

PLAIN SPEECH

Volume 3 – Issue 30 – 9 May 2010

“Seeing then that we have such hope, we use great plainness of speech” (2 Cor. 3:12)

BY SCOTT PARKER

NOT EVERY PREACHER OUT THERE IS LEGIT

The sad reality is that not every preacher out there is legit (legitimate); i.e. authentic. The Bible records: “*But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies....*” In this article we shall note several passages which underscore the truth that one needs to be very cautious to make sure they do not get mixed up with a preacher who is, shall we say, less than what God expects him to be.

“*Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep’s clothing...*” (Mt. 7:15). True enough, there are no longer prophets today (1 Cor. 13:8-10). However, let’s make application to preachers and ask the question: do most heed the Lord’s admonition? No! Instead, so many folks buy into the various ruses “preachers” offer up. Yes, many are the lazy and duped souls out there who think their preacher (notice the mindset) is a good guy, when in reality he’s on the enemy’s team (Mt. 12:30). This sad fact is proven true both amongst so-called members of the church and in denominationalism.

“*For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ*” (2 Cor. 11:13). “*I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars*” (Rev. 2:2). In antiquity there were some who claimed to be apostles, when in reality they were nothing of the sort. They were not apostles, they were fakers! Speaking of today, are there still people out there who claim to be apostles? Yes! For instance the Mormon Church claims to be guided by apostles. They say, “*There are fifteen Apostles living on the earth today. They make up the First Presidency and the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles of the Church*” (Mormon.org). If these guys really are apostles, let them prove it (2 Cor. 12:12).

“*For we are not as many, which corrupt the word of God...*” (2 Cor. 2:17). The word “corrupt” is an interesting word when one takes a closer look at it. It’s a word that denotes a profit made by a profiteer. Now, are there any “preachers” around today who peddle the scriptures? Certainly. I can think of lots of people who illustrate this truth. I’m sure you probably can also.

“*Forasmuch as we have heard, that certain which went out from us have troubled you with words, subverting your souls, saying, Ye must be circumcised, and keep the law: to whom we gave no such commandment*” (Ax. 15:24). “*And that because of false brethren unawares brought in, who came in privily to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, that they might bring us into bondage*” (Gal. 2:4). There were those in the 1st century who did not understand things properly and ended up making laws and enforcing said laws upon others. Are there such folks today? Yes. Sadly, the subject of Christian liberty is one that’s severely misunderstood by so many. For instance, I know people who think it’s a sin to wear any pair of shorts, no matter the length. I know others who throw a guilt trip on those who watch sports. I know another who is more than willing to tell any who will listen that eating in a restaurant that happens to have a section of the menu dedicated to various intoxicating beverages is a sin. Listen, we must not confuse liberty for license, but neither should we bind our consciences (Rom. 14).

“*Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them. For they... serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple*” (Rom. 16:17-18). “*That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive*” (Eph. 4:14). “*And this I say, lest any man should beguile you with enticing words*” (Col. 2:4). Are there still people like this today? Yes. Think about all those who come up with a 1,001 human reasons and twisted scriptures (2 Pet. 3:16) as to why _____ is acceptable to God, when in reality it is not. Yes, tricksters are all too common today. Sad. Listen, there’s no sleight of hand that will truly authorize unauthorized action!

“*Beware lest any man spoil you... after the tradition of men...*” (Col. 2:8). So many today have been spoiled because their favorite preacher has convinced them that man-made traditions (a make-up Lord’s Supper, etc.) are fine and dandy. Again, sad.

“*As many as desire to make a fair shew in the flesh, they constrain you to be circumcised; only lest they should suffer persecution for the cross of Christ*” (Gal. 6:12). Are there still “preachers” who operate out of fear? Are there still “preachers” who will not say what needs to be said because they’re afraid of the consequences? Certainly. I know of too many to name.

As stated in the title, not every preacher out there is legit. In fact, real preachers are few and far between. In next week’s article we will look at some characteristics of those who are the real deal.