

How “He Gets US” Doesn't Get Jesus and the Gospel

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Host: David Wheaton 00:08

How "He Gets Us" Doesn't Get Jesus and the Gospel. That is the topic we'll discuss today, right here on The Christian Worldview Radio Program where the mission is to sharpen the biblical worldview of Christians and to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ. I'm David Wheaton, the host. The Christian Worldview is a listener supported radio ministry. You can connect with us by visiting our website, TheChristianWorldview.org or calling toll free 1-888-646-2233 or by writing to Box 401 Excelsior, Minnesota 55331.

Back in 2022, we were interested to learn that a nonprofit foundation, funded to the tune of \$100 million by mostly anonymous donors, had put together a marketing campaign called, "He Gets Us" to, in their own words, "rediscover the life and teachings of Jesus, the world's most radical love activist." Hmm? The life and teaching of Jesus has never needed to be rediscovered, as it's right there in the Bible for all to read. Jesus as the "world's most radical love activist," is not how Jesus described Himself. He called Himself the "Son of God" and the giver of eternal life.

With these hints of the campaign's view of Jesus, it wasn't surprising that their "Brand Jesus" marketing ads appearing on television, including the Super Bowl, social media, Times Square billboards, and almost everywhere, portrayed Jesus as a social justice hero who gets us because He had a "teen mother" and He was a "refugee" and He was "cancelled", as three of their ads portray. But hey, "An ad for Jesus is being viewed by millions during the Super Bowl, and how could that be anything but good? God can use anything!" so the refrain goes.

The problem is, and it's a problem of immense significance, that the real Jesus Christ of Scripture is being misrepresented in the "He Gets Us" campaign, along with Jesus' main message that He said in Luke 19:10. *"For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost."* The Biblical gospel of God's holiness, man's sinfulness, Jesus' substitution and resurrection, and Christ's command to "repent and believe the gospel", is either not clearly presented or is obfuscated by the heavy emphasis on Jesus as a role model who gets our problems and predicaments. So here's an example. The following "He Gets Us" ad, shows all kinds of images of families fighting and screaming at each other, and then culminates with the tagline, Jesus' family was messy too. He Gets Us. He gets all of us.

Audio Sound Bite: He Gets Us 03:15

There was a family. They played together and laughed together. But they weren't completely alike. As they grew older, their opinions widened, and they distanced from each other. Conversations became heated. Reunions became more and more uncomfortable.

Song: 03:40

They thought they were meant for each other. Thinking of one another.

Audio Sound Bite: He Gets Us 03:47

Brother aligned against sister.

Song: 03:49

Never thinking just for one second.

Audio Sound Bite: He Gets Us 03:53

Birthdays were ignored, gatherings stopped. Because each had to be right.

Song: 04:02

We don't want that, oh no. We don't want that. We don't want that. . .

Host: David Wheaton 04:14

Again, the headline at the end of the ad is, Jesus' family was messy, too. He Gets Us. He gets all of us, and of course Jesus gets us. Of course Jesus gets us. But what is left out of these ads is how we can get Jesus. How we can be reconciled to Him through repentance and faith in who He is and what He did. The false Christ and gospel being presented by He Gets Us is all the more pernicious now that the organization is funded to a tune of \$1 billion. Yes, you heard that correctly. \$1 billion to portray a skewed version of Jesus.

Tom Buck, senior pastor of First Baptist Church in Lyndale, Texas, and director of expository workshops for G3 Ministries joins us today on The Christian Worldview to discuss why Christians need to be aware of this wrong presentation of Jesus and the gospel, and be more intent on proclaiming the truth about who Christ is, and how sinners can be reconciled to God through Him. Let's get to the interview with Tom Buck, where he first shares how he came to saving faith in Christ. Tom, thank you for coming on The Christian Worldview Radio Program today. You were on the program about a year and a half ago back on June 25, 2022 to discuss Rick Warren's push to have female pastors within the Southern Baptist Convention. But one question I didn't ask you that day, and a question I often ask first time guests is, How and why did you come to saving faith in Christ? Give us a brief faith story and what your life is like now.

Guest: Tom Buck 05:58

Well, I was raised in a home that took me to church from literally the moment I was born. So I grew up hearing the gospel. At a young age, I understood enough about the gospel that Christ died in my place for my sins, and that he rose again. I shared with my parents that I wanted to go and talk with the pastor and make it known that I wanted to put my faith and trust in Christ alone. They were a little concerned that I might be too young, as kids often make decisions and then later turn from that. So they put it off. But one day coming home from church, I just told them, I said, I believe I'm a Christian now. They asked me, What happened? I said, I realized I didn't need anybody's approval to get saved. I said, I just trusted Christ to save me, confessed that I was a sinner, that He had died for my sins and rose again, and asked Him to save me. And I said, I believe He has.

So that's how I came to know Christ. So I've been a Christian most of my life, and obviously decided to go into the pastorate. This March, I will have been a senior pastor for 30 years, and will have been involved in some level of ministry even while I was going to seminary in some churches for 40 years in June. The Lord has been good to me and I'm thankful for how He has changed my life. Whether I serve as a pastor or not, He saved me, and now using me in this way is just an incredible blessing.

Host: David Wheaton 07:26

Praise God for that. Thank you for sharing with us how God reached down to save you. Pastor Tom Buck is with us today here on The Christian Worldview. He's the pastor of First Baptist Church in Lyndale, Texas, also the director of the expository workshops for G3 Ministries. Tom, just one more personal question before we get to our topic. I don't know much about the story, but I've seen it online that you and your wife, Jennifer, have really gone through a difficult period the last two or three years, when Jennifer did some writings about some issues you had early on in your marriage and how it was sent off to an editor and somehow shared before it went to publication.

I'm maybe getting a lot of the facts wrong there, but maybe you could briefly share with us because this has been something I've seen a lot of different people talk about on social media and so forth. Tell us about that situation.

Guest: Tom Buck 08:23

Unfortunately, we don't have three hours that it actually might take for that, but what happened is, in 2016, my wife and I were talking, we were seeing everything go on regarding the me too church movement, and there was a lot of talk about how that God can't restore these things and these people need to be pushed out of the church or move on. They might be able to be saved, but they can't serve again. The Lord really put on her heart a desire to tell our story that we've been telling for years in our church, about the early years of our marriage that were difficult because of my not understanding how to lead as a godly husband.

She wanted to counter that with saying, Here's a story of God's redemptive grace. She wasn't really sure what all to put in there. There were some private things that happened to her before we were married, that factored into some of her thinking and that happened to me before we were married. So she just wrote everything out and gave it to Karen Prior, who was a significant figure in SBC, and also published things, and was a writer. We asked her if she would give feedback to Jennifer because I had Karen help me in the past with something that I'd written and we had an amicable relationship.

Jennifer gave it to her in 2016. There's a lot of reasons why it never got around to getting all the feedback Jennifer wanted, and why it had never been published, but during the next year, Karen Prior endorsed Revoice, which was promoted LGBT issues as you and your listeners are aware of. I confronted Karen about that and that put us sideways with one another because she wouldn't repent and I called for her to be

removed from her position at the ERLC, the Ethics and Religious Liberty Commission from the Southern Baptist Convention as well as encouraged Southeastern to not hire her. That was in late 2016, early 2017.

Then, we didn't think any more about Jennifer's rough draft that she had written until 2022, when there were some people who were upset with me about my outspokenness, and the SBC, and about a variety of issues over the last few years. It's a long story of how it came to be, but I guess the only way you could put it is political enemies. I didn't even know who those would be at the time who got a hold of Jennifer's rough draft. The only person that had it was Karen Prior. Her boss, Keith Whitfield, at Southeastern was also privy to that it seems because he was somehow connected with the rough draft being given to the news agencies in order to smear me. So that's what happened.

I was painted as an abuser. There were things in Jennifer's rough draft which had not even been edited. That was a very, very rough draft about what happened to her in her past that outed things that happened to her before we were married. It was just an atrocious thing that took place. We have been trying to get to the bottom of this. With all the evidence that we have, which is unbelievable how much we have, the SBC and Southeastern has decided to not address it and to do nothing about those who were involved. People can find out the full context of the story by going to Kupier Belt Productions, which is K U P I E R. They did a documentary on what happened to us.

Host: David Wheaton 11:51

Thank you for clarifying that, because things have trickled out over the years and it's just a complete betrayal of trust. What's taking place in the non responses is very telling as well. We hope and pray that it can be resolved in a biblical way, and those who have committed offence can come to repentance and be held accountable for breaching a trust like that. It's terrible. I'm very sorry to hear that.

Tom Buck is our guest today here on The Christian Worldview, the senior pastor of First Baptist Church in Lyndale, Texas. Let's move, Tom, to the topic we're mainly going to discuss today, which is the "He Gets Us" campaign. We did a program on this back on October 8, 2022. So now we're about a year and a half from that. I actually think this is quite a significant campaign that's being put on, especially when you know the dollar value behind it.

As a little background for those who may not be familiar, maybe they've seen an ad on the Super Bowl for He Gets Us and so forth, but Wikipedia, (consider the source), generally gives you an idea, I don't think anything of what I'm going to read in these two paragraphs has been disputed, but "He Gets Us" is an American religious advertising campaign formerly operated by the Servant Foundation. It was first launched in 2022. The campaign's stated goal is to reintroduce people to the Jesus of the Bible. It's campaigns are designed to cater to younger demographics, and religious skeptics via allusions to present day social movements, with an emphasis on values such as inclusion, compassion, and radical forgiveness. Two more paragraphs.

Jason Vanderground, a consultant involved with the campaign, described the approach being taken by “He Gets Us” as one intended to transcend politics. The advertisements were initially funded by the servant foundation, as I read earlier, which is a nonprofit Donor Advised Fund, which does business called, the signatory. Most individual donors to this campaign have chosen to remain anonymous. One of the campaign's backers is David Green, the founder of Hobby Lobby. Here's where we get into the dollar amounts, Tom. \$100 million was spent on the campaign initially. In 2023, Vanderground, who is the consultant involved with the campaign, stated that the organization intended to spend \$1 billion on the campaign within the next three years. As of early 2024, the campaign was under new leadership and no longer affiliated with the Servant Foundation. Instead, it is overseen by a new nonprofit foundation named, Come Near. Tom, what are your thoughts on this “He Gets Us” campaign in light of how much money is being spent on it?

Guest: Tom Buck 14:44

I guess in one sense, I would start here. If that billion dollars being spent actually represented and portrayed Jesus as He is seen in Scripture, and portrayed the gospel as it is rightly declared in Scripture and proclaimed in the Word of God, that addressed the topics of, What is a sinner? What did Jesus do to save sinners? What do I need to do to be saved by Jesus? If that's what the billion dollars was spent on, we'd probably have a different discussion, because then it's about, was this the best way to go about doing that? Right out of the gate, that's not what they're doing. Even if they were doing that, I agree that when we think about that kind of money being spent, it seems to me that it would be best to put that into efforts of gospel centered churches that are proclaiming the gospel week in and week out. Those who are seeking to reach people for Jesus Christ. It would be better invested in those churches, but I would say that a lot of these multi faith groups that are a part of this, aren't preaching the gospel week in week out as it's declared in Scripture anyway. It seems to me that they're trying to remarket Jesus, which is leading to reinvent Him to the lost world. And I just think it's a failure and a bad idea from the get go.

Host: David Wheaton 18:33

Our topic today is, "How He Gets Us" Doesn't Get Jesus and the Gospel. Tom Buck, senior pastor of First Baptist Church in Lyndale, Texas is our guest. Tom, the name of the nonprofit organization that is directing it is now called, Come Near. I went to their website and they actually don't even have a developer website, so they have a link over to their LinkedIn page.

All they have there is one page. Again for a \$1 billion ad campaign that's this organization Come Near is running. They have no developed website, just a single page on LinkedIn that says, Come Near as a nonprofit organization committed to sharing the life and love of Jesus in thought provoking new ways. Its expertise includes nonprofit management, donor relations, research and innovation, Marketing and Communications, and Coalition development. Come Near leads all aspects of the “He Gets Us” movement in partnership with a dedicated network of collaborators. Company size, 2 to 10 employees, 5 associated members. Again, running a \$1 billion ad campaign? Do you know anything about this organization, this

nonprofit organization called the, Come Near organization? Who are the main donors, and what Christian leaders that maybe we would know about are openly promoting this, "He Gets Us" campaign?

Guest: Tom Buck 20:15

I don't know anything about that particular group. As you said, you can't even find anything out about it very much, other than that one page. I haven't even seen that much. I think it is extremely telling that upfront saying, here are the people that are behind it. Let's talk about the people that we do know, because they've said something to one degree or another. You have the family that's connected with Hobby Lobby. Is it the Green family? Is that correct?

Host: David Wheaton 20:41

Yes

Guest: Tom Buck 20:42

I'm saddened by that, because I think they're sincere Christians from everything I can see. They stand for the Christian values that we would, regarding issues of abortion and LGBT issues. In fact, that's kind of an interesting part of the story, that here they are trying to reach people within those kinds of camps if you will, and those people have found out about the Green family being involved and they hate it because of that. So it's really not accomplishing anything, because if you stand for the truth of the gospel, and the truth of Scripture, the people that you are trying to be able to build a bridge to are going to hate it.

But probably the biggest name that's involved is Ed Stetzer. Ed Stetzer has been huge behind this, trying to get the Southern Baptist Convention involved. That was one of their big hooks that they had. I don't know if you knew this or not, but I interrupted that whole relationship between the SBC and 'He Gets Us' by exposing what was going on before the relationship got fully moving forward and the SBC ended up pulling out. Kevin Ezell, the President of the North American Mission Board was completely all in on this with Ed Stetzer. So there are deep Southern Baptists roots, because Ed Stetzer is a Southern Baptist, within this campaign, and they would have all been in it together had it not been for some of us who exposed what was going on.

Host: David Wheaton 21:57

I'm very glad you did, as we're going to see as we get more into this. Now, Tom, I know you're a big football fan, so I know you watched Super Bowl. You love the Dallas Cowboys. They didn't make it this year, but the add of "He Gets Us", aired during the Super Bowl. Again, an ad at the Super Bowl costs \$14 million per 60 seconds this year. I think they had at least two ads, if not more than that. So they spent at least 28 million this year at the Super Bowl. They have about 40 ads out. You can see them at their website, "He Gets Us".

This was an ad on footwashing, based on Jesus washing the feet of his disciples. They tagged their ad this way on their website. They said, the night before He died, Jesus washed the feet of his friends and enemies, plural enemies. I don't think that's accurate. It was a totally unexpected act of service that symbolized so

much more. Now, I'd play the ad for you, but there's no actual dialogue in the edit. It's a song from the famous rock group back in the 80s, INXS, the Australian rock band. They Can Never Tear Us Apart, that was the song. It's a non-Christian rock song about a man's love toward a woman.

This is what they put on there about, Never Tear Us Apart. They have images throughout the ad. I know you've seen it, Tom, because I've seen you write about it. It's a 60 second ad. I'll give you a couple of bullets on what kind of images come up. Before dinner time, you can see a traditional family meal in the background being prepared. There's a mother and a late teen daughter. They're in traditional kind of dress. Then there's a late teenage son with bleached blond hair in jeans and a T-shirt. He looks like the outcast in the family. He's on his knees, washing the feet of his father who's seated in a chair, and he's dressed like your typical sort of Leave It to Beaver father with a cardigan. It's like a patriarchal family. So that was the first image. There's about 10 or 12 images in the 60 second ad.

The second one was, you have a Hispanic police officer on his knees, washing the feet of a standing, well built young black man in a tank top on an inner city street that's full of garbage and debris. The next scene is of a white high school girl. She's an attractive white girl in a traditional skirt. She's down on her knees washing the feet of what looks like an androgynous person. I think it's likely a transgender person who has dyed red hair and they're in the school hallway. Then later on you have a white woman at an abortion clinic washing the feet of a young white woman, presumably going into the clinic behind her to get an abortion, while at the same time in the background of the image you see a group of all white abortion protesters with signs in their hand standing at a distance, presumably disinterested in washing feet, but only interested in "protesting."

It goes on from there. There's also an image of a Catholic priest pouring water on a black man's feet at the beach. The end line of the ad culminates by saying, Jesus didn't teach hate, he washed feet. Then the tagline for the campaign is, "He Gets Us". He Gets All of Us. You watch this ad and what are a few of the things that this ad as you saw, Tom, communicating during the Super Bowl and in front of the largest audience in television history?

Guest: Tom Buck 25:30

First of all, I said after that \$14.5 million is a whole lot of money to spend on wood, hay and stubble. That's how I feel about it in one sense. That whatever they did, is going to burn up on Judgement Day because it does not represent the gospel, it misrepresents the gospel, and misrepresents Jesus. The whole campaign, from what I've seen that they say, is to reinventing, if you will, the perception of Christians, what they consider to be legalistic Christians, which is why you have painted in the background in that these Christians who are protesting abortion, as if they don't care about people, they just care about their stand against abortion. It certainly may be true that there are some people like that, but they portray all of them to be that way, except for this one person who's washing the feet of this, we might assume woman that was going to go in to have an abortion, or maybe one of the workers that are there.

But here's the problem. They're not really reinventing Christians, they're reinventing Jesus, because it's not true, the way they portray it that Jesus washed people's feet. Well, let's first of all, remember that yes, Jesus did wash the feet of the disciples that night and one enemy, but whatever it was that Jesus was doing, even in washing Judas feet, which John's Gospel does not tell us anything about the motivation behind Jesus doing that with Judas. But we know this, it wasn't to build a bridge to Judas, of pre evangelism as what they call these things are, and we need to build a bridge to the lost, we need to show compassion of the lost.

This is the way you do pre evangelism. That they'll come to if they like us, or if we make them think that like Jesus, it'll bring them to Christ or be open to the Gospel. What we do know in the Gospel John, from Jesus exchange with Peter, is that Christ was using this as a means to let the disciples know that He, Jesus, was fully aware that one of them, Judas, was not a true disciple. John doesn't make the emphasis Jesus' compassion for Judas. He makes the emphasis that Jesus knew that Judas would betray Him, and even says there to Peter, not all of you are clean. John clarifies what He meant by this is, Judas not being clean. So there's the only time that we ever have in Scripture, Jesus washing anyone's feet, and they're trying to make it about the fact that, well, Jesus would show this kind of compassion or do this kind of act to the most heinous of sinners. And maybe that's what they're doing by looking at the fact that Jesus washed Judas' feet there.

But let's remember that when it came to the woman of ill repute in the Gospel, it was not Jesus who washed her feet, it was she who washed Jesus' feet. So I think what they're trying to do, is to portray that Jesus had compassion for the lost. That is certainly true. We should have compassion for the lost, but in the way that they portrayed it in that ad, it comes across as if He completely overlooks the sin. In fact, that priest in the ad appears to be washing the feet of someone who is dressed and in the appearance of someone that is in the LGBT community. It seemed to be a gay man who the priest was washing.

There is no confrontation of sin. That's part of the gospel. There's no calling for repentance. That's part of the gospel. I don't understand why they want to portray a false gospel and a false Jesus to the world. It's not going to lead to the salvation of anyone, if they simply believe that "He Gets Us" Jesus. In fact, I would say anyone who believes solely in the "He Gets Us" Jesus will go to hell.

Host: David Wheaton [29:12](#)

That would be because the Jesus they are presenting and portraying is not the Jesus of Scripture, who said clearly when he came into ministry, repent and believe in the gospel or to Nicodemus, you must be born again. That message is nowhere in this campaign. This leads well into the next question, Tom.

I went to their website where they have all their ads listed there. I didn't listen to every single one, granted, but I didn't see one with any kind of caption that would lead me to believe it was about the primary message of the Bible or the gospel. First Corinthians 15, where Paul writes, *Now I make known to you, brother, of the Gospel which I preached to you, which also you received, in which also you stand, and by which also you are saved, if you hold fast the word which I preached to you-unless you believed in vain.* So here he is saying,

here's what the gospel is. Verse 3. *For I delivered to you as a first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins, according to the Scriptures that He was buried and that he was raised on the third day, according to the Scriptures.* But Tom, in response to this, and you see some of the comments online that people are for or against these ads with the "He Get Us" campaign, I think most evangelicals would say, Well, if there's a commercial about Jesus in the Super Bowl, and this much money is being spent on this, how could that possibly be a bad thing? How would you answer that, Tom?

Guest: Tom Buck 30:45

It's always going to be a bad thing if it's not clearly portraying Jesus as He is in Scripture. So they keep talking about Jesus told us, you know, this is the greatest love story, or whatever of that nature regarding Jesus. Jesus told us what His story is and what His message is. And that is Repent, for the kingdom of God is at hand. So their messaging is not the gospel. Their messaging is not who Jesus portrays himself to be. I think a lot of Christians watch these commercials and because they know so much of the gospel, their mind just fills in the blanks to things that the ad itself is not specifically saying. Christians need to watch these ads, as if they didn't know anything about Jesus, as if they didn't know anything about the Bible, and if they do that, they'll come away knowing this is not the Jesus that's portrayed in Scripture.

I think that the problem is that those who are running the messaging of "He Gets Us", don't believe the gospel. Back when it first came out, I was suspicious when I went to their web page, because there was nothing about the gospel at all on the "He Gets Us" site, so I went into their portal, where you can ask questions, and another guy did it too, that I didn't know at the time he was doing it. We compared notes later.

I asked the question, What if I'm a transgender person who's wanting to find a transgender friendly church, that will not tell me I need to stop being transgender, they'll just accept me for who I am? Well, they ended up connecting me with a church, and they emailed me and said, you can come just as you are, we don't judge you for being transgender.

You know, that was a great opportunity for them to say, Listen, we love you, we want to share the gospel with you. Transgenderism is something that will send you to hell, like every other sin will, but you cannot continue to live in that. They didn't offer that. There was no gospel. No mention of sin whatsoever. In fact, they said to me, specifically, (I put all this up publicly on Twitter a couple of years ago,) that Jesus loves you just the way you are. My friend, a pastor who went in, asked about thinking about having an abortion the next day. Would you pray for me before I had my abortion? This person talked to them and prayed for them, and in writing back to them, essentially just told them he prayed for peace for this person. He never tried to get them not to have an abortion.

So it wasn't just that they were washing the feet of this pastor, so to speak, saying these other things about I'm thinking about this and, basically presenting themselves as a woman doing that. Everybody was more

upset about that the fake pastor did not come forth and clean about who he was. But they weren't just washing the feet of this person, they were basically whitewashing their sin. That's the problem with "He Gets Us". It's not that they are saying that we should be willing to wash the feet of sinners, we most certainly should. The problem is that "He Gets Us" whitewashes their sin.

Audio Sound Bite: He Gets Us 36:54

There was a mother and a father who had a son. They lived in a small village and didn't have much money. But they were happy. One day, they heard the head of their country was sending soldiers to their town because he thought they were part of an insurrection. The young family decided to flee. They grabbed only what they could carry and ran. They hiked for days, wondering if soldiers might still be following them. They were scared, hungry, and exhausted. But they were far away from the atrocities taking place in Bethlehem. That's all Mary and Joseph wanted. A safe place to call home.

Host: David Wheaton 37:52

You get the point of the ad. You think it's a family, perhaps from Central America, who is fleeing persecution and war and trying to come to America and therefore we should let them in, but then you find out it's Jesus Himself who was "a refugee," when Herod sent his soldiers to Bethlehem to try to kill all the children under two years of age because he was trying to kill any threat to his throne through the life of Jesus. And Jesus and his parents had to flee as "refugees" to Egypt for a short time.

The question for you Tom, is, there seems to almost be a political angle on these ads with all the illegal immigration that's coming into this country by the millions, and that somehow, that should be encouraged and accepted by Americans because after all, Jesus was a refugee as well. Do you sense a political angle to these ads, Tom?

Guest: Tom Buck 38:59

There's no doubt that I believe that's what's taking place. They're not overtly saying that, but you would have to be blind as a bat and have less than a three digit IQ to think less different than that. It's clear that that's what they're doing. They've told you already on their webpage, that what they're doing is they're looking at the culture, they're examining the culture and speaking to how they think Jesus would address that, or how He can be put into that.

I think what they've done is they've exegeted the culture and they fashioned a Jesus that's palatable to that culture. They fashioned a Jesus that they believe will address the concerns that they have, with the current cultural arguments that are going on. Political arguments that are going on within our culture. We've seen from Ed Stetzer, who's huge in this, he's been very open about doing these types of things. There's no doubt in my mind, that they want to paint those who believe that we should have immigration in our country, we should want folks coming, and we certainly want to help those who are true refugees, but what they want to

paint those of us who say it should be legal, and we need to make sure that they really are refugees, they want to paint us in some way as being unloving, uncompassionate, out of step with the gospel, and so they have to reinvent a new Jesus.

The reason they have to, is because Jesus made it very clear that we should obey the laws of the land. The Word of God makes it very clear that we should be a lawful society and that Christians should uphold the law in society. They take Jesus, and they reinvent Him and make him something that the Bible does not say He is, to make Him like someone who's traveling from another country, in a refugee camp going across the land to come to America.

They're using that imagery to compare to what happened with Jesus when King Herod issued a death warrant, not just on the head of Jesus, but on the head of everyone that would have been his age at the time. In order to get rid of Jesus, he was willing to kill 1000s of babies, and they're willing to take that story and prostitute it for the sake of pushing their political agenda.

Host: David Wheaton 41:15

You're right. That is shameful to use the account of Jesus needing to flee Bethlehem with his parents and their flight to Egypt and therefore considering Him to be a refugee and comparing that to today in America that we need to allow more refugees, more illegal immigrants into this country, because that's what Jesus was. But changing gears here in the last few minutes we have with you, and it's on a somewhat related subject, recently at Grace Community Church in Los Angeles, there was a Q & A an open Q & A with John MacArthur, which is remarkable now at his age of 84. He stands up there by himself and answers all questions from the audience. One of the questions was about the drift that tends to take place with Christian organizations. Specifically mentioned were the Gospel Coalition, and T4G. The conference known as Together for the Gospel, which I don't think is even running anymore. But let's hear how John MacArthur answered that question. Then I'll follow up with you.

Audio Sound Bite: Pastor John MacArthur 42:28

Both of those organizations, well, T4G is basically non existent. They bought into the deceptiveness of the woke movement and the racial baiting that was going on a couple of years ago, and it literally put them out of existence. I was thinking the other day, how interesting it was that the last panel discussion that I was on at a T4G event was to honor RC Sproul who had died. The T4G guys wanted to honor him with a panel and we spent an hour an hour and 15 minutes and it was just a beautiful tributes to RC from all of us who knew him so very, very well. The strange irony was a year later, they did the same thing for Martin Luther King, who was not a Christian at all, whose life was immoral. I'm not saying he didn't do some social good, and I've always been glad that he was a pacifist, or he could have started a real revolution.

But you don't honor a non believer who misrepresented everything about Christ and the gospel in an organization alongside honoring somebody like RC Sproul. This was a symptom of the impact of the woke

movement that basically displaced that whole organization. It was over after that. Well, the Gospel Coalition kind of followed the same pattern. Today, the Gospel Coalition is propagating just about anything and everything good, bad and indifferent. So no, I wouldn't feel comfortable with the Gospel Coalition. These amorphous evangelical organizations without diligent, fastidious, vigilant leadership to keep them faithful to the truth of Scripture just wander off into everything and they become, I guess, in a sense, useless as an entity. There would be people in all of these that are still good people and honor the Lord but the inability to discern what was really going on, broke them into pieces and the Gospel Coalition is just like Christianity Today. I's Christianity Astray.

Host: David Wheaton 45:03

That was John MacArthur in a Q & A at his church recently talking about drift within the evangelical movement in organizations. If you think about it, drift happened even in the time of the first century in the churches that the apostle Paul established. He knew that savage wolves, as you said, will come in and try to get them off track. From being a pastor for so many years, Tom, and being involved with some parachurch organizations as well, as you are with G3, how do you keep a church or a parachurch organization on track for the long term, so it doesn't go sideways like some of these other ones have?

Guest: Tom Buck 45:41

It's moving away from just giving lip service to the things we believe and be willing to pay the price for the things that we say we believe. For example, we would all say that we believe that the scripture alone is sufficient. But then what happens is, whether it be "He Gets Us" or it be T4G with some of the things that they have allowed to infiltrate their ranks, rather than Scripture being solely sufficient and sticking with the Word of God alone, they began to read scripture through a cultural lens. They began to allow the cultural things like Critical Race Theory begin to impact how they talk about the gospel. They tried to bring those things together, at least from my perspective, having been very close to some of the people involved with the T4G, not as much with TGC, but T4G, and as far as my closest goes with guys there.

But Colossians makes it very clear that we have to be careful, beware of allowing worldly ideologies to infiltrate. Scriptures are clear to us on the dangers that are out there, and so we get the worldly ideology of wokeism or Critical Race Theory, intersectionality, that is there in our world, that is a worldly ideology. Paul tells us to not allow ourselves to be infected with those ideas so that it begins to tank the gospel. Every single time, if a worldly ideology is introduced into the church, there may be well meaning people who say, you know what, we'll make sure that the scripture stays superior over that.

SBC said that when they brought in what's been called, Resolution 9, infamously known as that. That was introducing intersectionality and Critical Race Theory as helpful. They said a helpful, useful tool. T4G was doing the same thing in practice. If every single time that someone has said, we're going to stick with the gospel, but we're also going to understand that there's some good worldly ideologies, or things about that we can chew up the dish and spit out the bone, every single time, within a short period of time, you will find

that it flips, and the scriptures become subordinate to the ideologies that have crept in. There's a reason why God has warned us about that.

Whether it be T4G, or TGC, or the Southern Baptist Convention, or whoever it may be, none of them have made sure that they only say that they believe the scriptures are sufficient, but they practice it. Practicing it means that we don't allow those things to creep in, even to come alongside the gospel to help prop up or whatever we think needs to be propped up. The reason that MacArthur and his institutions that he's been involved in so far, including his church, that hasn't happened to them, is because he has walked the walk, as well as talk the talk. MacArthur has made sure that when he says the Scripture is sufficient with his mouth, he makes sure that the practices of his church and institutions he's involved with, that what they do every day matches with that.

Host: David Wheaton 48:44

So well said, Tom. Even John MacArthur, who has been in pastoral ministry for so long and been faithful for so many years. Satan is relentless and will always try to bring those in who will compromise on the most important issues of God and Christ and the gospel. Tom, thank you for coming on the program today. If you'd like to find out more about Tom, we have him linked at our website, TheChristianWorldview.org, including his very active X or twitter account as well. Just a few quick follow up thoughts on this topic about the "He Gets Us" campaign.

Sometimes churches or Christian organizations statement of faith isn't helpful to read because it may sound orthodox as you read it, but the practice of the church or organization is far from orthodox. If you go to their website, hegetsus.com, they have a very vague, insufficient set of beliefs posted on their site. Likely because they're trying to not offend their overly wide group of contributors and because they have a "fear of man" to leave out anything that could offend anyone. When that's your posture though, you'll never be faithful to God and Scripture. Here's what they say on their site. They say, "He Gets Us has an agenda." What would that be? Here's a paragraph.

How did the story of a man who taught and practiced unconditional love, peace and kindness, who spent his life defending the poor and the marginalized, a man who even forgave his killers while they executed him unjustly, whose life inspired a radical movement that is still impacting the world 1000s of years later, how did this man's story become associated with hatred and oppression for so many people? How might we all rediscover the promise of the love his story represents?

Those are the questions at the heart of He Gets Us. Did you notice all the code language there? Jesus wasn't just a man. He was truly a man, but He was truly God as well. He didn't teach unconditional love toward religious hypocrites and toward the unrepentant. He didn't spend his life defending the poor and the marginalized. He spent his ministry preaching the gospel mainly. His life didn't inspire a, "radical movement."

Christianity is not a movement, it's the kingdom of God on earth. And then how did his story become associated with hatred and oppression?

This whole campaign has a stench to it, that we are not like those theologically conservative Christians, who are the real haters and oppressors. We're for forgiveness and "unconditional love." But they'll never mention the hard truths of scripture, that man is sinful, and headed for judgment, God is holy, Christ died for our sin, He is the only way to be saved, and that He commands all people everywhere to repent. Jesus does get you. He Gets Us. Hebrews 4 says, *We don't have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin.*

He gets our predicament, but our greatest predicament that He gets is our sin against Him, the Holy God, and He's just. Every sin will be punished. And here's His grace. Jesus paid the death penalty for our sin by dying on the cross, or we can choose to pay that eternal death penalty ourselves. But to receive this offer of forgiveness and reconciliation, we must repent and believe in Christ as the perfect Son of God and His atoning work on our behalf on the cross.

The Christian Worldview is a listener supported nonprofit radio ministry furnished by the Overcomer Foundation. The mission of The Christian Worldview is to sharpen the biblical worldview of Christians and to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ. Fundamentally it's about impacting people, families, churches, with the life and eternity changing truth of God's Word. We know the gospel of Jesus Christ is the only message that saves us from God's wrath, by God's grace, for God's glory. We know the Bible is the inspired Word of God, providing the only way to think and live to the glory of God. We hope today's broadcast encouraged you toward that end.

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UPCOMING TCW EVENTS:

Speaker Series with Alex Newman - April 12, 2024 at Beacon of Hope Church

The heart of God rejecting man yearns to get back to Babel, creating a world where man rules apart from God. Evidence for this is all around us. Revelation says this is where the world will end up. On Friday, April 12th Christian journalist, Alex Newman, will join us for a Christian Worldview Speaker Series event at Beacon

of Hope Church in St. Paul, Minnesota, to speak on the topic of “How the Push for Global Governance Utilizes Environmentalism, the Educational System, Economic Policy, and More.”

You can come for a donation of any amount, but seating is limited, so you need to register in advance at TheChristianWorldview.org or by calling 1-888-646-2233. Doors open at 6pm. Alex Newman speaks at 7:00 pm with Q & A to follow. Be informed to think biblically and live accordingly. Hope to see you Friday, April 12h at Beacon of Hope Church in St. Paul, Minnesota.

The Overcomer Course - June 21-21, 2024 at Stone House Farm

David Wheaton here, host of The Christian Worldview to tell you about the Overcomer Course for young adults being held June 21st and 22nd at beautiful Stone House Farm in Jordan, Minnesota. Aged 18 to 25 is a highly transitional time. The convictions developed and the decisions made during this crucial stage sets ones course for years to come.

In eight sessions over two days, addressing life's most important issues, such as God and the gospel, right thinking and living, relationships and marriage, vocation, the local church and more, the Overcomer Course is designed to help young adults gain clarity and conviction on God's plan and their purpose in it. There will be plenty of time for interaction and discussion as well. You can find out more and register by calling 1-888-646-2233 or by visiting TheChristianWorldview.org.