

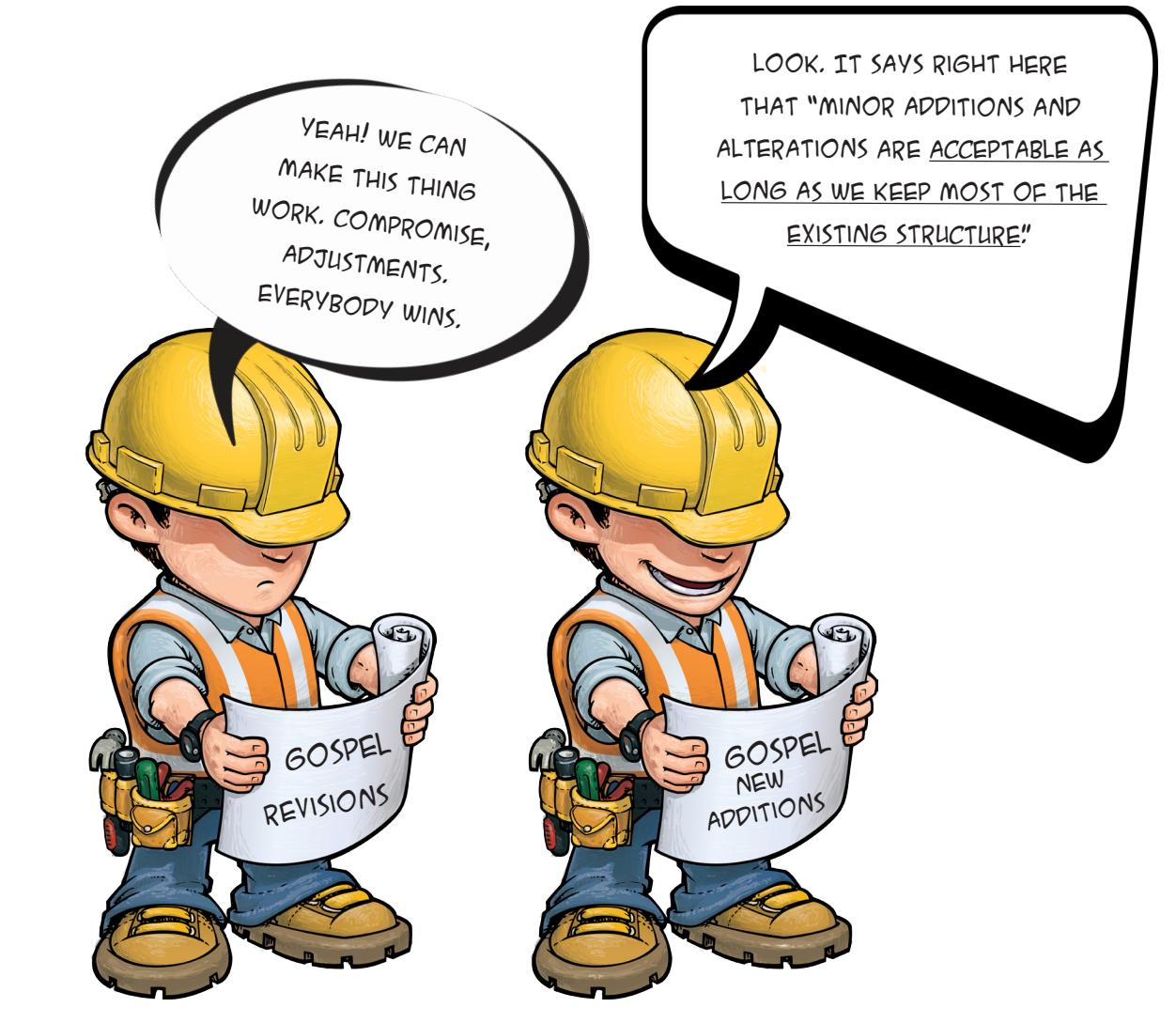
Are We Listening to God?

Listening means obedience, and obedience is not craven submission; it's not born of fear. Obedience to God is the lifelong task of giving my consent to the shape which God has for my life. Obedience is letting God put me in the place where I can be the sort of person I am made by God to be. I come to see what that kind of person this is when I stop trying to be in charge of myself, and instead acknowledge that God is my Lord, that I can only be myself if I walk in his ways. So listening to Jesus is always a practical matter, a matter of living the life which God gives me, being what I am called by God to be. And in its simplest form that call of God is this: "Listen to him."

Listening here means a lot more than casually tuning in for a moment or two before we switch off again. It means real listening, intense listening, listening which hurts. It means attentive straining after what is said, giving ourselves wholly to the task of attention to Jesus. Why? Because he is God's Word, he is what God says to us. In him and as him God makes himself known to us as the light of the world. Listen to him. Such listening is to be the basic dynamic of our lives.

(Webster, J. (2014). *Confronted by Grace: Meditations of a Theologian*. (D. Bush & B. Ellis, Eds.) (pp. 96-97). Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press.)

- *Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy and my burden is light (Matthew 11:28-30 NIV).*



Religion in a nutshell ...

We can follow God on our terms.

The false gospel in a nutshell ...

We can come to God on our terms as long as we include his way also.