

# Ecumenism

- Hello – Sprozzy here again
- Today we will be teaching from the amplified bible
- The bible is the inspired word of God.
- Our subject today is
- Ecumenism
- Ec um en ism

# Ecumenism

- What is Ecumenism?
- The basis of Ecumenism is that all roads lead to God.
- Ecumenism asserts that it doesn't matter which religion you follow - because ultimately the destination is the same.

# Ecumenism

- BUT - is that premise true?
- Or -
- Is the route we choose to follow simply down to our culture or religion?
- Is it down to what we choose to believe or our own personal preference - in other words - we make our own rules?

# Ecumenism

- Let us look at the Christian perspective on this?
- Why did Jesus leave heaven and come to earth as a man?
- What did He do during His 33 years on earth?
- Why did He have to die a horrible death on the cross.
- And where is He now?

# Ecumenism

- To answer these questions we would have to go back to the beginning of the bible.
- In the first chapter - that's the book of Genesis - there is an account of how God created the earth and how He populated it with a man and a woman.
- Their names were Adam and Eve.
- They were created in the image of God.

# Ecumenism

- Genesis Chapter 1 - The Creation
- 1 In the beginning God Elohim created, by forming from nothing, the heavens and the earth.
- 2 The earth was formless and void or a waste and emptiness, and darkness was upon the face of the deep primeval ocean that covered the unformed earth.....
- We will miss a bit out here - you can read it for yourselves – we'll jump to verse 26

# Ecumenism

- .....26 Then God said, “**Let Us Father, Son, Holy Spirit make man in Our image**, according to Our likeness not physical, but a spiritual personality and moral likeness; **and let them have complete authority over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, the cattle, and over the entire earth, and over everything that creeps and crawls on the earth.**”
- 27 So God created man in His own image, in the image and likeness of God He created him; male and female He created them.
- 28 And God blessed them granting them certain **authority** and said to them, “Be fruitful, multiply, and **fill the earth, and subjugate it putting it under your power; and rule** over (dominate) the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and every living thing that moves upon the earth.

# Ecumenism

- Genesis Chapter 1
- <sup>29</sup> And God said, See, I have given you every plant yielding seed that is on the face of all the land and every tree with seed in its fruit; you shall have them for food.
- <sup>30</sup> And to all the animals on the earth and to every bird of the air and to everything that creeps on the ground—to everything in which there is the breath of life—I have given every green plant for food. And it was so.



# Ecumenism

- God delegated His Power and Authority to Adam and Eve to rule over the earth - to care for it.
- He set some conditions on mankind, embodied in Adam and Eve at that point. This was a **covenant** between Him, the creator, and mankind.
- He gave them power to multiply.
- He desired to have a loving relationship with them.

# Ecumenism

- God desired to provide everything they needed for a truly blessed life on a beautiful un-spoilt planet.
- BUT- He desired their obedience.
- He said “You may eat the fruit of any tree in the garden, but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.”

# Ecumenism

- Genesis 2
- <sup>15</sup> And the Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to tend and guard *and* keep it.
- <sup>16</sup> And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, You may freely eat of every tree of the garden;
- <sup>17</sup> But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil *and* blessing and calamity you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.

# Ecumenism

- Today we understand failure to do things God's way is **sin**.
- Sin causes separation from God – which is **spiritual death**.
- When we are separated from God, we cheat ourselves of God's best, - His best is His abundant blessings in our lives.
- Because we are created in God's image, we, like Him, are “spirit”
- We are spirit, living in a body, on this physical earth for a season and for a reason – more on that later!
- **Our body dies but our spirit does not.**

# Ecumenism

- So sin causes separation from God (which is death) and consequently we do not spend eternity in heaven with Him but somewhere else too horrible to contemplate - **and that's for eternity!**
- There was another created being in the garden of Eden.
- He was Lucifer, the most beautiful of Angels.

# Ecumenism

- Lucifer understood that God had given all authority over the earth to Adam and Eve (that is to mankind).
- He also understood that they only had that authority as long as they were in right relationship with Him - the creator - God.
- Lucifer was jealous and greedy and wanted their God given authority and powers for himself.
- If he could get Adam and Eve to disobey God he could steal their authority.

# Ecumenism

- Disguising himself as a serpent Lucifer approached Eve and suggested that **if** they ate from the tree, **they would not surely die.** Eve fell for it.
- **Adam failed to protect his wife.**
- He did not rebuke the serpent.
- He should have pointed out that it would be disobedient to eat the fruit - **AND** that it would have detrimental consequences.
- Adam should have cast the devil out of the garden.
- They ate the fruit.

# Ecumenism

- In submitting to the adversary, they made him the master and relinquished their authority to him.
- Lucifer ( now called Satan or the Devil – which means adversary) now had **their** powers and authority.
- Because he too had rebelled against God he too was cut off from God's blessings.
- All he could do now was “rob, kill and destroy”
- Evil entered the earth this way.



# Ecumenism

- Whoever or whatever **we** submit to becomes our master.  
**We become its slave.**
- From now on, Satan was mankind's master, man was subject to Satan's tricks and temptations.
- Today we understand this as **the fall of man.**
- Mankind was contaminated by his sin. He needed a way back into relationship with a holy God.
- More on that later !!

# Ecumenism

- In 2 Peter 2 it says
- <sup>19</sup> They promise them liberty, when they themselves are the slaves of depravity *and* defilement—for by whatever anyone is defeated and overcome, to that person or thing, philosophy or concept, he is enslaved.

# Ecumenism

- Now God loves us and wants the best for us.
- He made clear the blessings for doing things His way.
- Through Moses and the prophets God defined the consequences for mankind of doing things God's way or of going man's own way.
- God called this "The Law".
- Mankind had a choice.

# Ecumenism

- Now let us look at the bible.
- The bible is in two parts. The Old and New Testaments.
- Let us look at what the Old Testament is about.
- Having brought about the “fall of man” Satan set about inventing many different gods for man to worship.

# Ecumenism

- Man was encouraged by Satan to worship the sun, stars, people, demons, different gods ,false religious systems (**even would you believe, in the fullness of time, false Christian style systems**) –he did this in order to confuse – he encouraged the worship of anything apart from the one true God.
- Today we have a name for Satan's false alternatives.
- We call it **religions and philosophy**.
- It can dictate our mindsets and worldview.

# Ecumenism

- Basically through the LAW God said that if you trust me and do things My way I will bless you.
- But if you ignore me and do things your own way (self focus – me, myself and I) I cannot bless you - and there is a penalty which involves suffering – **it's your choice.**
- Trusting God is called “Faith”.
- Abraham had Faith and it was credited to him as righteousness.
- Righteousness is right standing with God.

# Ecumenism

- Firstly we note that the Old Testament points to the coming of Jesus and God's secret plan for His creation.
- The apostle Luke recorded what Jesus said
- (in the following verses, the words "He" and "Himself", are referring to Jesus).

# Ecumenism

- Luke 24
- 27 Then beginning with Moses and throughout all the writings of the prophets, He explained and interpreted for them the things referring to Himself found in all the Scriptures.
- And in John 5 Jesus said -
- 39 You search and keep on searching and examining the Scriptures because you think that in them you have eternal life; and yet it is those very Scriptures that testify about Me;
- You see – the Old Testament constantly pointed to the coming of Jesus.



# Ecumenism

- But the Old Testament is about something else.
- Put simply the Old Testament is the history of the nation of Israel. These are the people through whom God chose to reveal His purposes.
- Story after story reveals how Gods people ignored Him and His “LAW” and chased after other gods.
- The result every time was that they were overcome and taken off to captivity – thus missing God’s best.

# Ecumenism

- **Bondage and slavery is a curse - not what God wants for us.**
- In the Old Testament we see a journey of Gods chosen people.
- He enables them to escape from bondage (that's slavery) in Egypt and leads them through the wilderness to the "promised land" - a land flowing with milk and honey (which is blessings).

# Ecumenism

- In Exodus 3 it says
- <sup>8</sup> And I have come down to deliver them out of the hand *and* power of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a land good and large, a land flowing with milk and honey, a land of plenty.
- (That's the abundant blessings of God.)

# Ecumenism

- What we see there is a “picture” of **our** potential escape (**in the present day**) out of the clutches of Satan into a life of freedom and blessing with God.
- How we attain that, is the big question.
- **And here comes the answer !!**

# Ecumenism

- Now we come to the New Testament.
- Firstly - what is a testament.
- A testament is a will.
- There is a testator - the one who writes the will.
- There is a death.
- There is a reading of the will to the beneficiaries ( the inheritors).

# Ecumenism

- We all start off in a “fallen” condition and we live in a broken world.
- We need to experience God’s love and mercy.
- If we are separated from God - how can we (the unrighteous) possibly redeem our mistakes to make ourselves acceptable to God – who is holy?
- The truth is - WE can’t. We are in need of a saviour and that’s where Jesus Christ comes in.

# Ecumenism

- To show His mercy to us God sent His Son to show us the way.
- When Jesus was beaten and crucified He took upon Himself the consequence of man's separation from his creator - this punishment was a direct results of man's disobedience – our **sin** – yours and mine.
- Jesus became a curse for us.
- **Jesus was punished in our place.**
- **It was a substitute sacrifice.**
- **Jesus paid a price we cannot pay.**

# Ecumenism

- Jesus was cursed for us
- Galatians 3
- <sup>13</sup> Christ purchased our freedom, redeeming us from the curse (the doom) of the Law and its condemnation, by Himself becoming a curse for us, for it is written in the Scriptures, Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree (is crucified);



# Ecumenism

- God has made a **NEW Covenant** with us as a consequence of mankind's separation from Him, which broke the Old Covenant.
- This He did through His perfect representative, His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ.
- Scripture says "For God so loved the world (that's you and me) that He gave His only begotten Son that whoever would believe on Him would not perish but have eternal life"

# Ecumenism

- If we will accept that Jesus gave Himself in full payment for our sins.
- If we repent of our rejection of Him and stop trying to make ourselves acceptable.
- If we make a public declaration by being water baptized by full immersion (as adults) – that is, we die to our old life and rise out of the water to a new life with Jesus and free from the penalty of our past sins.

# Ecumenism

- If we invite Him to take charge of our lives, **we will be saved** and put into right relationship with God - **for eternity**.
- Our communion with our creator and with the Kingdom of Heaven will be restored to its original intended wellness.
- This is what is know as being **“Born Again”**
- If you don't know what I mean by **“Born Again”** - [see my YouTube video on this topic](#).<click here

# Ecumenism

- Incidentally – you will not be able to spiritually understand what we are saying here unless you are “Born Again” (that’s Spiritually alive)
- So if you are not sure please watch the other video first.
- Otherwise all you will have is head knowledge and religion (which will not get you to heaven)

# Ecumenism

- 1 Corinthians 2
- 14 But the natural, nonspiritual man does not accept *or* welcome *or* admit into his heart the gifts *and* teachings *and* revelations of the Spirit of God, for they are folly (meaningless nonsense) to him; and he is incapable of knowing them [of progressively recognizing, understanding, and becoming better acquainted with them] because they are spiritually discerned *and* estimated *and* appreciated.

# Ecumenism

- It's all about what Jesus did and not about what we do to make ourselves acceptable.
- Religion (including religious christianity) **does NOT** make us acceptable to God.
- It is **arrogant** to assume that our performance is greater than the substitute sacrifice of Jesus. (Note - a substitute means "in place of")
- **Jesus paid a price that we cannot pay.**

# Ecumenism

- What does the Word of God say?
- John 14:6  
Jesus said to him, “**I am the only Way to God and the real Truth and the real Life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.**”
- What authority did Jesus have for saying that?
- You see - Jesus was not just a man, not just a prophet.
- Jesus was God who came to earth, limiting Himself, as a man for the sole purpose of making a way for you to inherit your eternal destiny.

# Ecumenism

- Now, in the book of John, there is an account of how a high man of the church of the day came to Jesus to enquire how he could guarantee his salvation.
- You see – although he was a church ruler – like a cardinal - he was not sure whether he would go to heaven.
- He came in secret at night.



# Ecumenism

- **John 3**
- <sup>1</sup> Now there was a certain man among the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler (a member of the Sanhedrin) among the Jews,
- <sup>2</sup> who came to Jesus at night and said to Him, “Rabbi (Teacher), we know, without any doubt, that You have come from God as a teacher; for no one can do these signs, these wonders, these attesting miracles, that You do unless God is with him.”

# Ecumenism

- <sup>3</sup> Jesus answered him,
- “I assure you *and* most solemnly say to you,
- unless a person is born again - reborn from above—spiritually transformed, renewed, sanctified,
- he cannot ever see *and* experience the kingdom of God.”

# Ecumenism

- If we are trying to make ourselves, acceptable by following some religion – some ritual - some tradition **or** by “good works” ( that is - being a good person) then we have missed it.
- **All religions therefore are an irrelevance.**
- What is important is a **personal relationship** with our saviour, JESUS - **not** with a church –not with a religious system, not with a denomination or organization - **but a personal relationship with Jesus Christ.**

# Ecumenism

- Salvation is a free gift to those who acknowledge that Jesus died in our place.
- It is very important that we make our response to that.
- Ecumenism (which means by definition many different routes) is therefore an irrelevance and a deception.
- It is only relevant to those who want to hold to their own ideas of salvation - thus rejecting Jesus.

# Ecumenism

- There is a major move of deception in the world today which says "believe what you want, it will get you to heaven and ever lasting life"
- **It's a lie, people.**
- It is Satan's plan for a "One World Religion" in a "New World Order" and it will take you to hell, permanently.
- Salvation is not found in alternate religions, in philosophies, or any of Satan's deceptions.
- **It is only found in a personal relationship with Jesus when we are "born again".**

# Ecumenism

- Now - let us consider the position of religious christians.
- What do we mean by “religious christians”?
- They are those who are somehow trying to make themselves acceptable to God by their own ritualistic or good works methodology –often by following a false Christian religious doctrine – invented by men.
- Jesus died in our place. **He did it all** for us.
- We must **accept Him alone** to be saved.

# Ecumenism

- There is an expression that describes believing in an alternate Christian doctrine.
- The expression is “Antichrist” –which means alternate (false) Christ – it may look like the real thing – but it is false.
- It is a belief system that makes Jesus part of the truth – not the centre of it.
- It is salvation by our works - by fulfilment of sacraments and ritual – by doctrines of men – all that is a process.
- Antichrist Christian doctrine is a false alternative to the truth.

# Ecumenism

- 2 Corinthians 11
- 4: For you seem readily to endure it if a man comes and preaches another Jesus than the One we preached, or if you receive a different spirit from the Spirit you once received or a different gospel from the one you then received *and* welcomed; you tolerate all that well enough!



# Ecumenism

- In Galatians 4 – the Apostle Paul talks about our Sonship in Christ -when we are “born again”
- <sup>4</sup> But when the proper time had fully come, God sent His Son, born of a woman, **born subject to the regulations of the Law,**
- <sup>5</sup> **To purchase the freedom of (to ransom, to redeem, to atone for) those who were subject to the Law,** that we might be adopted *and* have sonship conferred upon us and be recognized as God’s sons.
- <sup>6</sup> And because you really are His sons, God has sent the Holy Spirit of His Son into our hearts, crying, Abba (Father)! Father!
- <sup>7</sup> **Therefore, you are no longer a slave (bond servant) but a son;** and if a son, then it follows that you are an heir by the aid of God, *through Christ.*

# Ecumenism

- <sup>8</sup> But at that previous time, when you had not come to be acquainted with *and* understand *and* know the true God, you [Gentiles] were in bondage to gods who by their very nature could not be gods at all - gods that really did not exist.
- <sup>9</sup> Now, however, that you have come to be acquainted with *and* understand *and* know the true God, or rather to be understood *and* known by God, how can you turn back again to the weak and beggarly *and* worthless elementary things of all religions before Christ came, whose slaves you once more want to become?
- <sup>10</sup> You observe particular days and months and seasons and years!
- <sup>11</sup> I am alarmed about you, lest I have laboured among *and* over you to no purpose *and* in vain.
- <sup>12</sup> Brethren, I beg of you, become as I am free from the bondage of Jewish **ritualism and ordinances**, for I also have become as you are a Gentile. You did me no wrong in the days when I first came to you; do not do it now.

# Ecumenism

- So in conclusion
- If we make our response to Jesus, the Son of God, who came to earth as a man – paid a price by dying on the cross in our place – (thereby completely paying our sin debt) and
- If we accept that he rose again
- If we invite Him to be in charge of our lives
- - **we will be saved.**

# Ecumenism

- Jesus **is** the way - there is no other way - certainly not by our own efforts.
- Jesus is central to the “good news” – “the gospel”
- Clearly **all roads** do **not** lead to God - there is only one way.
- - that is by Jesus Christ.

# Ecumenism

- When we accept Jesus - **not just believing he existed** - but by **accepting Him as our own personal saviour** we discover the **ONLY** way to heaven.
- The good news is that through His death and resurrection He defeated Satan.
- In so doing He took away Satan's false authority.
- Jesus now extends His righteousness and authority to us and through us.
- We are no longer powerless in life when we are in communion with Jesus." .
- When we are in relationship with Jesus, He changes our hearts to love what is good and healthy for us and our fellows.

# Ecumenism

- All Power and Authority over the earth is now returned to those of us who are saved.
- No other way provides this.
- Jesus Christ is the only way.
- In Jesus we are under a **new** Covenant.

**Now** can you understand why Ecumenism is wrong, an error and a deception?

- Jesus is central to our eternal future.
- God Himself in the person of Jesus paid the price for us – to buy us back – and it comes as a free gift! – we neither have to earn it or pay it back.

# Ecumenism

- No one else could do that. We cannot earn our salvation by following religious ritual.
- No prophet, guru, dead saint - or an idolatrous submission to anyone other than Jesus - can qualify us for eternal life in heaven.
- Jesus is the answer.

# Ecumenism

- Our sole purpose for being on this earth is to give us opportunity to decide what we are going to do about Jesus!
- There is no other way – all roads DO NOT lead to God.
- For those of you who want God's reality see my [YouTube video titled "Born Again"](#)
- Thank you for listening.



# Ecumenism

- Have a look at Andrew Farley's explanation in this YouTube video
- <https://youtu.be/gixrCOzmK3g>