

Rom. 14:19
So then let
us follow
after things
which make
for peace,
and things
whereby
we may
edify one
another.



John 8:32 And
ye shall know
the truth and
the truth shall
make you free.

October
22
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PLEASE, JUST PREACH HIS WORD

by Jim Stauffer

It is alarming to hear some of the messages preachers offer the congregation in buildings designed to be houses of worship to God in heaven. Paul gave the following advice to Timothy as he took on the role of preaching the word. *I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom: preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and instruction. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths. (2 Tim. 4:1-4)*

Paul further stated about his own preaching that he *....did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching to you publicly from house to house (Acts 20:20)*. He sums it up later in the same conversation by saying, *For I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole purpose (counsel - ASV) of God. (Acts 20:27)*

Gospel preaching is to be just that, the message of the gospel. We are to preach those things found in Scripture that Jesus by way of the Holy Spirit instructed the apostolic writers to teach us.

We have examples of New Testament sermons that were preached and the message had a purpose. When Peter preached to the Jews on the day of Pentecost in **Acts 2** it was not a message intended to leave the listeners with a warm fuzzy feeling inside. It was a message to cut to their hearts concerning their complicity in the crucifixion of the Son of God. Do we believe speaking this message to those people did not take courage, knowing their reaction might be just as violent as it was some 50 days before with the Lord? We now know they did not. We see in that text the power of the gospel of Jesus Christ to save as Paul says in **Rom. 1:16**.

And what about Stephen when he was dragged by the people before the council in **Acts 7**. He relates the history of their ancestors, citing their multiple failings to honor the word God had given them. He closes his lesson to them with accusations against their fathers for killing the prophets of God. He then tells them, *You men who are stiff-necked and uncircumcised in heart and ears are always resisting the Holy Spirit; you are doing just as your fathers did. Which one of the prophets did your fathers not persecute? They killed those who had previously announced the coming of the Righteous One, whose betrayers and murderers you have now become; (Acts 7:51,52)*. He openly accused them of killing Jesus Christ just as Peter had done earlier. This time it did not go so well. They stoned him to death.

Do we hear such clear preaching today? I am not calling for irrational charges from the pulpit. I am suggesting those of us who preach need to tell the people what they need to hear to be found pleasing in the sight of God. That message does not come from Washington, D.C. or any news media that covers such political happenings. That message only comes from the word of God.

We can talk to each other about being good citizens all day long, but citizenship in the United States of America or any other nation on earth will not provide one iota of impetus to our salvation. We need to hear how to become good citizens in the Kingdom of the Lord.

We need to be taught so we know without any doubt at all that we need to do the will of God. Jesus said, **John 5:30** *"I can do nothing on My own initiative. As I hear, I judge; and My judgment is just, because I do not seek My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me.* Peter then tells me I need to follow in the footsteps of Jesus. *For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps, (1 Pet. 2:21).*

Brethren, we need to put an end to such soft

preaching that has as its goal increasing the numbers of people in the pews in order to increase the dollars in the church's bank account and begin to preach exactly what the apostle Paul preached. **1 Cor. 1:22** *For indeed Jews ask for signs and Greeks search for wisdom; 23 but we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block and to Gentiles foolishness, 24 but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.*

Jump Start # 1822

Proverbs 6:23-24 *"For the commandment is a lamp and the teaching is a light; and reproofs for discipline are the way of life to keep you from the evil woman, from the smooth tongue of the adulteress."*

Our own former governor of Indiana, now the current Vice President, took a lot of scolding from the media for proclaiming that he would not meet nor eat alone with a woman who was not his wife. Scandalous some are accusing him. The second highest position in the government would not meet in private with another woman? But the vice president has had a long standing practice of this before he ever went to Washington. He meets with other women often, but not alone. Someone else is always there. This provides a witness. This keeps accusations from being said. This keeps things above board.

Old fashioned, as modern media insiders are calling this, is nothing more than protecting his reputation, his marriage and keeping temptation at arms length. For years, preachers have given this same advice to younger preachers. Some have ignored this advice. Some have gotten themselves in trouble because of this.

Our verse today, coming from a two chapter section of Proverbs that warns about sexual sins and the deadly destruction of failing to keep your guard up is the same thing that the Vice President is practicing. Godly wisdom will keep you from *"the evil woman."* It will guard your heart. It will keep you out of harms way. Even though you may never have such intentions, the other person might.

The most common area that affairs are found is from the work place setting. Working late at night with someone you are not married to, catching a bite to eat with someone you are not married to, together, out of town on business-the settings are all there for conversations to turn from work to personal matters. In time, there is a connection. The work partner listens so much better than my mate does. They understand. They really care. A touch. An exchange of the eyes. And the next thing you know, the lines are crossed and sin has been committed. A vow has been broken. Now a secret must be kept secret. Lies are told. In far too many situations, the heat of passion becomes too much to leave and so the thought crosses the mind and then

that thought is expressed, it's time to end the marriage. I have found someone else. I no longer love you. Tears are shed. A family is torn apart. People don't understand. A church is harmed. Christ is shamed.

This is happening over and over and over. Nearly every congregation has seen a marriage fall apart. Nearly every congregation can tell the sad story of an affair that killed the trust within a family. It's happening among preachers. It's happening among elderships. Affairs are taking place within the congregation. The movies, the sit-coms, the TV dramas all show the fun, the good and the upside of sex outside of marriage. It is crushing God's church. It is removing men from leadership roles. It is disillusioning children who are confused and don't understand. Not only are we showing the world that we cannot stay married, we are showing the world that we cannot remain faithful. If we can't keep that promise, what other promises can we not keep? The line of separation between the world and the believer becomes thinner and thinner. Saved folks are simply not acting like they are saved, especially in the area of sexuality and faithfulness to their marriages.

The addiction to porn is yet another major problem facing tons of families in the church today. It's not just men and porn, the number of women and porn is sky rocketing. And now, the sex industry is producing sex robots for a person to have physical relations with. There seems to be no bottom to the sewer.

And in all of this downward spiral, rises a hero, from all places, Washington and from all people, a politician who refuses to meet with a woman alone. He has put a stake in the ground. He will not compromise. He takes his marriage seriously. He will not be accused of sexual sins, because he will never be found alone with another woman. Above board. Making himself visible, accountable and trustworthy. We praise the decisions and the choice he made to protect his love and commitment to his marriage. From this worthy example we take note. We can do the same. Difficult as it may be. Awkward as it may be. Being considered a prude, old-fashioned, out of touch, it remains true that temptation is held at bay.

Office flirting and teasing has no place among married people who are not married to each other. Watch the compliments toward the other sex. Guard what you say and what you mean. Be careful with hugs. Even after church services, some can get too friendly and some can make others uncomfortable. Don't be kissing another woman that you are not married to unless it's your mamma or your daughter.

The Proverb passage is trying to prevent trouble from happening. Carelessness, arrogance that believes nothing will ever happen, being foolish are all contributing factors that allows Satan to come knocking on the door of our hearts. He's patient. He'll wait until we are vulnerable. He waits until it's late at night. He

waits until we are alone. He waits until we are tired. He waits. But he's there. A thought. An image. A temptation. He's ready to knock on the door of your heart.

You, too, can keep a similar policy as our Vice President. Don't be alone with someone of the opposite sex that you are not married to. Don't dine with someone of the opposite sex alone. Keep your guard up. Watch your eyes. Stay away from things that chip away at moral purity. Some shows ought to be off limits. Some places ought to be out of bounds. Be transparent with your mate. No lies. No secrets. No hiding things. Let your mate know your passwords. Let them read your texts, if they want. There is nothing to be afraid of if you are pure, honest and above board. It's the person who is doing things that they shouldn't that wants to keep secrets.

Be pure is the call of the New Testament. It's getting harder to be pure in the sewer that society has become. It can be done. You may be unique, like our Vice President, in what you do. It's better to be the hero and be cool at home, and be viewed as no fun by others, than it is the other way around.

Protect your marriage. You made a promise to your mate and to your God. Keep it!

Roger Shouse

DESTRUCTION OF THE TEMPLE

"Then Jesus went out and departed from the temple, and His disciples came up to show Him the buildings of the temple. And Jesus said to them, Do you not see all these things? Assuredly, I say to you, not one stone shall be left here upon another, that shall not be thrown down. Now as He sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to Him privately, saying, Tell us, when will these things be? And what will be the sign of your coming, and of the end of the age?" (Mat. 24:1-3).

Assuming the posture of a rabbi, privately, Jesus began teaching His disciples about the temple and its eventual destruction. It seems that the disciples linked the destruction of that house (**Matthew 23:38**) with the final return of the Lord. They ask: When shall these events occur; will there be some kind of sign; and what about the end of the world? Maybe a passage such as **Zechariah 14:1-5** provoked their questions. The prophet said that the Lord was coming to fight for His people. Surely such a momentous event would be accompanied by some kind of sign, a signal of some kind, that would inform and help the Savior's followers.

Jesus responded by warning about those who would come in His name. Deceivers and false prophets would appear; their deceptions were designed to gain a following that would play into their military and political schemes. The better course would be to prepare for the times to come rather than try to decipher when the times would come. Make sure of your faith so you can endure to the end and be saved (**Matthew 24:13**). Enemies,

hatred, and persecutions did not automatically mean Jesus' followers were going to be faithful; but faithfulness to Jesus would bring these encounters with the enemies of the cross. Be on guard! Faithful endurance would ensure that the gospel of the kingdom would continue to be preached. Jesus will say later that of that final day, only the Father knows (**Matthew 24:36**). The greater lesson is that disciples of Jesus must learn to be faithful regardless of any world shattering event.

Jesus quotes apocalyptic language from Daniel (**Daniel 9:27; 11:31; 12:11; see 1 Maccabees 4:54**); Daniel's prophecies pointed to Rome and the eventual desolation of the temple. When you see the *"abomination of desolation,"* it is time to get busy, flee, don't stop to gather earthly goods—the time has arrived. This would be a difficult time for all. Matthew's narrative uses the language of judgment taken from the OT (**Isaiah 13:10; Ezekiel 32:7**). Yes, the Lord came in judgment—judgment on the Jewish nation; this was His return. It was not the final return, the second coming of the judge of all. The generation to whom Jesus spoke would experience these ordeals. *"Assuredly, I say to you, this generation will by no means pass away till all these things take place"* (**Matthew 24:34**). And further, Jesus meant what He said. *"Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will by no means pass away"* (**Matthew 25:35**).

What do we learn from what Jesus told His followers? We need to get ready, stay ready, and be faithful to our Savior. We don't know when He is coming. Are you ready, are you ready?

Randy Harshbarger

A NEW CREATURE

"I would give anything to be able to go back and start all over again."

Most of us have said, thought, or at least heard said, something like the above. We realize that we cannot turn the calendar back and regain our youth and innocence (that is no more), but we can, in Christ, begin again. We can never regain the innocence of not having sinned, but we can enjoy the innocence of having all our sins forgiven. When one is *"baptized into Christ"* (**Gal. 3:27**) that one *"is a new creature: the old things have passed away; behold, they are become new."* (**2 Cor. 5:17**)

wvb. Taken from the Lincoln Bible Reader

The apostles were practical men. Some were fishermen and one a tax collector. Both callings teach a person not to believe all he hears.

R.L. Whiteside, The Kingdom of Promise and Prophecy

Psa. 1:1 *Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the wicked, Nor standeth in the way of sinners, Nor sitteth in the seat of scoffers: 2 But his delight is in the law of Jehovah; And on his law doth he meditate day and night. 3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the streams of water, That bringeth forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also doth not wither; And whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. 4 The wicked are not so, But are like the chaff which the wind driveth away. 5 Therefore the wicked shall not stand in the judgment, Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. 6 For Jehovah knoweth the way of the righteous; But the way of the wicked shall perish.*

HOURS OF WORSHIP

Sunday A.M. 9:30 Bible Study

Sunday A.M. 10:20 Assembled Worship

Sunday P.M. 5:00 Assembled Worship

Wednesday P.M. 7:00 Bible Study and Worship

Visitors welcome

We conduct in home Bible Studies

We offer Correspondence Courses

Evangelist and Editor Jim Stauffer

Elders: Ron Peck and Jim Stauffer

Deacons: Bill Miller

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NEWS AND NOTES:

PLEASE REMEMBER JAN
PATRICK, STEPHEN KIMKER, JIM
NEWMAN, JOANN MEYER AND
STEVE WIMP.

BIBLE CLASSES
SUNDAY MORNING = EPHESIANS,
PHILIPPIANS, COLOSSIANS
BILL MILLER - TEACHER

WEDNESDAY EVENING
ISLAM VS. CHRISTIANITY
JIM STAUFFER - TEACHER

SUNDAY SERMON:
WE HAVE A BROTHER (WHO
CARES FOR US)
JIM STAUFFER



What Must I Do To Be Saved?

Hear the gospel - Romans 10:17

Believe in Jesus Christ - Hebrews 11:6

Repent of sins - Acts 17:30

Confess Christ as Lord - Romans 10:9,10

Be Baptized for remission of sins - Acts 2:38

Be Faithful unto death - Revelation 2:10