

ARE YOU BEING ENTERTAINED OR IMPROVED?

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TEXT:

Matthew 21:12-13

12 And Jesus went into the temple of God, and cast out all them that sold and bought in the temple, and overthrew the tables of the moneychangers, and the seats of them that sold doves, 13 And said unto them, It is written, My house shall be called the house of prayer; but ye have made it a den of thieves.

SUBJ: Are you being Entertained OR Improved?

INTRO: How many of y'all know that church is not a place to entertain you?

(NOTE: I'm not here to make you come to church because I can sing OR hoop OR throw the microphone spin around three times and catch it so you can shout.)

Ephesians 4:11-12

11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; 12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

(EXPOUND) Church is not here to please you, but it's here to perfect you!

QUOTE: "When we reduce the gathering of GOD's people to an entertainment, we don't enhance it, we diminish it!"

(NOTE: When it's all about entertainment we diminish the GOSPEL!)

Paul said in

Galatians 1:10

For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ.

(EXPOUND) If I'm more concerned about making sure that the people are pleased with the church and the activities of the church, I can't be a servant of GOD because all I'm doing is trying to please you.

(NOTE: If my focus is trying to entertain you, that makes me a servant of man and not of GOD!)

1 Corinthians 2:1-5

1 And I, brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God. 2 For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified. 3 And I was with you in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling. 4 And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power:

5 That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the

power of God.

(EXPOUND) My job is not to entice you with WORDS, but it's to enlighten by the POWER of the WORD!

(NOTE: See I'm not supposed to just say words that sound good to you, but I'm supposed to teach you the WORD and how the word is good for you!)

(EXP#) I'm not just supposed to say that you should follow Christ, I'm supposed to show you how to do it by living it in front of you.

(EXP#) I'm not just supposed to say that GOD you have all power and authority, I'm supposed to show you that you do, by laying hands on you in the name of JESUS!

(EXP#) I'm not just supposed to tell you to trust god in all things, I'm supposed to show you how to do it.

Ephesians 4:11-13

11 And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; 12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:

13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:

(EXPOUND) My Job is not to entertain you, but it's to enlighten you of the knowledge of JESUS. Because when you know JESUS, you'll know everything you need to know.

(EXP#) When you know JESUS, you'll know that he was bruised for your iniquities

and the chastisement of your peace was upon him and by his stripes you are healed. (Spiritually, physically, mentally, emotionally, economically, in every area of your life, you are healed!)

(EXP#) When you know JESUS, you'll know that whatever you the father in his name, that he'll do it for you.

(EXP#) When you know JESUS, you'll know that he's sitting on the right hand of GOD interceding for you.

(EXP#) When you know JESUS, you'll know that he died and went to hell for you, so that he wouldn't have to go to heaven without you.

(EXP#) When you know JESUS, you'll know that he'll never leave you nor forsake you.

(EXP#) When you know JESUS, you'll know that you have power and authority over all devils.

My job is to enlighten you and not entertain you.

HOW CAN YOU TELL IF YOU'RE BEING ENLIGHTENED OR ENTERTAINED?

BODY:

**#1 IF THE WORD GOING FORTH NEVER CORRECTS YOU,
YOU'RE NOT BEING IMPROVED, YOU'RE BEING
ENTERTAINED.**

(EXPOUND) If you can go to church and hear the word, and then leave church and keep living the same wrong way, you're not being enlightened, you're being entertained.

2 Timothy 3:16-17

16 All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: 17 That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

(EXPOUND) There should be no way that you can go to church and hear the word of GOD and it doesn't convict you to want to live better!

(EXP#) If you can go the church one way and leave there the same way, you're going for entertainment!

(NOTE: There should be sometimes when you leave church, that you leave here mad at me and Bishop because we said something that checked you!)

(EXP#) We said something in the word, that called out the sin in your life!

(EXP#) We said something in the word, that called out that nasty spirit and attitude you have!

(EXP#) We said something in the word, that made you not feel good about how you're living!

2 Timothy 4:1-2

1 I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; 2 Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season;

reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long suffering and doctrine.

(EXPOUND) My Job is not to entertain you and make you feel good, but it's to enlighten you and make you be good.

(NOTE: You should leave here checking yourself!)

#2 IF YOU'RE NOT GROWING IN GOD, YOU'RE NOT BEING ENLIGHTENED, YOU'RE BEING ENTERTAINED.

(EXPOUND) There should be some sign of spiritual growth in your life when you're being enlightened.

(NOTE: If you're at the same level today, that you were at 5 years ago, 10 years ago and even yesterday, you're not being enlightened.)

Every day we should be looking to grow spiritually!

Peter said in

2 Peter 3:18

But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.

(EXPOUND) If you're being enlightened, every day you should be growing spiritually.

(EXP#) My faith should've increased from yesterday!

(NOTE: Because GOD brought me through what I went through yesterday and I'm

still here, I believe a little bit more today!)

(EXP#) My hope should've increased from yesterday!

(NOTE: I didn't get what I wanted yesterday, but GOD gave me everything that I needed to get to today, so I'm hopeful he'll do more tomorrow!)

(EXP#) My forgiveness should've increased from yesterday!

(NOTE: I messed up again yesterday and he still forgave me and gave me new mercy today, and because of it, I'm able to show mercy and forgiveness today.)

(EXP#) My Patience should've increased from yesterday!

(NOTE: GOD was patient with me and didn't condemn me for what I did, and because of it I've learned how to be patient with others.)

Colossians 1:9-10

9 For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; 10 That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God!

(EXPOUND) We grow and develop physically & naturally, but our desire should to be grow and develop EVEN MORE, Spiritually & Supernaturally!

GOD said, "The reason why some of us have not reached the level where he is trying to bring us, is because we're not spiritually developed enough to get to where we're going."

He said, "Some of our physical beings, have out groaned our spiritual beings, and even though we may look like we're grown up and developed on the outside, we're still under develop little child on the inside!

CONCLUSION:

#3 IF YOU'RE NOT HOPEFUL FOR TOMORROW, YOU'RE NOT BEING ENLIGHTENED.

(EXPOUND) If you don't leave here hopeful that things are already getting better, OR that all things are working out for your good, you're not being enlightened.

(EXP#) You should leave here knowing that no matter what your going through, GOD has already worked it out for you!

(EXP#) You should leave here knowing that no weapon formed against you shall prosper!

(EXP#) You should leave here knowing that my GOD shall supply all of my need according to his riches and glory in Christ JESUS!

(EXP#) You should leave here knowing that he'll never leave you nor forsake!!

Ephesians 1:17-18

17 That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him: 18 The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,

(EXPOUND) When you're being enlightened, you live with hope!

