truth.
 3. **Doctrinal drift produces spiritual confusion and division.**
When Scripture is subordinated to tradition, culture, or subjective experience, the result is fragmentation of the Gospel, erosion of repentance, and redefinition of sin, judgment, and holiness.
 4. **The Gospel is non-negotiable.**
Salvation by grace through faith in Christ alone, the authority of Scripture, the reality of judgment, and the necessity of repentance are foundational truths that cannot be modified without producing “another gospel.”
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Unbiblical Teachings in Christian Denominations Lead to Divisions

This article applies the biblical framework of the righteous versus the wicked to teachings found within Catholic, Protestant, and Charismatic/Word of Faith churches. The goal is not to condemn all individuals in these groups—many sincerely love Christ—but to highlight unbiblical doctrines and practices that distract from or distort the true Gospel.

1. Roman Catholic Church

Unbiblical / Problematic Teachings

- Extra mediators: Veneration of Mary and the saints, prayer to them.
 - 1 Timothy 2:5 – “There is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus.”
- Tradition equal to Scripture: Magisterium and tradition given equal (or higher) authority than Scripture.
 - Mark 7:13 – “Thus you nullify the word of God by your tradition.”
- Sacramental salvation: Teaching that baptism, confirmation, Eucharist, confession, etc. convey saving grace apart from personal faith.
 - Ephesians 2:8–9 – Salvation is by grace through faith, not works.
- Purgatory / indulgences: Belief in purification after death and purchasing indulgences.
 - Hebrews 9:27 – “People are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment.”

Why Distracting from Christ

- Shifts focus from Christ’s finished work to rituals, mediators, and institutions.
- Can keep people from trusting fully in the sufficiency of the cross.

2. Mainline Protestant Denominations

Unbiblical / Problematic Teachings

- Liberal theology: Denial of miracles, Christ’s resurrection, or the authority of Scripture in some circles.
 - 2 Timothy 3:16–17 – “All Scripture is God-breathed...”
- Social gospel replacing the true Gospel: Focusing only on humanitarian efforts without repentance and faith in Christ.
 - Galatians 1:6–7 – “You are turning to a different gospel—which is really no gospel at all.”
- Cultural accommodation: Affirming sinful lifestyles (sexual immorality, redefining marriage) under “inclusivity.”
 - Isaiah 5:20 – “Woe to those who call evil good and good evil.”

Why Distracting from Christ

- Emphasizes morality, culture, or social work over repentance, faith, and transformation in Jesus.
- Leads many to believe they are “Christian” without being born again (John 3:3).

3. Charismatic / Word of Faith Movements

Unbiblical / Problematic Teachings

- Prosperity gospel: Teaching that faith guarantees health, wealth, and success.
 - 1 Timothy 6:9 – “Those who want to get rich fall into temptation and a trap.”
- Positive confession / “name it and claim it”: Declaring words as if they have creative power equal to God’s Word.
 - Proverbs 30:5–6 – “Every word of God is flawless... Do not add to his words.”
- Deifying man: Some teachings suggest believers are “little gods.”
 - Isaiah 45:5 – “I am the LORD, and there is no other.”
- Excessive focus on signs and wonders: Elevating experiences, visions, or manifestations above Scripture.
 - Matthew 16:4 – “A wicked and adulterous generation looks for a sign.”

Why Distracting from Christ

- Shifts focus from the cross and suffering with Christ to worldly gain.
- Elevates man and “faith-techniques” above humble trust in God’s sovereignty.
- Opens door to demonic counterfeit miracles.

4. Summary Table

Biblical Gospel	Catholic	Mainline Protestant	Word of Faith/Charismatic
Christ alone mediator (1 Tim 2:5)	Adds Mary/saints as mediators	Some deny Christ's exclusivity	Sometimes promote man as "little gods"
Salvation by grace through faith (Eph 2:8-9)	Adds sacraments, works	Social gospel replaces true faith	Faith as a force to "create reality"
Scripture as final authority (2 Tim 3:16-17)	Tradition/magisterium elevated	Liberal theology denies Scripture	Experiences/visions prioritized
Eternal judgment (Heb 9:27)	Purgatory, indulgences	Often downplayed	Downplayed by prosperity promises
Focus: Christ crucified and risen	Focus on church rituals	Focus on morality/culture	Focus on wealth, health, miracles

Summary & Conclusion

This document demonstrates that when any teaching—whether sacramentalism, cultural accommodation, prosperity doctrine, or experience-centered spirituality—is elevated above or alongside Scripture, it distracts from the true Gospel and weakens faith in Christ's finished work. While denominational labels differ, the underlying danger is the same: shifting trust away from Christ alone and toward institutions, rituals, moral performance, cultural approval, or spiritual techniques.

Scripture is clear that there is one mediator, one Gospel, one foundation, and one authority. Where additional mediators are introduced, salvation is redefined as a process, Scripture is subordinated to tradition or experience, or judgment is minimized, the result is confusion and spiritual compromise. These distortions may appear compassionate, inclusive, or empowering, but they ultimately obscure repentance, diminish the cross, and leave people unprepared to stand before God.

The call of this document is not withdrawal, hostility, or pride, but return. Return to Christ crucified and risen. Return to Scripture as the final authority. Return to repentance, humility, and obedience. Scripture warns that even angels of light may preach a different gospel, and therefore discernment is not optional—it is a responsibility.

Unity in the Church cannot be built on doctrinal compromise. True unity exists only in truth. When Christ and His Word are restored to their rightful place, false teachings lose their influence, division is healed, and the Gospel shines with clarity and power once again.

Galatians 1:8 warns: "But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach a gospel other than the one we preached to you, let them be under God's curse!"