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# Meanwhile, In No Apparent Danger of Arrest

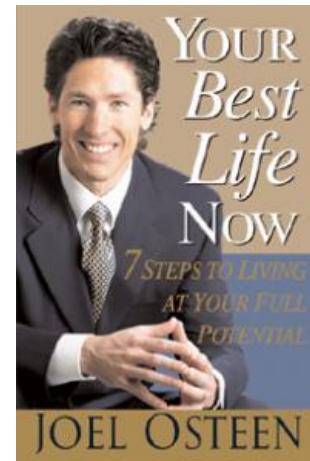
Friday, September 8, 2006

Joel Osteen, pastor of the nondenominational Lakewood Church in Houston — now the nation's largest congregation — arrived in Boston last weekend for an appearance at the TD Banknorth Garden (also known as the Hub). Attendees paid \$10 per ticket to gain admission to the event.

But what caught my eye was a report in The Boston Herald about Mr. Osteen's appearance at a book signing at the Prudential Center's Barnes & Noble store prior to the event. He drew more than 400 persons to the book signing — a crowd exceeded only by those who came for a similar event with former President Bill Clinton.

Look at this crucial section of the paper's report:

*He's the most popular preacher in the country right now - a best-selling author and the "most watched minister" in America.*



*But when asked yesterday about gay marriage during a trip to the bluest state in the land of the free - and the only one where same-sex nuptials are legal - the Rev. Joel Osteen suddenly got sheepish.*

*"I don't think it's God's best," the handsome Holy Roller said of homosexuality. "I never feel like homosexuality is God's best."*

*When pressed on the issue, Osteen said, "I don't feel like that's my thrust . . . you know, some of the issues that divide us, and I'm here to let people know that God is for them and he's on their side."*

Put that alongside the fact that Stephen Green was recently arrested in Great Britain for passing out pamphlets that included Bible verses clearly declaring homosexuality to be a sin [see above]. Christians in many parts of the world now risk arrest for declaring openly what the Bible clearly teaches.

Mr. Osteen can be assured that his weak and evasive non-answer to this reporter's question will put him at very little risk for arrest. But then, pandering prophets are rarely at much of a risk from the public anyway.

There was no conviction in his answer; no clear declaration of biblical truth; no Gospel, no judgment, and no promise. Just a non-answer with a smile. Pathetic . . . simply pathetic.

