

REACTION TO THE PREACHED WORD

Introduction:

1. I am of the opinion that there is no area of study needed more than the one we are going to study.
2. HOW the gospel is to be preached, and the reaction to it, is a misunderstood subject in the church.
3. All agree the Word must be preached:
 - (1) But HOW shall it be preached?
 - (2) In a manner to SAVE or to SOOTHE
4. There is no quicker way to destroy the cause of Christ than to set aside the way, manner and approach of the original inspired preachers in the preaching of truth.
 - (1) They were guided in manner and way and approach -- Matt. 10:19
5. We need to learn anew HOW they proceeded, with what BOLDNESS and PLAINNESS of speech they proclaimed the truth.
6. Many in the church have the idea that preachers should preach so as to favorably impress the world.
 - (1) These people want an indistinct, uncertain, may-be-so, dehorned, camouflaged, diluted gospel to SCRATCH the ITCHING ears of those who will not endure sound doctrine -- II Tim. 4: 1- 5.
 - (2) This type of preaching does not produce conversion, but only a change of churches.
 - (3) This is the kind of preaching that produces QUANTITY (number), but not QUALITY.
 - (4) Such preaching is designed to SOOTHE rather than to SAVE.
7. The only kind of preaching that will do any good is preaching that will upset SIN and SINNERS.
 - (1) This kind of preaching will divide the chaff from the wheat, and separate those who love the truth from those who do not.
 - (2) This is the kind of preaching Jesus, Paul, Stephen, Peter and other inspired men did.
 - (3) This what the Holy Spirit came to do -- John 16:8
8. Let us notice the reaction to the Word as it was preached by the Lord and inspired men.

I. THE DISCIPLES IN JOHN 6

1. The Lord preached a sermon on the Bread of Life -- John 6: 22
2. Many of the disciples said, "*This is an hard saying; who can hear it?*" John 6:60
3. These carnal-minded Jews, "*From that time went back, and walked no more with Him*" -- John 6:66
4. They had no desire for spiritual things -- John 6:26

5. We all must learn there are many things in the gospel that must be preached that will be considered "hard sayings" by many.
6. When these things are preached they will turn away from it.

II. THE PHARISEES OF MATT. 15:12 WERE OFFENDED AT JESUS

1. Jesus said they "*Transgressed the commandment of God*" by their tradition -- Matt. 15: 3
2. He said their worship was vain -- Matt. 15:9
3. Men today who do not want to do right still become offended when it is pointed out they are transgressing the commandment of God.

III. THE BEREANS -- Acts 17: 11- 12

1. They heard the Word with "*readiness of mind*" -- They listened attentively to the message.
2. They then investigated what was said, trying it by the Scriptures.
3. This is a noble attitude -- the Bible teaches all should have this attitude -- I John 4:1; Matt. 7: 15; II John 9; I Thess. 5:21
4. You can convert people when they have this attitude -- Matt. 13: 15

IV. THE PEOPLE WHO LISTENED TO STEPHEN'S SERMON -- ACTS 7: 54 - 60

1. They became angry and stoned him.
2. Truth will make people angry many times -- Gal. 4:16
3. Many today, when they hear the truth, get angry -- they get angry when you expose the sinfulness of denominationalism.
4. Members of the church get angry when they hear the truth on:
 - (1) Marriage and divorce -- Matt. 19: 9
 - (2) Modern dance -- Gal. 5:19
 - (3) Forsaking the assemblies -- Heb. 10:25

V. TWO REACTIONS TO PAUL'S SERMON PREACHED ON MARS HILL

1. Acts 17:32 -- Some mocked (to treat with scorn or contempt; ridicule)
2. Others said, "*We will hear thee again of this matter*".

VI. THE PEOPLE OF ANTIOCH IN PISIDIA -- ACTS 13: 45 - 46

1. They were filled with envy and spoke against what they heard -- Many do the same today.
2. They PUT the WORD from them.
3. They judged themselves unworthy of everlasting life.

VII. FELIX -- ACTS 24: 25

1. Feared and procrastinated

2. Many today are like Felix.

VIII. THE PEOPLE ON THE DAY OF PENTECOST

1. The sermon "pricked" their hearts -- Acts 2:37
2. This means they were "smitten in conscience"
3. Preaching that does not cause a man's conscience to smite him is not gospel preaching.

CONCLUSION

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