



The Bible Says



The Social Gospel J. T. Smith

Romans 1:16 "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek." Are we not supposed to preach the gospel of Christ? Then what is the "the social gospel" and what's wrong with it?

"Today man's larger understanding of the universe, his scientific achievements, and deeper appreciation of brotherhood, have created a situation which requires a new statement of the means and purposes of religion. Such a vital, fearless, and frank religion capable of furnishing adequate social goals and personal satisfactions may appear to many people as a complete break with the past. While this age does owe a vast debt to the traditional religions, it is none the less obvious that any religion that can hope to be a synthesizing and dynamic force for today must be shaped for the needs of this age. To establish such a religion is a major necessity of the present. It is a responsibility which rests upon this generation." (*Humanist Manifesto I*, 1933). (Underlining for emphasis)

Humanists, then, have defined for us what the "social gospel" is. Today it is defined as putting emphasis on the social needs of mankind. Food, sports and entertainment are used to entice people to attend "church." Although the gospel of Christ is God's power to save, more emphasis is put on the above than on Christ's gospel. Kitchens, fellowship halls, etc. are used to entice people. The word "fellowship" as used in this case is a misnomer. Every time the word "fellowship" is used in the New Testament means "joint participation" and refers to the spiritual rather than social. Paul said if "any man preach any other gospel than Christ's gospel, let him be accursed" (Galatians 1:6-9). Nothing in the doctrine of Christ (command, example or necessary implication) authorizes the social gospel. If we go beyond Christ's gospel, we have not God. (II John 1:9)

We welcome your questions and comments e-mail nebavecofc@gmail.com

Nebraska Ave. Church of Christ, 4608 Nebraska Ave, Tampa, FL 33603

Schedule of Services - Sunday - 9:30 am 10:30 am; 6:00 pm

Wednesday 7:30 pm Phone 813-238-4061 Paid Advertisement