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A  
Ministry  
of:

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## **KILLING THE PREACHERS!**

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I recently read an article by E. M. Bounds, written one hundred years ago, on "Killing the Prophets." I thought that this is a much needed message today when many preachers (I am speaking of Fundamentalists) are being killed, if not physically, spiritually and emotionally. In old times it was dangerous to be a prophet in Israel; many of them were manhandled and killed *by the people of God*. It wasn't the heathen who killed them. Jesus said, "**O, Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them that are sent unto thee...**" Before I get into that aspect, and the heart of this message, let me say that many preachers are "killed" because of their own disobedience or lack of genuine spirituality. Some have been "slain" by the lust of the flesh and immorality. There are those who have been "killed" by the love of money. Not a few have had a little success in the ministry and were "killed" by pride. A goodly number have "died" because they fell into the sin of slothfulness. The ministry is a place where that is easy, since no one is immediately over you. I have known many lazy preachers and also missionaries. We need to pray especially for preachers.

However, there is another aspect which is far more destructive. The average pastorate is less than three years. Why would that be so if the Pastor and the Church had a happy relationship? I don't see how three year pastorates could be the will of God. Much, if not most of the blame must go to the Church members (though pastors are not without their faults). I have been in the ministry for 45 years and I am sure unspiritual believers "kill" more of God's servants than anything else. We give the devil credit for a lot of things he never did; Church members "kill" more preachers than the devil! One thing that "kills" them is when a preacher gives his best to the work but few if any want to follow. A great problem today is we are largely dealing with immature people; most are spoiled, self-willed, self-centered babies. They don't want to hear it, but it's true! Most (no doubt some who read this) who make a profession of faith do not seem to grow. They are always bawling, fussing, fighting - you see their likes in I Corinthians. It's a standing joke how children run the homes these days, even Christian homes - that's exactly what you have in many churches. No Pastor can keep them all happy and it breaks your heart. But, he is expendable; they are not. Then, "Diotrephes" has "killed" his thousands. Many churches are run by someone of influence or money (usually an elder, deacon or trustee, whatever that is). We are in the "Laodicean" age: "the rights of the people." That attitude is of the world, not of God. God says, "**Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they that must give an account, that they may do it with joy and not with grief...**" When are the churches going to stop "killing" their preachers, men God has sent unto them? Many preachers are not "killed" - just wounded. Some move out before they get "killed." They find a "spiritual" excuse and locate another church. All this is rendering the churches ineffective. Fundamental Baptist people, when will you stop "killing" God's preachers? Nobody can please all of you! Remember, you'll have to answer to God, and it may be long before the Judgment Seat of Christ! We need men of God as never before; I plead with Fundamental Baptists - STOP KILLING GOD'S PREACHERS!

# YOUTH CORNER

**NOTICE TO TEENAGERS:** Teenagers are notorious for thinking that they know it all. I can remember when as a young person, I thought I was much wiser than my parents; they were way behind the times. Thankfully, I did not get too far into adulthood until I found out how much they really knew and how little I understood about the things that count most. Knowing it all just seems to come with being a teenager. Someone has said that the height of knowledge must be somewhere between four and sixteen; at four we have all the questions and at sixteen we have all the answers. One preacher gave the following advice to teens: "If you are tired of being hassled by unreasonable parents, now is the time for action! Leave home and pay for your own way while you still know everything." God says, "**Be not wise in your own conceits.**" Teenager, you still have a lot to learn, and much of it does not come from books - though it does come from The Book! God says you are to obey Him and your parents. *Romans 12:16*. "**For if a man thinketh himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself.**" ~*Galatians 6:3*.

**YOU ARE WHAT YOU EAT!** To a large degree that is true. I recently read how much *junk food* the average teen (age 12 - 20) eats.

4732 soft drinks  
2096 pounds of hamburger  
5408 candy bars  
6156 ice cream cones

That's a lot of junk food! But did you ever stop to think of all the spiritual or mental junk food the average young person consumes. It includes television programs, unnecessary internet browsing, worldly magazines, etc. Unfortunately, that is true of many Christian teenagers, instead of feeding on the things of God they feast on worldly "junk food." Yes, you are what you eat, especially in the spiritual realm. It is impossible to be spiritually strong if you are taking in a lot of "junk food," even though you may go to church a lot, etc. God's Word is likened to milk, bread, meat, and water. If you want to be a strong, useful Christian, you had better major on the Scriptures and let the "junk food" of the world alone.

**D.L. MOODY SAID:** "*If you have so much business to attend to that you have no time to pray, you have more business on hand than God intended you to have.*" What does God think of all the time you have for TV, computer games, the newspaper, magazines, yet you do not have time to read His Word and pray everyday?

**WE SAY IT AGAIN: THROW OUT THE TV!** *Religion Today* (2/20/01) carried a survey done by the Henry J. Kaiser Family Foundation. Here's what they found: During the 1997/98 TV season **56% of all TV shows had sexual content**. In 1999/2000 it was **68% and one in four included sexual behavior**. The remainder featured conversation about sex. The figures for prime time: **97/98 - 67% had sexual content and in 99/00 it was 75%**. When you consider on top of that, all the violence, the four letter words, improper dress, etc. you have a veritable moral cesspool. Only a sick, a very sick, Christian could watch any of this! Serious Christians do not need the TV - throw it out before you vex your righteous soul as Lot did! Throw it out before it ruins your children! Remember what watching ungodly behavior did to his family! "**Whatever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.**" You cannot sow sin without having a miserable harvest.

**PARENTS TAKE NOTE!** Someone gave me an article from *McCall's*. Apparently a previous issue had an article about a teenage female sex symbol and mothers allowing their children of five, six, etc., to dress like her. One mother's letter to the editor defended dressing her five year old accordingly. But one school teacher wrote in with some of her children's responses to the question: "Should little girls dress like teenagers.?" Morgan, a sixth grader wrote: "When little girls wear clothing that's not meant for them, they tell the media they can handle things they are not ready for." Alexa, 7th grade: "Parents should decide what their daughters wear. If they're soft and easy with their children in the beginning, the kids will rebel as teens..." Michael, 6th grade: "If a little girl dresses like a teenager, she might grow up to get a very bad job, like a stripper..." While I could, and have, given some other more spiritual reasons, these children show more common sense than many parents. Dad and Mom, you are supposed to be in charge, not your children! That is one of the greatest problems we face today...children running things!

**ADMONITION FOR GOD'S PEOPLE!** "I warn you that it will go hard with you when the Lord comes to reckon with you if He finds your wealth hoarded up in needless accumulation, instead of being carefully devoted to giving the Gospel to the lost." Dr. A. J. Gordon. Remember, Christian, it all belongs to God!

**Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.**  
**1 Corinthians 10:31**

## COVETOUSNESS IS COSTLY

The 10th commandment is “**Thou shalt not covet.**” It means “to be fond of money,” - to want more. It carries the idea of never being satisfied. Someone asked the great financier, J. P. Morgan how much money it took to make a man happy. He replied, “A little more.” Covetousness has been the ruination of multitudes, including many believers. **Covetousness** enticed Lot into Sodom, where he lost all. Peter tells us he was a saved man. It caused the destruction of Achan and his family. It was the sin of Balaam, the false prophet. Samuel’s sons fell into it. It left Gehazi a leper. It sent the rich young ruler away sorrowful and no doubt to hell. It led Judas to sell the Lord Jesus Christ and he ended up a hell-bound suicide. It brought about the death of Ananias and Sapphira (I believe they were saved). It was a blot on the character of such a man of position as Felix. What victims it has claimed. Alas, how many believers today are covetous. Many seem to be possessed by things; never satisfied. I am afraid more than a few Christians would take a job that required work on the Lord’s day if it paid more money. God says, “**The love of money is the root of all evil.**” ~*1 Timothy 6:10*. God’s prescription “**Be content with such things as ye have.**” “**Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness...**” Many can work extra hours, take a second job, in order to have the things of this world, but they have little time and money for the things of God. Remember, what you sow, you will reap! (From a 1994 *Challenge*)

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## SPECKLED CHRISTIANS

Benjamin Franklin tells of a man who bought an axe from the local blacksmith shop. The purchaser wanted the whole surface as bright as its edge; the smith consented to do it, provided the man would turn the wheel while he ground it. It was a hard, wearisome job and often the man stopped to see how the axe was getting on. “Turn on, turn on,” said the smith, “We shall have it nice and bright by and by; as yet it is only speckled.” “Yes,” said the man, “and I think I am going to like a speckled axe best.” While they do not wish to hear it, we have many “*speckled Christians*” nowadays. They are like Ephraim: “**A cake not turned.**” Half-baked! It seems there are very few who want to press on to “**perfection.**” *Hebrews 6:1*. To grow up, to be a strong, mature Christian is not easy and we are living in a day when few people in this land know anything about exertion and endurance. We are told to “**...endure hardness as good soldiers of Jesus Christ.**” If you had to fight a physical war with a bunch of babies, you would go down to defeat. It is sad that many are content to be carnal Christians, “**babes in Christ,**” rather than grow up and accomplish something for God. Many of God’s people are “**lukewarm**” when they should be red hot for Christ and His work. Some sing, “*Stand up, stand up for Jesus...*” but at the first sign of trouble they sit down and feel sorry for themselves. The Lord’s work is work; hard work! We are in a real war and we need soldiers who know how to “**fight the good fight.**” “**It is high time to wake out of sleep...**”