

Weak Preaching

In years gone by it would often be said of one preacher or another, that he is a real "hell-fire and brimstone" preacher. That is, there was a time when a preacher would get in the pulpit and "shuck-the-corn." He would preach long and hard against some specific sin. It used to be that many preachers strove to imitate the preaching of John the immerser or Stephen the martyr (cf. Matt. 3:7-12; Acts 7:51-53). However, as this century has progressed, and more and more sin is accepted by society in general, fewer and fewer "hell-fire and brimstone" sermons are heard.

Nowadays, preachers preach to make the people feel good. The Bible said this would happen, "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables" (2 Tim. 4:3-4). They are more interested in numbers than truth! They cry "peace, peace; when there is no peace" (Jer. 6:14).

When is the last time you heard a pointed sermon on gambling? The Bible teaches it is sinful (1 Tim. 6:10; 1 Thes. 4:11-12; Eph. 4:28; Matt. 6:19-21). Can you recall the last time you listened to a strong sermon on drunkenness that clearly labeled such as sin and did not excuse the drunkard as someone who could not help himself? The Bible condemns recreational intoxication in any form (1 Pet. 4:3-4; cf. Prov. 23:29-35). How long has it been since you heard a preacher forcefully condemn adultery or fornication? The Bible says that one guilty of either, will go to hell (Rev. 21:8; 1 Cor. 6:9-10; Gal. 5:19-21). Can you remember the last sermon preached in your presence concerning dancing? The Bible condemns lascivious, wanton conduct, such as the modern dance (Gal. 5:19-21; Eph. 4:19). Are you hearing strong preaching or weak preaching?

Those who love God and will be pleasing unto Him, must keep His commandments and diligently seek Him (1 Jn. 5:3; Heb. 11:6). They must preach the word, when people like it, and when they do not like it (2 Tim. 4:2). This includes, faith, repentance, confession of Christ, and baptism for the remission of sins (Jn. 8:24; Lk. 13:3; 12:8-9; Acts 2:38). What are you hearing?

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