

Into the Word - East Coast

Dr. Joel Gregory
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Dr. Gregory:

You are scheduled to participate in the “Bethel Seminary and First Baptist Church of Glenarden Leadership Conference” scheduled for May 13, 2006. I urge you to cancel your participation in the conference.

This letter is an effort to bring to your awareness several facts about John K. Jenkins, the pastor of First Baptist Church of Glenarden in Maryland. This is not an effort to embarrass John Jenkins or to call into question his character. It is instead, an effort to warn you of several serious doctrinal issues associated with John Jenkins and his ministry.

I am a former member of First Baptist Church of Glenarden. I left several years ago. However, my reason for leaving was not personal. Rather, it was doctrinal.

Several years before I left FBCG, Mr. Jenkins began associating with people and organizations of questionable orthodoxy. Specifically, he spoke at a conference featuring Kenneth Copeland. He has also hosted other speakers from the Word of Faith movement. These include Tim Storey from Los Angeles, a female pastor from Virginia Beach VA who preached a Word of Faith message to the congregation, various speakers who identify themselves as Apostles (Apostle Greenup has visited several times) and others.

He sells books by such Word of Faith luminaries as Benny Hinn, including his book “Good Morning Holy Spirit” in which Mr. Hinn claims to have seen the Holy Spirit sitting across from him.

Shortly before I left, Mr. Jenkins began telling the congregation that he is the Man of God (in a manner similar to Elijah or Elisha) and that he is God’s mouthpiece to that congregation. He encouraged those who didn’t see him as their Man of God to leave and put themselves under a person they could obey as their man of God.

Finally, Mr. Jenkins worked his way around to the standard Kenyonesque Word of Faith position of claiming that Jesus suffered in hell for three days to pay for our sins because His death on the cross only provided us physical healing, not spiritual healing from sin.

When I first heard him preach this, I was quite surprised. I approached him and asked him if he had actually said what I thought I had heard him say. He responded, apparently quite pleased with himself, yes, that was exactly what he was saying.

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Over the next several months, Mr. Jenkins and I talked. I sought to understand from Scripture, his basis for saying that Jesus suffered in hell for our sins. His resulting defense was weak at best. The discussion came to an end when I asked how Jesus could have suffered in hell for three days when he told the thief on the cross that the thief would be with Him in paradise that day. Mr. Jenkins' response was a jaw dropper. He said, "It depends on what the word 'paradise' means." I severed my ties with the church shortly after that.

Mr. Jenkins has continued his slide from orthodoxy. He has invited several men who deny the Trinity to speak to the congregation. These include Charles Ellis, a Oneness bishop out of Detroit Michigan (Greater Grace Temple) and Mr. Lyle Dukes, an officer in the Pentecostal Assemblies of the World (PAW) pastoring a church in Northern Virginia. He has also participated in activities with Noel Jones, a PAW associate. Recently, he announced to his congregation, that T. D. Jakes is now his mentor. Jakes is also a Oneness preacher and teaches several doctrines contrary to orthodoxy.

I am telling you all of this to warn you of the danger of associating your ministry with that of John Jenkins and First Baptist Church of Glenarden. Over the past six years, Mr. Jenkins has become not only less and less Baptist, he has been consistently moving away from any semblance of orthodox Christianity. He has continued his drift toward Word of Faith doctrine and Pentecostal preaching and practices.

I urge you to reconsider lending your name and the reputation of your ministry to FBCG activities.

I urge you to call Mr. Jenkins and ask him about the facts stated in this letter. Give him the specifics. Tell him who sent them to you. But please, investigate the matter to see if what I have said is so.

I have been quite public in my questioning of John Jenkins and the people he associates with. I maintain a website warning people about the doctrines and practices of Mr. Jenkins, T. D. Jakes, Kenneth Copeland, Frederick K. C. Price and a host of others. The site's name: www.pulpit-pimps.org. If you go to the site, click on John Jenkins and the browser will present all of the information I have posted concerning John Jenkins.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call or have an associate call me. I will gladly answer any questions you may have.

Again I urge you to cancel your engagement with John Jenkins.

Melvin Jones
Concerned Christian