

Westboro Baptist Church

(WBC Chronicles -- Since 1955)

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Religious Opinion & Bible Commentary on Current Events

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NEWS RELEASE

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WBC TO PREACH OUTSIDE GRACE COMMUNITY MEGACHURCH (12348 ROSCOE BLVD., SUN VALLEY, CA) SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9TH, FROM 5:30 - 6:00 PM

John MacArthur has a big platform from which to preach, and to his credit, much of what he preaches is sound doctrine. But when we see a large, opulent megachurch headed by a man who has become very wealthy off the Word of God, we know there is an apparent problem with “the love of money.” Paul tells us it is “the root of all (or, all kinds of) evil” (1 Tim. 6:10). We don’t know all the sinful motivations in a man’s heart, but we can (and must) apply Biblical standards to the fruits we see:

- **Peddling the Word of God.** “We are not as many, which corrupt (or, peddle) the Word of God.” (2 Cor. 2:17). “Freely ye have received, freely give.” (Mt. 10:8). MacArthur has said, “He (Jesus) forbids them to charge money for their ministry...Don’t you ever put a price on your ministry.” But he regularly sets a price, making merchandise of the gospel. The list price of his NT commentary is a profit-making \$769.99! You can only read it if you pay. He has set up a store with overpriced items right in his church! (Jesus “cast out all them that sold and bought in the temple” – Mt. 21:12).
- **Perfidy and Peculation.** In addition to other significant income, MacArthur accepted \$402,444 for 20 hours of work per week at his “Grace To You” ministry. Outrageous! If you ask for money to help spread the gospel and then pocket \$402,444 of it, in God’s eyes, that is theft and treachery. GTY’s response: “He’s within the scale of normal compensation for the CEO of an organization our size.” This answer speaks volumes - clearly, God’s Word is viewed as big business. This isn’t about an elder being worthy of his reward (1 Tim. 5:18); this is 100% greed.
- **Partiality.** If you roll out the red carpet to rich “Christian celebs” and deep-pocketed Hollywood plastic surgeons (#BoobJobsForJesus), you are a respecter of persons (James 2). God knows how many sins are winked at to avoid harming the bottom line.
- **Permitting Proud Adultery.** Divorce + remarriage = adultery (Mt. 5:23). MacArthur knows that marriage #2 is ongoing adultery. Yet he allows church members to live in adultery, saying it’s OK since Jesus has forgiven them (as if we’re delivered to sin - Jer. 7:9-10). Why tolerate this sin? Because membership would dwindle, and with it their money?
- **Perversion of Worship.** MacArthur perverts Biblical patterns of worship to cater to his audience. The Lord’s Supper has degenerated to individual cups of grape juice and crackers; long-haired women with head coverings during worship “because of the angels” (1 Cor. 11) is cavalierly dismissed as “cultural;” idolatry is introduced in the form of man-made holy days like Xmas. He must heed his own words: “Those who offer self-styled worship are unacceptable to God.”
- **Pusillanimity.** With CA on fire, MacArthur must tell the proud sinners there that God is doing it (Am. 3:6) and is laughing at them because they’ve refused His repeated merciful calls to repent (Pro. 1). Has he become a coward when it comes to declaring all the counsel of God because he doesn’t want to lose his fat salaries or positions of power?

Our message to John MacArthur and his church is to stop the excuses and the justifications and repent from these evils. Your rationalizations will not stand up on the Judgment Day. As MacArthur has said, “You find somebody who represents Jesus Christ and puts a price on his service, and I’ll tell you somebody who has just priced himself out of blessing from God.” That is so true. So woe unto you hypocrites! There is no telling what sorrows have already pierced through John MacArthur. Our hope and prayer is that he would be recovered from the deceitfulness of riches which will end in drowning him in destruction and perdition (1 Tim. 6:9-10). To all who hear him preach: insofar as John MacArthur is faithful to the scriptures, observe what he says, and do. But don’t follow his example in this matter, because he says one thing and does another. (Mt. 23:2-3).