

PREACH THE WORD AND LET 'ER SPLIT

If preaching the truth of God's Word to a thing that calls itself a church will split it, then for the Lord's sake, "Preach the Word" and let her split. The only thing that the pure word of God will drive out of a church is the Devil, and he has no business being in the Lord's church anyway.

I have never been in a church when it split. I have been in some that should have divided long ago. I have been closely associated with congregations that have split over the preaching of the Truth. The Devil and his Cohorts were driven out, and the church has had one of the sweetest, most peaceful periods of work one can imagine. They have more than half of the membership present at mid-week services, Twice as many ladies now attend the Ladies Bible Class. The church is active in a training program for the young people. A preachers class numbers around fifteen young men. The Sunday services have more members in attendance. The evening service has as many as the morning service (sometimes more) for the year around. Contributions are up - above what they were when the unruly ones left. In fact the split has helped the church that I have in mind to grow.

If preaching against worldliness will split the "church" (?) then turn loose the power of the Word of God and Let 'er Split. When you rid yourself of the boozers, the women chasers, the dancers and the gamblers, the rebellious, unruly, and the belligerents, you will have done the church a favor. You cannot build the "Ship of Zion" out of rotten timber. It seems that some are trying to do this. They are taking into their fellowship anything and everything that claims to be a Christian.. The castoffs are welcomed. The Devil looks on with his smile of approval when he sees known adulterers accepted as members in good standing, or an admitted whoremonger and gambler waiting on the Lord's table. If a few denominationalists are accepted now and then, the old boy laughs with glee! Brethren, we cannot build much of a fortress out of rotten wood. Preach the Word and clean house.

Everyone likes peace, but peace at the price of godliness and righteousness in the Lord's church is not peace -- it is treason. *The preacher who does not speak out against evil is a traitor, he is treacherous, and he is a disgrace to his vocation.* We must stop this denominational back scratching.

Let the preacher who evades the question of worldliness by saying, "Of course I am against it and the congregation knows I do not approve of it, but if I say anything about it from the pulpit, it would split the church wide open," remember that Samuel rebuked Saul, Nathan rebuked David, Elijah rebuked King Ahab, John the Baptist rebuked Herod, Stephen rebuked the Jews, and Paul rebuked Peter at Antioch. These men are honored now, but it was a big decision for them to make when they did it. They did what was right, and we honor them now. One of these days our great grandchildren are going to be looking at our records. They will honor us or they will sneer at our cowardly name. Reproof has become a lost word in too many pulpits because the preacher fears the people more than he fears God. Preach the Word, if it splits the church, thank God for the dead wood that has been removed. Let 'er split!

George Darling, Deceased.

BELVEDERE BEACON

"Ye are the light of the world" (Matthew 5:14)

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LIFE WITH A PURPOSE

Our life upon this earth is of few days and full of trouble. Some days are the best of times; some days are the worst of times. There are moments that look like the spring of hope; others look like the winter of despair. Through it all we need to live a life with purpose and meaning. We all seek happiness as the world lashes about us.

SOMETHING TO DO

Paul wrote, "*Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus*" (Phil. 3:13-14). Paul says he was pressing toward the mark. The pursuit is no groping after something undefined. He was pressing on with contentment. He had learned in whatsoever state he was in to be content (Phil. 4:11). To be happy in life we all need something to do; we need a mission to fill. As preachers we blow the trumpet clear so people will know the battle for truth is on. Do not be disarmed by the smiling tolerance of the new school of peaceful coexistence. Let us stand for the right and not lose sight of our duty to serve the Lord, do justice, love kindness, and walk humbly with our God.

SOMEONE TO LOVE

"*We love him, because he first loved us*" (I Jhn. 4:19). It brings happiness to love God. We are to love the Lord with all our heart. He first loved us and we should return our love. We also need our family and friends to love. To visit with friends and enjoy good times together brings sunshine into our days.

SOMETHING TO HOPE FOR

"*In hope of eternal life which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began*" (Titus 1:2). The hope of heaven keeps us going through sickness, pain, disappointment, suffering and hardship. In fact these present sufferings are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed. God shall wipe away all tears from our eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain. On that fair shore we shall serve the Lord with perfect bliss. There we shall be with and know (I Thess. 2:19) our loved ones whom we have known in this life.

J Noel Merideth, deceased

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

SUNDAY:

Bible Classes for all ages 10.00 am.
Morning Worship 11.00 am.
Evening Worship 6.00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY:

Bible Classes for all ages 7.00 p.m.

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FLEXIBLE CHRISTIANITY

Recently, I received a bulletin that had an article under the above title. At the beginning of the article, the writer gives a quote from Daniel Sommer, a gospel preacher at the time of the apostasy that led to the formation of the Christian Church/Disciples of Christ, recognized the the United States government a hundred years ago

in the census of 1906. Sommer lived through the period when the false teachings regarding instrumental music and the missionary society were hotly debated. In 1897, he analyzed the pressures of the previous twenty years that led to the schism. He concluded that one of the contributing factors was personality differences, he saw a difference between disciples and disciples. He wrote, "...I saw there was a difference between disciples and disciples. It became evident that some disciples were of the primitive or apostolic type, while others were of a modern or plastic type. Those constituting the former class I saw had stability, while those constituting the latter class had flexibility. The former disciples held that the world should bend to the church; the latter disciples held that the church should bend to the world" (Matthew C. Morrison, Like a Lion, Daniel Sommer's Seventy Years of Preaching, p. 19).

The write of the article I received stated, "There are still those who believe that the church should bend to the world." He illustrates this by pointing to the recent debate in the Episcopal Church in the United States regarding the appointing of homosexuals as "bishops" within that denomination. He points out that such appointments are "nothing less than the acceptance of homosexuality as an alternative lifestyle" and points out that the acceptance of homosexuality is nothing more than a compromise with the world, and a "Christianity that bends with the world around it." That such is a compromise with the world is true, however, that the Episcopal Church represents "Christianity," I have a problem with, unless one uses the term "Christianity" in its widest application with respect to the Episcopal Church.

However, when one examines the Lord's Church in 2006 - one hundred years after the recognition by the government of the apostasy that formed the Christian Church/Disciples of Christ, it is clear that the description given by Daniel Summer between disciples (Christians) is still in existence. Sadly, we have "modern or plastic" Christians today that have this "flexibility" who are no longer satisfied with a "Thus saith the Lord." Some desire fellowship with the denominations and, as a result, have rejected some of the teaching of Christ in order to have such a fellowship. However, there is a more dangerous group than that who, although they reject fellowship with the denominations and still hold to many of the truths of the Scripture are willing to be "flexible" when it comes to the matter of fellowshiping unrepentant false teachers in our midst. In some instances this is occurring because they desire to receive support for their projects and programs and, in order to gain sufficient support, they will fellowship those who are not in fellowship with the Lord.

Brethren, we cannot be more "plastic" or more "flexible" than the Lord in His Word gives us liberty to be. We **must** uphold the truth of God's word and have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness but rather rebuke them (Ephesians 5:11). Let us be known as disciples (Christians) who are of the "primitive and apostolic type" and not those who would be known as "modern and plastic" as they desire to be flexible and bend to the world or false teachers.

Ken Chumbley

NEWS AND NOTES

Let us continue to keep in our prayers Helen Culpepper, Pam Gossett and her mother, Kathy Treadway's mother, Lanny Niver's father, Tim Arnold's father.

Our sympathy is extended to Michael Farmer and his family in the death of his 9 year old niece, Johnescia George last weekend, services were held on Saturday.

Continue to offer prayer for Susan Poster, aide at North Augusta Middle School, as she continues to undergo radiation therapy following the removal of a brain tumor.

Parys Mitchell has been taken to a hospital in Columbia, SC. No further details at the time of printing the bulletin. Adreanne was heading to Columbia. Let us keep them in our prayers.

Steven Wilson has been sick this past week.

Thanks to Ron Wilson and Les Culpepper for taking care of the teaching and preaching duties while Ken was in Ohio for the Lectureship.

LISTEN TO THE GOSPEL OF CHRIST RADIO PROGRAM
1050 AM -- WFAM
Sundays 8.00 a.m. to 8.30 a.m

PREVENTATIVE MEDICINE

The field of medicine has long recognized the fact that it is far easier to prevent a sickness than to cure it. Such is the case when we are talking of spiritual disease as well. Sin, in the beginning is easier to overcome but harder to detect. As it advances however, if unchecked, it is easy to detect but difficult to be cured.

Why do we uphold what Jesus taught on divorce and remarriage (Matthew 19:3-9)? Does God love the divorced? Yes! Does God love the children who suffer in divorce cases? Yes! Does the church have compassion for the divorced? Yes!

To teach on God's plan for the home, the responsibilities of husbands and wives, of parents and children, to uphold the values of family, is not to deny compassion and love to those who suffer from sin's effects upon the home. Teaching on these subjects is preventative medicine so that men and women, boys and girls might avoid the suffering of son.

To teach our children to bring purity to their marriage, to bring fidelity to their marriage, to bring perseverance, love and forgiveness to their marriage, is to hopefully prevent having to deal with feelings of denial, anger, guilt, depression, rejection, etc. To model these things before our children is to prevent recurring cycles of divorce and generations of broken homes.

We all need to do better in giving support to those who are suffering from sin. The church needs to be the place to go to when people are hurting. Let's remember that Jesus is the remedy for sin. We will not be cured until we uphold and live by what Jesus wants us to do. And, it is far less painful to prevent the ravages from sin than to cure them.

Author unknown