

Misled: 7 Lies That Distort the Gospel (and How You Can Discern the Truth) | with Allen Parr

(June 9, 2023)

Frank:

Ladies and gentlemen, are you being misled? Misled by false teachers? Misled by misunderstanding certain passages? Or how would you know? One of the problems with being misled, one of the problems with being deceived, is that you don't know you're being deceived. That's one of the big problems. So, how can you be led properly and not misled? How can you be undeceived? Well, one thing we've talked about on this program before is my shock that most churches don't teach you how to interpret the Bible. I mean, if the Bible is God's word, you would think that would be the number one thing they would teach. But very few people, very few churches teach how to interpret the Bible.

This is one reason why my friend Allen Parr's YouTube channel has exploded, because he does teach people how to interpret the Bible. You probably know Allen Parr. If you don't, you need to. He just passed a million subscribers on YouTube. He's a graduate of Dallas Theological Seminary, one of the best seminaries in the country, in the world. He got his degree almost 20 years ago. And right now, he heads the very popular YouTube channel called "The BEAT."

"The BEAT" stands for Biblical Encouragement and Truth. And he's got so many great videos up there that will really help you understand the truth about Christianity. And he's got a brand new book. This new book I love. I read the whole book a couple of months ago in order to endorse it, and I did. Several others endorsed it as well. It's called "Misled: 7 Lies That Distort the Gospel (and How You Can Discern the Truth)." So, it's great to have my friend Allen Parr on. Allen, how are you?

Allen:

I'm doing great, Frank. Glad to be here and looking forward to an exciting conversation.

Frank:

I am as well. And I'm also looking forward to having you at CIA. This is going to be the first time you're going to be an instructor with us at the CrossExamined Instructor Academy in Albuquerque next week. And friends, we may have just a couple of seats left. If you want to be a part of CIA, the CrossExamined Instructor Academy, and learn how to present, and how to be better at answering questions, you need to sign up. You need to apply. Go to CrossExamined.org. Click on Events, look for CIA.

And Allen might just be your instructor to help you improve your presentation skills. Now, Allen, let's get to this book "Misled." You do such a great job on your YouTube channel, explaining the truth of so many biblical concepts. What led you to write "Misled"? Because I think there's so



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many points in here that you make that I think are just gold. And we'll go through some of them as we go. Why did you write the book?

Allen:

Great question. I think for me, there were a few reasons that kind of motivated me to write this book. First and foremost, my personal experience. I write about it in the introduction of the book, where in college, I was involved in a church that was teaching false doctrine. And like you said earlier, you know, the worst thing about being deceived is that you don't know that you're being deceived. And that really described me for many, many years, until by the Lord's grace, He really encouraged me to find enough strength to kind of get out of that false church and get free from it. But so many people are not. And so that's one of the things.

The second thing that really motivated me was, I have a lot of friends over the years, friends and family members who have been led astray. They've made poor decisions. Their lives have gone in directions that I'm sure they would have preferred them not to go, simply because they've been sitting under false teaching. And as you know, wrong interpretation of the Bible oftentimes leads to wrong application as well.

And then finally, as you know, as a content creator, we get a lot of comments. We get a lot of emails. We get a lot of messages being sent to our inboxes. And when I look at some of the comments, and I look at some of the emails that we get, and I see how misled people are with their theology, I felt like I needed to write a book that would clear up as many false teachings as possible. So, that's really what motivated me to write the book.

Frank:

Now obviously, friends, we cannot cover the entire book here in this one 48 minute interview. But give us an overview, Allen. What are the seven false beliefs that you go through, the seven lies that distort the Gospel? Just give us an overview of the seven, and then maybe we'll dive into a couple of them.

Allen:

Sure thing. So, chapter one really focuses on not necessarily making the argument that the gift of tongues has ceased. We don't get into that. That's not the purpose of that chapter. But it's really about how the gift of tongues is being misused in the church, how it's being abused, and how pressure is being put on people to speak in tongues, and making them think that if they don't, they're kind of a JV second class Christian (I call it). That's really chapter one. And then chapter two really, really goes after the false "Prosperity Gospel Word of Faith" movement, and really goes in deep. It kind of debunks that.

Chapter three talks a lot about a specific nuance or aspect of the Word of Faith movement, which is this idea of positive confession. It's this false teaching that Christians have the power to speak things into existence. We are little gods. Therefore, if God has creative power with His words, we can create things with our words. We can manifest things, which is a New Age

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philosophy. In chapter four, we talk about prophecy. Once again, not necessarily trying to prove that the gift has ceased, or anything like that. But once again, highlighting the misuse of prophecy, and really debunking the idea that everybody who says they're a prophet is really not a prophet. And I talk about how to detect what a true prophet is, from a false prophet.

Chapter five, I'm really excited about. Super practical chapter about "Progressive Christianity," and just how rampant that is, and how you can spot whether your church is progressive, or whether you can spot whether your friends are progressive, and the danger of adopting that type of ideology. Chapter six, I talk about what I personally believe. I know some people don't see it this way. But I personally believe that Christians cannot lose their salvation. And so, I build a strong argument to really support the idea that our salvation is secure, eternal security.

But then in chapter seven, it's kind of a little bit of the flip side of that where I talk about, yes, it's great that we have security in our salvation. But there should be fruit in the life of the believer, that we should pursue a discipleship relationship with Jesus. And so, I talk a little bit about how some people can think, oh, I just prayed a prayer when I was seven years old. I'm good. I don't have to do anything for the rest of my life. And okay, well, that's true. You don't have to do anything to be saved or to maintain your salvation. But I believe that works are the fruit of genuine salvation. I build an argument for that in chapter seven.

Frank:

Now, Allen, you also have a course that you teach on how to interpret the Bible. We have one as well. But I'd love to hear kind of the bones of your course. In fact, I think you talk about the three C's. Can you just give an overview of the three C's? It's very important?

Allen:

Yeah, yeah. So, that's important, because we need a framework for how we properly interpret the Bible. And I think that the interesting thing about these things that I talk about in the book, as you know, Frank, is that most lies, specifically in the church, have some sort of truth embedded in them. This makes it very difficult for many Christians to discern, is this true or is this not? And most false teachings are using scripture, right? They use Scripture to support their teaching. And so, the question is not necessarily, are they using scripture, but how are they using Scripture? Are they using it properly?

So, the first C is basic. It's just context. If you just take a little bit of time to look at what came before and what came after it, and you really, really study the context of the book, what we call the author's original intent. Why did the author write that book? For instance, Philippians 4:13. You can hold that sign up at a football game. I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength.

I don't think Paul, when he was in prison, writing to the church at Philippi, was thinking about my Pittsburgh Steelers. They're down 35 points in the fourth quarter, that we're going to have hope that we can do all things through Christ who gives me strength. So, we take these verses, and

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that's not what it means. It's talking about contentment. So, context, cross references. There are some verses that are confusing. If you look at what the rest of the Bible have to say, it will help you. And then finally, consultation. Check out a commentary or a Bible dictionary, and make sure your interpretation is correct.

Frank:

We'll go a little further after the break on those last two with my friend, Allen Parr. His new book "Misled", trust me, you need to get it. It'll open your eyes and help you quite a bit. We're back in two minutes. Don't go anywhere.

In the first segment of this program, ladies and gentlemen, I said CIA is next week. No, I didn't mean next week, next month! It starts at the end of July. Actually, it's a three day program at the end of July. I think it's July 27th. It's the Thursday, July 27th. That's when it starts. If you want to be a part of the CrossExamined Instructor Academy, go to CrossExamined.org. Click on Events; apply there. My friend, Allen Parr, is one of the instructors. Of course, I'll be there. Greg Koukl, Richard Howe, Bobby Conway, Alisa Childers, Natasha Crain, Hillary Morgan Ferrer of Mama Bear Apologetics, John Ferrer, many others. You'll want to be there as well. Just go to CrossExamined.org. Click on Events.

Now, before the break Allen, you're talking about the three C's of Bible interpretation. You said context, cross-referencing, and then commentaries. But I like what you said about context. You say if you take the text out, what happens? Give us the insight there. It's good.

Allen:

You know, you take the text out of context, you get conned every single time. We don't want anyone getting conned by false teaching. So, make sure that every time you hear a pastor using a scripture, you go home and study it like the Berean church in Acts 17. And you make sure that they were using that scripture within the proper historical and grammatical context.

Frank:

So, Philippians 4:13, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" is not going to help me kick the field goal with three seconds to go? That's not for that? What are you saying?

Allen:

He might help you kick the field goal. But I don't think Paul really had that in mind whenever he was writing that. [Laughter]

Frank:

All right. Just so people know, if they go to your website, AllenParr.com, what are they going to find there? Because you have courses there, right? Am I right about that?

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Allen:

Yeah, so they'll find a little bit of information about me, my family. They will be able to book me to speak at an event if they would like. They will find different courses that we have available in our "Let's Equip Academy." Courses on biblical literacy, courses on how to build, launch, and grow a successful Christian YouTube channel and online ministry, and a few other different courses as well. And they can also donate to our ministry there as well.

Frank:

Excellent. Now, you cover so many great things on your YouTube channel and some of the things that you cover on the YouTube channel are actually in the book "Misled." Let's talk for a few minutes about the "Prosperity Gospel." How did this start? This "Prosperity Gospel", where did it come from?

Allen:

Yeah, well, you know, it seems to have gotten a lot of traction, I would probably say in the 70s and 80s. Kenneth Hagan seems to be the Godfather, if you will, of the Word of Faith movement. And it really just got its traction. And the reason why it is so popular, is because it really preys upon most...I would probably say all. I can't imagine any human being who would not have these two desires. But our two greatest desires, which is to be healthy and wealthy...I mean, let's be honest, every single person would love to have a life without pain, without sickness, without suffering, and also to have more than enough money than we know what to do with.

And so, if you promise people that, hey, embedded in the Gospel, included in the finished work of Jesus Christ, is this promise that you can have the life that you want. The problem is that they erroneously tie faith to accessing that promise. So, it's not just one of those things where hey, this is going to be given to you guaranteed. No, in order to unlock the secret vault of blessings that are available for every Christian, because it's promised, and Jesus accomplished this through his finished work on the cross, you've got to exercise a certain requisite level of faith.

And if you don't do that, then you're living beneath God's full potential for your life. And it's really your fault that you're not accessing these blessings, because God wants to give them to you. It's just that you don't have enough faith. Not that you don't have enough faith to be an atheist, you don't have enough faith to prosper.

Frank:

So, what are some of the passages they use, Allen? Are they taking stuff from the Old Testament, part of the old covenant and trying to apply it in the new covenant? I mean, I think of Malachi 3 where it says bring your tithe to the temple and your store houses, or your barns will overflow. Are those the kinds of passages they use? Are they illegitimately taking promises from the old covenant and applying them in the new covenant?

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Allen:

Well, I'll give you a couple. You know, Deuteronomy 8, it talks about how God has given us the power to get wealth. If you look at that passage, it's very clear that God was talking specifically to the nation of Israel as they were entering into the promised land. And he's warning them. He's saying, hey, as you get into this promised land, make sure that you don't forget the God who got you there. Make sure you don't forget that I'm taking you into a land with wells that you did not dig, and houses you did not build, and vineyards you did not plant.

Just be reminded that God has given you the power to get wealth. Okay, that's good. But to take that verse, and rip it out of context, and make that a promise for every single believer throughout all time, that God has given us the power to get wealth, is once again doing a disservice to the text. But one that's probably the one of the most popular ones is Isaiah 53:5, by his stripes, we are healed. And man, if I've heard this one, Frank, I've heard it a million times. People will just quote this because it sounds good. But if you look at the word healed, if you traced the word healed throughout the book of Isaiah, and really primarily throughout the majority of the Old Testament, specifically in the prophets, it's talking about a spiritual healing.

I just encourage everyone out here, to go get a concordance, or use some sort of online tool and type in the word heal, healed, or healing, and look at how the word is used in the Old Testament. You'll find that usually 90 percent of the time, it's not talking about physical healing. It's talking about God's spiritually healing the relationship that was broken with his people. So, why is it that we take that one verse and say, oh, that must mean that I must be physically healed. That's an example of how verses are taken out of context.

Frank:

You know, we've said this on this program before, ladies and gentlemen, that there are no verses in the Bible. The chapter and verse divisions were put in about 500 years ago to help us navigate the text. But when Isaiah was writing Isaiah, he didn't say, here's chapter 53, verse one, okay? When Matthew is writing Matthew, he didn't say, here's chapter seven, verse one. And the problem is, when we think there's a number in front of something that we can just take it out and make it say whatever we want. We can't do that. We've got to know the context. And this is what you point out in the book. And again, friends, the book that my friend Allen Parr has written is called, "Misled: 7 Lies That Distort the Gospel."

He's pointing out you need to know the context. You need to know what's going on, in order to discover what the word in this case, healed means. I mean, does it mean you're physically healed? Is this even a reference to us? Or is this a reference to the suffering servant (that's what it is), who turns out to be Jesus? Jesus, through His sacrifice has healed our divide with God. He's healed the fact that we're sinners, and he came to provide healing because of the sin we've provided or that we've committed, so we can be reconciled to Him. It has nothing to do with you being healed physically, yet people take that out of context, Allen.

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And that's what you point out here in the book "Misled." I want to ask you another question, too. On a couple of occasions, (and you cover this in the book) Jesus says after he heals someone, your faith has saved you. If you just take that verse without any context, it does seem like faith is some sort of spiritual force, as Kenneth Copeland would say. How do you respond to that? What's the proper interpretation?

Allen:

Well, once again, we talked earlier about those three C's: context, cross-references, right? So, it would be a lot easier if every single time Jesus healed someone, their healing was contingent upon their faith, right? It would be so much easier if every single time Jesus healed somebody, that it was because they expressed faith not in Him, but faith in His ability to heal, and then they got healed. But the problem is, we have so many examples in the Scriptures where Jesus healed people, not on the basis of their faith, but on the basis of His desire to be good, and want to heal them, and Him having compassion on them.

You look at the guy who was blind. He didn't even have enough faith. He was blind. He couldn't even see. So, he didn't even know who was healing him. He just knows some guy named Jesus, some guy touched him, and he was able to see. The people kept asking him a lot of questions. He was like, look, I can't answer all your questions. The only thing I know is, I used to be blind, and now I can see. I don't know anything else, right? So, you know, yes, there are some instances where people express faith, and as a result, they got healed.

But even then, scholars debate as to whether their faith led to their salvation, and that's what Jesus is referring to? By your faith, you are made whole, you are saved...is that referring to their salvation? Or is it referring to their physical infirmity? So, there's just some deeper things I think we need to look at before we just, you know, paint a broad brush and say faith is necessary for your healing, and if you don't have enough faith, you will never get healed.

Frank:

Yeah, obviously, the people who were dead, like Lazarus, he couldn't have any faith. So, his faith had nothing to do with whether or not he was healed. You know, my colleague, Dr. John Ferrer, here at CrossExamined.org, did a podcast several weeks ago, where he went through some of the prosperity gospel teachings, because his wife, Hilary Morgan Ferrer has chronic illness. And a lot of people will say to her, well, it's your fault. You just don't have enough faith. And he was pointing out, and I don't know if you've heard this before.

You know, in James 5, when he says, call the elders of the church to pray over anyone who's sick and anoint them with oil? And then it says, and the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well. The Lord will raise them up. And a lot of people maybe take that to mean, well, you know, if you bring the elders in, you anoint him with oil. And you pray the guy is going to get well. But a lot of guys don't. Why not? Well, John's point here is, this seems to be not salvation from sickness, but literal salvation. That the person is actually going to be saved from his sins. And it says the Lord will raise him up. It seems to be a reference to the resurrection. I don't

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know if you've heard that interpretation before. But it seems to comport with what he's saying here.

Allen:

Yeah, I have. And once again, this is where we talk about the principle of cross references, right? The Bible cannot contradict itself. We have to make sure we get that. So, if James is giving us an all-out promise that, hey, just bring some people, the elders of the church...lay your hands on him and put some oil on him and pray, and if you have enough faith to be healed. If James is promising us that, then that definitely contradicts other passages of scripture, and even other examples in the Bible. And it also contradicts, if I'm just being completely honest, it contradicts our personal experience. So, are we saying that every single person who got sick and they did not get healed, that that person did not have enough faith? Are we really willing to say that?

Frank:

A lot of people are saying that and it's wrong. You're being misled if you think that. That's why you need to get the brand new book called "Misled" by my guest today, Allen Parr. You also need to check out his YouTube channel, "The BEAT", with Allen Parr. Great stuff up there. We're back in just two minutes. Don't go anywhere.

Welcome back to "I Don't Have Enough Faith to be an Atheist" with me, Frank Turek on the American Family Radio Network. If you're low on the FM dial looking for National Public Radio, go no further. We're actually going to tell you the truth here. You're not going to hear this on NPR. I'm talking to my friend Allen Parr about his brand new book, "Misled: 7 Lies That Distort the Gospel." I'm going to get right back to Allen in just a second.

I want to point out though, that this weekend, I will be down in Columbus, Georgia, at Cascade Hills church. Saturday night service, Sunday morning services, and then Sunday night, we'll have a two hour session where I'll go through "I Don't Have Enough Faith to be an Atheist" and take your questions. And then every Wednesday night in June, I'll be at Central Church of God, here in Charlotte. We're also going through "I Don't Have Enough Faith to be an Atheist", 7pm. All the details are on our website. Check it out.

Then on Sunday, June 25, I'll be at Cross Life Community Church in Charlottesville, Virginia. And then I'll be speaking at the ThinkWell conference right after that. All the details on our website. Check it out there. I know my guest, Allen Parr, gets around quite a bit speaking as well. Allen, you got any events coming up where people can see you speak?

Allen:

Yeah, I'm excited. This weekend as matter of fact, June 10 and 11th, I'll be here local at Cottonwood Creek Church. I'm really excited to share the Word of God during the weekend services this weekend.

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Frank:

That's Allen, Texas, ladies and gentlemen. Cottonwood Creek Baptist Church, not far from Dallas. Go to AllenParr.com to get more information. Are you speaking at the Sunday morning services and all that?

Allen:

Yeah, two Sunday morning services and one Saturday evening service.

Frank:

Oh, beautiful. All right. What are you even talking about? Are you talking about Misled?

Allen:

We're talking more about spiritual maturity, the importance of making sure that we mature on our walk with God, and we don't stay baby Christians.

Frank:

If there's any talk that's important, it would be that because too often we're very shallow. And one of the reasons that we misinterpret so many passages is because we are shallow. We haven't really gotten to know what the Scriptures are all about. We think it's kind of like a fortune book, that we can just open anywhere in there, point our finger at a verse Allen and go, Hey, that's for me! I'm claiming this verse. [Laughter]

Allen:

Yeah, well, that's the way a lot of people read the Bible. You know, they do like Biblical roulette. They don't have a plan for their Bible study. They just kind of flip it open...oh, I think I'll read Zechariah 4:7 verse today, and you know...they're not able to put it within a context and understand the Bible. And that's why we do what we do. That's why you and I have the courses that we have, to help eliminate biblical illiteracy as much as possible.

Frank:

Isn't it interesting that no one would ever consider reading another book like that? Pick a book off your shelf like "The Rise and Fall of the Third Reich", a huge book, right? You wouldn't just pull one verse off or one sentence out of that book and try and understand what it meant without understanding the context around it. And yet we do that with the Bible. It's really crazy. And that's why your book "Misled: 7 Lies That Distort the Gospel" is so critical. Let's talk a little bit about progressive Christianity, Allen. We talked before the break about prosperity gospel. And now, let's talk about progressive Christianity. Where did this arise from?

Allen:

Yeah, well, you know, our good friend and colleague, Alisa Childers has done some great work on progressive Christianity. If you guys want to know a little bit more about that, she's got a great YouTube channel. She talks a lot about that, as well as her book, "Another Gospel." But essentially, progressive Christianity emerged out of the emergent church movement from the

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early 2000's. And essentially, what was happening was that the emergent church was starting to question some of the core doctrines and tenets of the Christian faith. And, you know, it was really highlighting and encouraging more questions and conversations as opposed to adopting these hard and fast doctrinal statements.

And so, progressive Christianity kind of kind of emerged out of that. For those who may not be familiar with that, I personally don't believe that progressive Christianity is a valid branch of Christianity, although that is how they refer to themselves. But it's a very dangerous and very subtle movement. Because essentially, what's happening is, they're wanting to have their cake and eat it too. They're wanting to have Jesus, but Jesus on their own terms, right? They have, oftentimes, when I say they, I'm referring to the majority of people who consider themselves progressive Christians. They have a low view of Scripture.

And in the sense that, you know, there are certain passages in the Bible that they'll say, oh, that doesn't really apply anymore. Well, let me go back. Progressive Christianity is really the idea that because the culture has progressed on certain issues, particularly moral issues...let's just take issues about LGBTQ or abortion, things of this nature, then God has progressed on his view of these things. Therefore, Christians need to get in line and progress, and kind of...you need to kind of keep up with the times.

There's a lot more I could talk about there. Their view of Christ, their view of the finished work of Christ, their view of love, and what they consider love to be...love is acceptance. If you love me, you'll accept me the way I am. If you don't accept me, you don't Love me. That's a very dangerous ideology. It's a pretty dangerous movement.

Because, hey, this stuff about men can't be with men, and women can't be with women, that's kind of old school. We've progressed. The world has progressed. The culture has progressed. God has progressed on his view of it. He doesn't see anything wrong with it. Therefore, Christians shouldn't see anything wrong with it either. And it's a very, very dangerous thing. It's threatening the nuclear family, the core of the nuclear family, and obviously, the life of the unborn as well is at stake.

Frank:

And the book, "Misled", goes into it. I'm going to pull out a couple of quotes from your book here Allen. One of them, you say this, "Progressive Christianity allows the culture, rather than the Bible, to dictate what is moral and immoral." And we see that particularly with regard to the sexual issues. And isn't it interesting, Allen, that some of these people who have now come into progressive Christianity, they eventually wind up being an atheist. That's what Alisa has said, anyway.

Progressive Christianity is just a gateway drug, so to speak, to atheism. And yet these people who then are atheist, they have no standard by which to say anything's right or wrong. There are no rights. There's no gay rights or natural rights if there's no God. There's no right to

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anything. And yet they're actually claiming the Bible is morally wrong, when in fact, they have no moral standard by which to judge anything morally wrong or morally right.

The other thing I want to point out...I was shocked when I read this in your book. Again friends, the book is called "Misled: 7 Lies That Distort the Gospel" by Allen Parr. If I'm understanding this right now, and this is actually on the progressivechristianity.org website, and you put it in the book. Comment on this, "Jesus was the perfect human, who was also the perfect window to God. It's not as though there was a divine nature in him. But rather that his fully human nature was transparent to the God inheres all reality." Comment on that.

Allen:

Yeah, well, that's, you know, once again, that's one of the tendencies, if you will, of progressive Christians is that their view of the person and work of Christ is very different than historic Christianity. We would see Jesus as the divine Son of God, the second person of the Trinity, 100% man, 100% God. They like to focus more on Jesus' manhood, and his humanity, and really see Jesus as more of a guide, more of a moral example that we need to follow. And if you follow his moral example, then you know, that's the goal of your life. Right?

No, Jesus was more than Gandhi. He was more than Oprah. Well, I don't want to say Oprah, but because I don't know if we want to follow Oprah's moral example. But you see what I'm saying. He was more than just a good teacher. He was more than just an upright moral man who showed us the way to God. No, he was God. So, anytime you strip away Jesus' divinity, and focus more on his humanity, you're stripping away who Jesus was. That's counter to what the Church has held near and dear about Jesus for two millennia.

Frank:

And that's what the Bible actually says. I mean, we could spend an hour here going through the evidence that Jesus was God, the second person of the eternal Trinity. We don't have time to do that here. But the point here is that Jesus was not primarily our example. I mean, He was an example and a good example, obviously...the supreme example. But that wasn't His main role. His main role wasn't to be our example. His main role was to be our substitute. He's our substitute. He takes our punishment on Himself. And then He not only forgives us, but He also gives us His righteousness.

And if you're denying that, sorry, you're not a Christian. Stop calling yourself a Christian, when you're denying the central teaching of Jesus, the central reason He came, the central identity of who He was. You're not progressive, and you're not a Christian. You're regressing if you're moving away from who Jesus really was. And you're not a Christian if you're disagreeing with Jesus and His essential claims. Yet, that's what people do. They actually try and say they're Christians, when in fact, they're really not. They're on their way to atheism. Look, Allen, why be part of a community that hardly believes anything the Bible says? Why not just stay home and watch MSNBC or CNN on Sunday morning? I mean, you can get the same message.

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Allen:

Exactly. And that's the thing that people need to understand. We cannot cherry pick. We cannot tear pages, whole portions of the Bible out because they don't fit our lifestyle. And that's what's happening. Look, I'll be honest, guys. I was single until I was 40 years old. There were some verses in the Bible I wish I could tear out too. [Laughter]

Verses about, you know, abstinence and things like that...I wish I could have torn those verses out, but I can't. If I say I'm a Christian, I need to align my life to the Word of God, and not say, well, because this doesn't fit with my life, I'm going to tear out this portion of the Bible. And that's what we see many progressives doing. They'll take any verse that has to do with LGBTQ...oh no. Those verses don't apply anymore. Those were culture. Those were for a certain time, or we need to reinterpret those.

No. What you need to do, is you need to do what the rest of us are doing. You need to align your life with God's standards. And you need to take up your cross. And you need to follow Jesus and understand that that's going to be uncomfortable. We're all sacrificing. All of us have a sin nature that we have to crucify every single day. It's not easy for any of us. None of us get a free pass because we can make the claim that God created us this way. He created us all to be sinners, right? We were born in sin, shapen in iniquity. Nobody gets a free pass.

Frank:

You also write this in the chapter on progressive Christianity, "Shortly before Roe vs. Wade was overturned, ProgressiveChristianity.org included this statement on abortion, 'The right to abortion is the mother of all rights.'" It goes on. These people are claiming to be Christians? That means Mary could have aborted Jesus and it would have been her right. I mean, think about this. This is absurd, ladies and gentlemen. And some people are being misled.

That's why you need to get the book, "Misled: 7 Lies That Distort the Gospel", by my friend and guest today, Allen Parr. The book comes out on June 13, just a couple of days from now. You're going to want to preorder it on Amazon. Get it. Allen also will have a book club that you can be a part of and actually interact with him on it. He'll tell you about that right after the break. Don't go anywhere. You're listening to "I Don't Have Enough Faith to be an Atheist" with me, Frank Turek. My guest, Allen Parr, and I will be back in two minutes.

Ladies and gentlemen, summer is here. Although here in Charlotte, North Carolina, it's been cold for summer. I don't know what's going on. So much for global warming. Anyway. Summer is a great time to take online courses. We have about 25 online courses on our website. Go to CrossExamined.org. Click on online courses. We have courses from Sean McDowell, from J. Warner Wallace, from Alisa Childers, from myself, from Gary Habermas, from Dan Wallace, from so many scholars out there that you can really learn a lot from. So, you'll want to go to CrossExamined.org. Click on Online Courses.

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You'll also want to go to Allen's website, AllenParr.com. He has online courses as well, and summer is just a great time to do this. You know, you may be off from school. You may have a little extra time. This is a great time to actually do a little work to become more of a disciple. And Allen's new book, by the way is going to help you do that as well. Again, the book is called, "Misled: 7 Lies That Distort the Gospel." Allen, you've got actually a book club that's starting on this book. Tell us about that and what people will get if they join it.

Allen:

Yeah, I'm really excited about the book club. It's going to give me an opportunity to have some candid conversations with people who are interested in reading the book. We've put a lot of work into it. We've got a reading guide, discussion questions that you can download that will guide your reading. It's a four week book club, starts June 22. And it goes through I believe, July 19. Every Thursday, four Thursdays in a row at 7pm Central Standard Time.

We'll meet on Zoom. We'll discuss the contents of the book. We'll have good conversation. So, all you need to do in order to get to that book club is simply order the book. You can preorder it at MisledBook.com. And then we'll put a link below where people can join the book club as well. And they'll get an email with some information on how to join and how to get connected.

Frank:

MisledBook.com. Check it out. Misled. Don't be misled now. MisledBook.com. Check it out, you ought to be a part of that. It starts June 22. You'll be on Zoom with Allen himself. You can ask questions, interact with other people. It's going to be a great way to internalize what's in a book. I don't know about you, Allen. But when I read a book, what I do is I highlight the areas I definitely want to remember. I may put a note in the margin or something. Then when I want to review the book, I just go back and read the highlights. That's how I do it.

But friends, you ought to do the same thing. Don't just read a book and then let it go in one ear and out the other. Highlight it. Meditate on it. Think about it. Write it down. Try and get that concept in your head. Because you can only learn two ways. You can learn from your own experience or somebody else's. And you don't have enough time to learn from your own experience.

In fact, your own experience may have misled you into believing some of the things that this book talks about. And you don't want to be misled. The biggest problem about being deceived, is you don't know you're being deceived. So Allen, let's talk about another chapter in the book. And that has to do with prophecy. There's a lot of people today that consider themselves prophets. Are they? What does it mean? What is a prophet?

Allen:

Well, that's the interesting thing. Back in the 80's and 70's, we knew who the prophets were, right? You knew prophet so and so, or prophetess so and so is coming to my church, and they're going to give a prophetic word. And so, you could identify people who claimed to be

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prophets. Nowadays, with the advent of social media, everybody's a prophet. Even people who don't claim the title of prophet, they're acting as if they are a prophet, because they're going on and they're doing a live prophetic word on Instagram. Or they're using words that I talk about in the book...God told me.

So much so, in the Old Testament, He said if a prophet speaks on my name, and that prophecy does not come to pass, that prophet is a false prophet. You should not be afraid of Him, and that prophet will be stoned to death. Now, I understand that today, that same penalty is not being enforced, which is good. But it doesn't mean that God doesn't take it as seriously as He did before. And you know, one thing about prophets, Frank...people don't realize this, but prophets in the Old Testament were hated. People were not respecting the prophets. They were they were beaten. They were imprisoned. They were persecuted.

That's the thing now. Well, God told me in a dream. God told me this, God told me that. Even though they don't have the title of prophet, they are acting as a prophet, and they are speaking on behalf of God. And I want to really encourage people to make sure that they are very, very, very, very, very, very careful (I can't say very enough times) before they use the words God told me because God takes it very seriously whenever we speak on His behalf.

Frank:

Thrown into cisterns. Not listened to.

Allen:

Yeah, they were coming with a message that people didn't want to hear. Who wants to hear repent and turn from your sins? Nobody wants to hear that. But nowadays, prophets, you know, I would say most of them...most of their message is centered around telling people things that they do want to hear. And so, when you look at how prophets are acting today, and you compare it with the role of prophets in the Old Testament, particularly in the Bible...it's a very, very different thing.

Frank:

Well, you write in the book Mised, "The spiritual condition of the people, (speaking of true prophets) was their main focus, not their physical or material condition." Unpack that for us. First of all, if there are modern day prophets, are they supposed to be giving us new revelation, or reminding us of the old revelation?

Allen:

Well, that's a great question, and people debate that all the time. I am of the position that someone who acts as a New Testament prophet is not to be getting any new revelation. I believe in sola scriptura. I believe that the Scriptures that we have are inerrant, they're infallible, they're sufficient. There is no further need for any new revelation. Right? But with that being said, could God use someone to exhort or encourage me in an area of my life that is consistent with the Scriptures? Yeah.

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I mean, if someone sees me disrespecting my wife, and we're out to dinner...could God use somebody to come and say, Allen, God put it on my heart, or God told me to come to you and share with you that you were mean to your wife, and you need to go apologize? At that point, I can believe this person probably did hear from God on that. Because what they're telling me is consistent with how I should be treating my wife.

And let me just also say this. I'm not suggesting that it's impossible for God to use someone to speak a word to someone else's life that maybe is not in the Bible. I'm just saying that I don't believe that God is giving prophets an all-out message for the entire body of Christ to follow...that because this prophet said it, now this is new revelation that's on par with the Scriptures. I think that's pretty dangerous when we start to look at that.

Frank:

Yeah, there's a difference between reminding people what's already in the Scriptures and giving people new revelation. I think there's also a difference between what is normative, and what God might do on special occasions. And I think people think that it's normative for God to give them little hints, or have people come into their lives...you've got to marry this person and not this person. In fact, you even tell of a story of a pastor who told this woman to marry some guy. Go ahead and tell us.

Allen:

Yeah, this person is very near and dear to me. I won't mention her name, but she was in a relationship with a guy. She got pregnant by a guy, and he was abusive. He was not showing any signs of being a godly husband. And she was really wrestling with, should I marry this guy because I'm already pregnant by him? And would it be better for me to get married to him so we could have some semblance of what would look like a family...mommy and daddy being married, and having a child? Or should I raise this child up as best I can? All the signs are pointing that I shouldn't marry this guy.

Well, the pastor of their church essentially encouraged her and said God told him in a dream that this was her husband and that she should marry him. And so, because she saw him as her spiritual covering or spiritual father, she didn't question it. She assumed he was hearing from God. She went ahead and married him, and the marriage ended up being a complete and total disaster as we all saw from the outside looking in while they were dating. They ended up getting a divorce, and it sent her life down a path that she probably would have preferred it not go. So, we just need to use caution when people say, hey, I'm a prophet. I heard from God. Say, okay, that's nice. But pray and ask God to confirm it to you.

Frank:

Yeah, give us give us one insight on how to do that Allen. We have about a minute to go before we have to start wrapping things up. How do you help people be discerning when it comes to what other people say? God told me this. God told me that. What do you do?

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Allen:

Yeah, well, one of the things we can do is we can first and foremost look and say, okay, does this sound like it's consistent with the Scriptures? Does it sound like it's consistent with God, the character of God, the nature of God, right? The next thing we can do is we can really seek Godly wisdom and counsel. The Bible says, you know, there is safety in a multitude of counselors.

So, don't just assume something someone said is truth. Take it to other trusted people, who are skilled in the Word of God. Say, hey, this is what somebody said to me. How does that sound to you? And then finally, like I said, pray and ask God to truly confirm to you what you believe another prophet said to you. And if you do those types of things, and you don't make quick decisions based on what someone else said, normally, God will guide you in the direction you need to go.

Frank:

The will of God is never contrary to the Word of God, ladies and gentlemen. If somebody's telling you something that's contrary to the Word of God, it's not from God. It might be from the other side. And if they're revealing something to you that is in addition to the Word of God...in other words, it doesn't agree or disagree with the Word of God, you need to be very cautious. God gives us the Bible so we can make good decisions. He gives us the book of Proverbs so we can do that.

If God was going to tell us what to do every day in every decision we made, you wouldn't even need the book of Proverbs. You wouldn't even need much of the wisdom literature. So, we have to be very astute with the Word of God. We have to know it. We have to discern it if we're going to save ourselves from being misled. You can also get the brand new book by Allen, *Misled: 7 Lies That Distort the Gospel*. Allen, give people the website again, particularly the book website so people can be a part of this.

Allen:

Yes, MisledBook.com. If you go there and you show proof of purchase, you can get a free biblical literacy course from our website. We're giving it to you. All you have to do is purchase the book and fill out a form on MisledBook.com, and you'll get access to one of our premium Bible study methods courses.

Frank:

Excellent. Ladies and gentlemen, I'm going to spend a few more minutes with Allen. If you want to hear what Allen has to say, particularly how he's got this YouTube channel going. You need to join the CrossExamined community. Go to CrossExamined.org. Click on community. Become a part of it, and I will see you there. Alright friends, we'll see you here next week. Lord willing,

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thanks so much. And don't forget, go to AllenParr.com for much more. See you next week. God Bless.

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