

Monday, August 21, 2017 – That's Not What I Want to Hear

“Don't shoot the messenger.” We hear this message a great deal in life and it is used to inform the hearer that the conveyor of the news is not the originator, just the deliverer. Your success at “staying out of trouble” often depends on the message, the receiver of the message or if you happen to be a preacher. Preachers rarely deliver a message, FROM GOD'S WORD, without offending someone in their audience.

Present day trends to turn away from Biblical preaching to entertainment, gimmicks, paraphrasing scripture, using denominational or non-biblical material (i.e. The Andy Griffith Show) and preaching human doctrine (PHD, sorry if that offends those who feel the term doctor in front of their name makes their preaching special), we have lost sight of the type of preaching that God demands: doctrinal preaching! Biblical authority does NOT reside with men but with Jehovah God because He is the Creator of all, including mankind.

In the gospel accounts of THE Great Commission, Christ commands, authorizes and obligates His followers to proclaim HIS word, (The Message, The Gospel) to every person all over the world. The word “commission” means the act of entrusting, as a charge or a duty. When one teaches or preaches God's Word, they are trusting in The Lord with all their hearts, not leaning upon their own understanding, to acknowledge Him as the GREAT I AM, and, “looking unto Jesus the author and perfecter of *our* faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising shame, and hath sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.”

The proclaimer of Christ's words is demonstrating the value of each and every soul! Nothing can compare with the importance of our soul! We MUST be reminded of Christ's words in Matt. 16:26 when He states, “For what shall a man be profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and forfeit his life? or what shall a man give in exchange for his life?”

We have so many people in this world that have misplaced priorities, hatred and malice in their hearts, pettiness, willingness to gossip and the desire to justify every action they take which goes against the will of God. When we (Christians) show something less than a deep concern for the souls of lost men and women, we live in disobedience to the command of the Great Commission.

Preaching and teaching THE gospel, the story of God's love for man, men of all nations, can lead lost and erring souls to the body of Christ where there is salvation. In responding to the gospel of Christ, those things of the world, which we have allowed Satan to control and manipulate us, will fade into the background of our existence and turn our focus and direction on that eternal prize called Heaven.

May I suggest, the next time you complain about a message from the Gospel of Jesus Christ, before you open your mouth to blame the messenger, ensure that the reflection in your mirror doesn't have some restoration work that needs to be completed. That's what the message from God's Word is intended to help us do.