

Prayer List

Sheila
Ophelia
Josh
Daniel
Olene

Services:

Sunday

Bible Class 9:00 a.m.
Assembly 9:50 a.m.
Assembly 6:00 p.m.

Wednesday

Bible Class 7:00 p.m.

Pinole Tidings

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Elders:

Brad Behrens - bradbehrens@pinolechurchofchrist.com
Michael Odom - MichaelOdom@pinolechurchofchrist.com
Ernie Sprinkel - preacher@pinolechurchofchrist.com

This Week's Question:

Who had a palace with marble pillars and beds of gold and silver?

Answer To Last Week's Question:

Balaam - Numbers 22:24

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Have I Become Your Enemy

Weldon Warnock

The apostle Paul asked the Galatians if he had become their enemy because he told them the truth (Gal. 4:16)? These are the brethren that Paul and Barnabas converted to the Lord Jesus Christ (Acts 13-14) and who would have plucked out their eyes, if possible, and given them to Paul (Gal. 4:15). Evil men, the Judaizers, were at work, wagging their tongues, to undermine the influence and apostolic authority of the divinely-ordained Apostle. These Galatian brethren were mesmerized by these charmers and enticers (Gal. 3:1). Here was a man, named Paul, whose reputation was being destroyed among cordial brethren at one time by unscrupulous men who were bent on poisoning the minds of these brethren against Paul.

How did this great Apostle deal with this problem? Did he compromise his convictions or employ flattery by telling them, "You are the greatest," or by just ignoring the whole situation? He did neither but rather defended his integrity and apostleship and stood firm for the truth of God's word against the false brethren (Gal. 2:4-5). Love for Christ and truth was stronger in Paul's heart than friendship and pleasing men (Gal. 1:10). So, Paul is prompted to say: "Am I therefore become your enemy because I tell you the truth?"

Opposition to Truth

We learn from Paul's statement that standing for the truth causes opposition. We observe this in several occasions in the Bible.

Jesus warns us: “Woe unto you, when all men shall speak well of you” (Luke 6:26)!

Smooth Things

Some have succumbed to the attitude of those in the days of Isaiah: “. . . speak unto us smooth things” (Isa. 30:10). Many times this is done by preaching in generalities. No specific applications are ever made, especially toward those in the audience. This “courageous” approach will never let the listeners know that they might be doctrinally wrong about some issue or morally corrupt as the result of some unholy practice.

To reprove and rebuke is not always popular, but preaching the word necessitates such preaching. Of course, we must exhort and encourage as well. To be completely lopsided in either direction, whether positive or negative, is not how we are to preach.

The evangelist, Timothy, was warned by Paul to preach the word for the time is coming when sound doctrine will not be endured, but after their own lusts they shall heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears and shall turn away their ears from the truth and turn unto fables (2 Tim. 4:2-4). Here is an attitude that leads to apostasy. They don't want sound, wholesome doctrine but turn to myths. It seems like anymore that many preachers would rather tell stories and use very few Scriptures, than to exegete the Scriptures and to educate the hearers by preaching all the counsel of God. In essence it means: Do not “rock the boat,” or “make any waves,” yea, don't make enemies by telling the truth.

Men have fought truth for different reasons: (1) because of ignorance in the case of Paul (Acts 26:9; 1 Tim. 1:13), (2) because they do not love and believe the truth (2 Thess. 2:10-12). The former need to be informed in order to learn and the latter rebuked and reprovved in order to get them to come to their senses. In whatever case, a gospel preacher must speak the truth in love (Eph. 4:15) regardless of the consequences! Truth Magazine January 2007

1. Jezebel and Elijah (1 Kings 19). After the showdown with the prophets of Baal on Mt, Carmel, Jezebel sends a messenger to threaten the life of Elijah (1 Kings 19:2). Though Elijah demonstrated the power of God and that he was the true prophet, Jezebel remained his enemy. She was not willing to give up her idol god.

2. Ahab, king of Israel, and Micaiah (1 Kings 22). Ahab had 400 prophets that always told him what he wanted to hear. But, there was one who told it like it was, the prophet Micaiah. Ahab said that he hated him because he never prophesied good concerning him but evil or bad (v. 8). In every age there are appeasers and men pleasers and then, thankfully, those who are not for sale. In the church today there are men who are like the fellow who said that they had a professional baseball pitcher for a preacher; that he winds up on Sunday morning and throws a curve around everybody in the house.

3. Herod Antipas and John the Baptist (Mark 6:14-29). John told Herod that it was not lawful for him to have his brother Philip's wife (vv. 17-18). Herodias sought to kill him and finally succeeded. Herod and Herodias were in violation of Leviticus 18:16; 20:21. John could have rationalized as some brethren do today and told himself that he did not want to break up a marriage, that God would take care of it.

4. Stephen and the Jewish council (Acts 7). Brother Stephen did not bring the Jews down to Jesus and then stop talking. He preached that they were stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, resisting the Holy Spirit and that Jesus is the Just One of whom the prophets spoke and whom they betrayed and murdered. That speech cost him his life. He suffered the ultimate sacrifice for telling the truth.

5. Paul and his encounters. In addition to the Galatians, Paul was let down over the wall at Damascus in a basket to escape being killed by the Jews (Acts 9), was imprisoned at Philippi (Acts 16), caused an uproar at Thessalonica (Acts 17) and left Ephesus in tumult (Acts 19), all of this because of his preaching the truth.

Too many preachers (one is too many) love the praise of men more than the praise of God (John 12:43), They have adopted the “feel goodism” in preaching. They are like the preacher who said he did not preach on heaven or hell because he had friends in both places.