



The Prosperity Gospel: Your Preacher is Lying
First Baptist Church of Upper Marlboro – 8/10/16



I. Introduction: *Nothing New Under the Sun...*

2 Corinthians 11:2–6 “For I feel a divine jealousy for you, since I betrothed you to one husband, to present you as a pure virgin to Christ. ³ But I am afraid that as the serpent deceived Eve by his cunning, your thoughts will be led astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ. ⁴ For if someone comes and proclaims another Jesus than the one we proclaimed, or if you receive a different spirit from the one you received, or if you accept a different gospel from the one you accepted, you put up with it readily enough. ⁵ Indeed, I consider that I am not in the least inferior to these super-apostles. ⁶ Even if I am unskilled in speaking, I am not so in knowledge; indeed, in every way we have made this plain to you in all things.”

2 Corinthians 11:13–14 “Such men are false apostles, deceitful workmen, disguising themselves as apostles of Christ. ¹⁴ And no wonder, for even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light.”

II. Where did this come from? *A brief history*¹...

III. What is the Prosperity Gospel? *Where it goes wrong...*

a. The Nature of Faith

¹ For a detailed look at the history, see *Blessed: A History of the American Prosperity Gospel* by Dr. Kate Bowler.

b. Teaching on Prayer

c. Teaching on Giving

d. Teaching on the Atonement

IV. How should we respond? *Avoidance, Discernment and Compassion*

a. Avoidance

b. Discernment

1 John 4:1 “Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world.”

2 Peter 2:1–3 “But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction. And many will follow their sensuality, and because of them the way of truth will be blasphemed. And in their greed they will exploit you with false words. Their condemnation from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep.”

c. Compassion
