

“Soldiers of the invading armies are found supplied with large quantities of these forged notes as a means of despoiling the country people, by fraud out of such portions of their property as armed violence may fail to reach.” -Jefferson David president of the southern confederacy 1862

Moralistic Therapeutic Deism

- **Deism** — God exists but he is not involved in my everyday life.
- **Therapeutic** — God wants me to be happy.
- **Moralistic** — God wants me to be good.

What is the true gospel?

For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, 1 Corinthians 15:3–4 (ESV)

1. Where did we come from? — Creation

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. Genesis 1:1 (ESV)

Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever you had formed the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God. Psalm 90:2 (ESV)

2. What has gone wrong? — Fall

as it is written: “None is righteous, no, not one;” Romans 3:10 (ESV)

3. What is the solution? — Redemption

For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit, 1 Peter 3:18 (ESV)

4. What is the future? — Restoration

And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.” Revelation 21:3–4 (ESV)

What is the false therapeutic gospel? (Jesus is here to make me happy.)

The Happy Meal Gospel

In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials, so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ. 1 Peter 1:6–7 (ESV)

Count it all joy, my brothers, when you meet trials of various kinds, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness. And let steadfastness have its full effect, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing. James 1:2–4 (ESV)

The Prozac Gospel

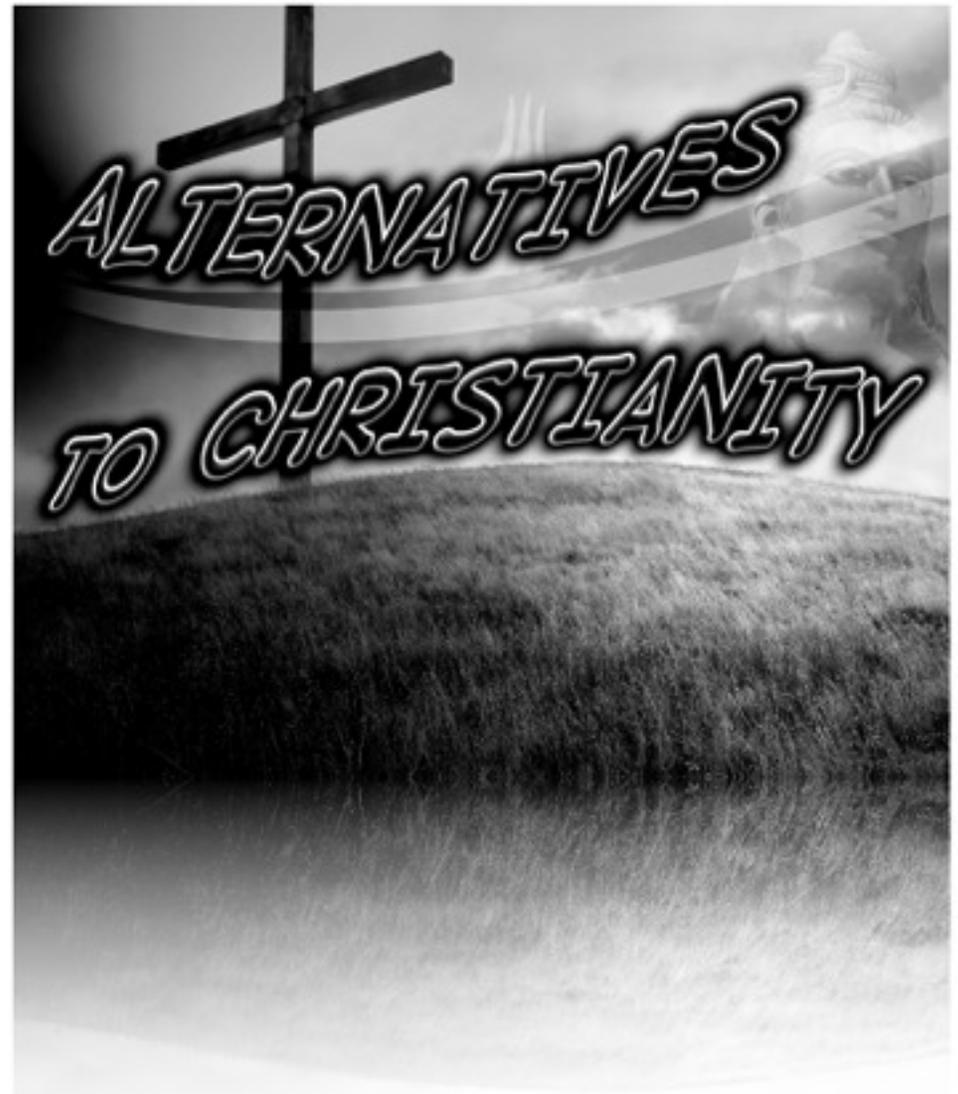
We have all become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. Isaiah 64:6 (ESV)

The Home Depot Gospel

What is the false moralistic gospel? (Jesus is here to make me good.)

“Religion operates on the principle ‘I obey — therefore I am accepted by God.’” But the operating principle of the gospel is ‘I am accepted by God through what Christ has done — therefore I obey.’ - Tim Keller

Conclusion



Cultural Christianity