

BIBLE PREACHING AND THE MODERN TRENDS (2)

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INTRODUCTION

1. In this lesson we want to look at some ATTITUDES and PROBLEMS OF PREACHERS; we'll also look at some MODERN TRENDS AWAY FROM BIBLE PREACHING.
 2. As a preacher of the Gospel, I know that the Praise and Honor that may come to men in other fields of labor will not come to me – No faithful gospel preacher will seek such.
 3. I do not expect preaching to produce lucrative rewards.
 4. I also know that there has never been a preacher of righteousness that pleased the people – Gal. 1:10; Luke 6:26.
 - a. Jesus did not – John 8: 37.
 - b. The apostles did not – Gal. 4:16.
 - c. The preacher TODAY *that pleases the people* is NOT a servant of Christ.
- I. **THE TREND OF NEUTRALITY IN PREACHING TODAY**
- a. There is a spirit of NEUTRALITY in much preaching today.
 - b. Preachers fail to deal with “loaded issues” and “popular sins”.
 - c. They know if they teach what the Bible teaches, and take a stand, it will cost them some popularity and friendship, and maybe their job.
 - d. The church faces problems today that can only be met by men who LOVE the TRUTH, and who have an attitude toward it like Paul had toward it – Gal. 2:5; Phil. 1:17; Eph. 6: 11, 13.
 - e. We need men who will *preach the truth* and URGE *the principles of truth* regardless of consequences – 2 Tim. 4:2
 - i. Stephen – Acts 7: 51 – 54.
 - f. The preacher of the gospel is to MOLD SENTIMENT and AROUSE CONVICTION by the power of the gospel he preaches – 2 Tim. 4: 2 – 5; I Cor. 1:21; 2 Cor. 10: 3 – 5.
 - g. God's preachers, down through time, have never been men of neutrality:
 - i. Noah – Gen. 6:3; 2 Pet. 2:5; I Pet. 3: 19 – 20.
 - ii. Jeremiah – Jer. 1: 9 – 10.
 - iii. John the Baptist – Luke 1:17; Matt. 3: 1 – 3; 14:3 – 4.
- II. **THE TREND TOWARD WORLDLY WISDOM IN PREACHING**
- a. Many preachers fill their sermons with *worldly wisdom*.
 - b. The Bible is NOT a treatise on human wisdom, but contains the WISDOM FROM ABOVE— James 3:17; I Cor. 1:21.
 - c. Paul did not preach Human Wisdom – I Cor. 2: 4 -5.
 - d. We are to preach divine revelation – I Cor. 2: 10 – 13.
- III. **THE TREND TOWARD PSYCHOLOGY IN PREACHING**
- a. Psychology is the science of the mind.
 - b. Much of Psychology is a Science that has not been proven.
 - c. It is human wisdom – Col. 2: 8.
 - d. Preaching Psychology is NOT preaching the gospel.
 - e. The Bible directs our minds to follow the mind of Christ – Phil. 2: 5.
- IV. **THE TREND TOWARD COMPROMISING THE TRUTH**
- a. There can be NO compromise with error and truth and one still hold to the truth – Gal. 2:5.

- b. To compromise is to loose one's self from the "Anchor of Truth" – John 8:32.
- c. There is no question but that many churches today want to "feed upon *SOFTISM*".

V. THE TREND TOWARD PROFESSIONAL PREACHING

- a. Professional preachers are a good deal like professional politicians; they don't always lead, they follow.
- b. They "put their ear to the ground" to find out what people want, and give them what they want.
- c. Professionalism TAKES AWAY that individual character that has COURAGE, PERSISTENCE, and FEARLESSNESS in a man to rise up and change things.
- d. A man who preaches the gospel because he LOVES it, and because he LOVES the church, will preach it *regardless of circumstances*.
- e. Here is to be the attitude of a faithful gospel preacher – I Cor. 9: 16.
- f. A PROFESSIONAL PREACHER feels toward his work as a doctor or Lawyer feels toward their profession.
 - i. They promote their own welfare and position into the highest possible plain from the viewpoint of Influence, Popularity, Demand, and Earnings.
 - ii. The Professional preacher does the same.
 - iii. THE PROFESSIONAL PREACHER IS A HIRELING—paid so much to do what the brethren want done – John 10: 12 -13.
 - iv. The Professional Preacher will "guard his influence and usefulness".

VI. THE TREND TOWARD MAKING MERCHANDISE OF THE GOSPEL.

- a. 2 Peter 2: 3; Jude 16; Ezekiel 13:16; Jer. 6: 13 – 14; Micah 3:11.
- b. When PREACHING becomes a "profession", men begin to preach FOR MONEY.
- c. Professional preachers do not move where they can do the most good, but where they can get the most money.
- d. Men make merchandise of the gospel when they are paid good salaries and then spend much of their time *doing something on the side* to make money.
- e. Men make merchandise of the gospel when they are on outside support and receive great sums of money, and then won't give reports of what they are receiving – 2 Cor. 8:21.
 - i. Paul – I Thess. 2:5; Acts 20:33.

VII. ATTITUDES OF PREACHERS

- a. ATTITUDES OF PREACHERS, regardless of age, are extremely important to their success in getting the truth into the hearts of men to influence their lives for good.
 - i. THE ATTITUDE OF SELF-IMPORTANCE
 - 1. Some preachers are so enchanted by their imagined self-importance and ability that they are disgustingly arrogant.
 - 2. Their Pride Prophesies their destruction – Prov. 16:18.
 - 3. God resists them – James 4:6; I Pet. 5:5.
 - 4. Many young men today have this attitude of SELF-IMPORTANCE, and they demand great amounts of income and side benefits.
 - 5. Many think they have the answer to all the problems.
 - ii. Many Young Preachers today think they have the ANSWER to CHURCH GROWTH:
 - 1. Youth programs, sports, and entertainment.
 - a. These young men need to know that this is an old denominational practice to hold young people.

- b. The church has never been, by the authority of Christ, engaged in the recreational business, but has been in the SOUL SAVING business.
 - i. Luke 19:10 – Worldly pleasure and the church have never been associated in the mind of God.
 - c. These young preachers have the FALSE NOTION that if they become involved in Sports and Entertainment with young people, it will make them successful as preachers.
 - d. This is MISINFORMATION and a wrong attitude.
 - i. Paul – I Tim. 4:8.
 - e. This attitude has some BAD SIDE EFFECTS:
 - i. Little or no study out of these preachers.
 - ii. Young men who preach need to spend hours in study.
- iii. Many Preachers today are not WATCHFUL enough about their PERSONAL LIVES.
 - 1. The personal life of a Preacher is VERY IMPORTANT to his success as a preacher of the gospel – I Tim. 4: 12 – 16.
 - 2. There has been an EPIDEMIC of IMMORALITY among Gospel Preachers in our day.
 - 3. SHAME, REPROACH, DISGRACE has been reflected upon the Church for which Christ died because of it.
 - 4. Preachers as a PROFESSION (all kinds of preachers) rank about six or seven of all professions in their immoral lives for extra-marital sex involvement and the consumption of alcohol and drugs.
 - 5. Most of these are YOUNG men.
 - 6. Preachers must FLEE FORNICATION – I Cor. 6:18.
 - 7. SAFEGUARDS:
 - a. Preachers should require that those ladies who seek their help with problems come to their homes *where their wife is*.
 - b. Preachers need to realize they are NOT “Gospel Counselors”.
 - c. The Preacher must be DISCREET:
 - i. Indiscretion may soon lead to a temptation that one cannot resist.
 - ii. Careless conduct is out of place among Christians – I Tim. 5:2.
 - iii. “*Discretion shall preserve thee*”—Prov. 2:11, 16, Prov. 3:21.
- iv. The Problem of PERSONAL ATTITUDES.
 - 1. All people have some attitudes toward other persons and things.
 - a. God, the church, the Bible, Sin, themselves.
 - 2. A Preacher’s personal attitude toward God, Sin, the Church, the Plan of Salvation, will determine the kind of preaching he does.
 - 3. His attitude TOWARD THE CHURCH:
 - a. Does he believe there is but ONE?
 - b. Does he believe it is essential to be a member of it to be saved?
 - c. What does he believe about the work of the church?
 - d. What does he believe about the organization of the church?
 - 4. His attitude toward SIN:
 - a. The Preacher’s attitude will determine how he deals with the matter of SIN in his preaching.

VIII. WHY MODERN PULPITS HAVE LOST THEIR POWER

- a. They have lost their power because men in them have LOST THEIR FAITH!
 - i. The pulpit of power is the one of Faith – Heb. 11:6.
 - ii. The preacher should believe more, hope more, and have high vision of the work of God's people.
 - iii. Saving Faith is confidence in, acceptance of, and obedience to Jesus Christ.
 - iv. The Pulpit is NO PLACE for DOUBT!
 - v. The LACK OF FAITH has ever been DISASTROUS:
 - 1. It caused Peter to sink into the water – Matt. 14: 30.
 - 2. It caused the church at Laodicea to “*wax indifferent*” and become “*lukewarm*” – Rev. 3: 14 – 19.
 - 3. It caused Demas to forsake Paul and the Lord – 2 Tim. 4:10.
 - 4. It caused Ananias and Sapphira to lie – Acts 5
 - 5. It caused Corinth to be torn with party strife – I Cor. 1: 10 – 13.
 - 6. It is the “*sin which doth so easily beset us*” – Heb. 12:1.
 - 7. Men begin to DOUBT the necessity of doing what the Bible teaches about many things.
- b. Pulpits have lost their power because they LACK LOVE AND ZEAL.
 - i. Many have lost their love for a sin sick and ruined world, and zeal for winning souls.
 - 1. Paul – Rom. 10:1.
 - ii. Many pulpits have lost their power because they have soft-pedaled Hell and the Judgment.
 - 1. Hell is not preached much from pulpits anymore.
 - 2. There *is* a Judgment Day – Heb. 9: 27.