
WEAK PREACHERS

OMINOUS SIGNS FOR GOD'S PEOPLE!

April 2002

I have two articles with serious implications for believers and Fundamental Churches. The problem is, most Christians are not in the mood to “**wake out of sleep**” or to deal with hard subjects. *World* magazine (2/9/02) reported on a study which says today's college freshmen are more liberal than any freshmen since the 1970's. A survey found that all but 58% support gay marriage, and 32% oppose capital punishment, and more than 33% support legalizing marijuana. The founder of the survey said, there is “a broad-based trend toward greater liberalism on almost every issue we looked at.” An even more ominous sign was reported in Chuck Baldwin's “*Food for Thought*” (2/12/02). Nehemiah Institute annually grades the world view of thousands of children and adults. The results are classified into one of four major world-view philosophies: Christian Theism - Moderate Christian - Secular Humanism - Socialism. Commenting on this in the World Net Daily, Brannon Howse says, “Christian students attending public schools now regularly score in the lower half of secular humanism and are headed (toward a) Socialist worldview. *Students in typical Christian schools score as a secular humanist.*” He said, “Based on projections using the decline rate from Christian students, the church will have lost her posterity to hard-core humanism between 2014-2018.” This is the result of liberal brainwashing that has been going on for the past fifty years or more. I have no problem believing these statistics - God's people by-and-large are worldly and apathetic. They do not want any hard preaching on sin, repentance and practical righteousness! Something else they don't want - the discipline of their children according to the Bible. They do not want their children to have to work hard nor to be required to live as the Bible dictates; everything must be made easy.

Most Fundamental believers (and churches) are spiritually weak at best and on average downright carnal. The average Fundamental Baptist does not want to hear anything about worldliness, sin, separation, and revival. The average Fundamental Baptist Pastor is not preaching on those things, because he knows that he will be in trouble. In their own estimation, the members are doing just fine; it reminds one of Israel just before the captivity. Going to Church several times a week and putting a little money in the offering, does not make one a strong believer. I have no doubt that the great majority of God's people spend far more time on sports, on the TV, internet, etc. than they do attending Church and praying and reading the Word of God. The people didn't want to hear what Jeremiah (and the other prophets) had to say either. God said if they would repent, Jerusalem would have been spared the awful destruction predicted. But they said Jeremiah, why don't you lighten up a little. You don't need to be an alarmist! God said through Isaiah that they “**...say to the seers, See not; and to the prophets, Prophecy not unto us right things, speak unto us smooth things, prophecy deceits.**” We'd rather hear a smooth lie than the hard truth! Please listen to me fellow Christian, your children are only going to inherit what you give them, and I am not talking about money. It is common knowledge that the normal tendency from generation to generation is downward. If you won't listen to me, listen to God: “**...it is high time to wake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore, cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light.**” When will we fundamentalists take God and His Word seriously? My dear Reader, what about you? Where are you spiritually? Your children won't rise any higher than you do - probably much lower. It is time to confess our carnality, confess our sins and get going for God before it is too late!

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ARTIFICIAL PREACHERS.

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Dr. A. W. Tozer wrote many years ago: "When I was young and first beginning to observe the human scene, one thing that stuck me forcefully was the artificiality of preachers....They were men, obviously, but they lacked completely the candor and downrightness I knew so well in other men. The bold man-to-man approach was missing. They seemed to be afraid of something...No one seemed to pay attention to them anyway. They spoke so gingerly and apologetically that one got the impression that they would rather remain silent forever than offend anyone... Now, I am all for preachers and I do not expect them to be perfect, but I am all for downrightness too. I think it highly improbable that anyone who speaks cautiously can speak effectively. Every man that stands to proclaim the Word of God should speak with something of the bold authority of the Word itself. He must be totally committed to Christ and deeply anointed with the Holy Spirit. He must be delivered from the fear of man. The focus of his attention must be God and not man." Charles Finney said: "Ministers generally avoid preaching what the people before them will understand as addressed to them. They will preach to them about other people, and the sins of others, instead of saying 'You are guilty of these sins...' They often preach about sinners instead of preaching to them. They studiously avoid being personal." We are told: "**If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God...**" The man of God is to speak for God and as God would speak! Unfortunately, there are not many Fundamental preachers like that in our day. They preach the truth, and they believe in the King James Bible, but they never convict anybody. You could not sit under the prophets nor the apostles very long without being convicted about something. It seems to me that Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and the apostle Paul made far more enemies than friends. Certainly Jesus did!

Listen to me please, those of you who sit in the pew. A man who is afraid of you, a man who pussy-foots around the truth but never declares boldly exactly what you need, will never do you any good. You may like him because he is as comfortable as an old shoe, but he will not benefit you. Besides, he is not being honest with you! Take the prophets for example, Isaiah, Jeremiah, etc. The people were religious but cold and indifferent to the truth. But the prophets did not cater to them (like the *false* prophets did), but boldly preached against their sins and proclaimed a message of repentance. That is the kind of message we need today! Most of God's people are like the Israelites of old: nominally religious, but cold, carnal and careless about the true things of God and spiritual worship. Beloved, we are in a day of worldliness and spiritual decline among the saints of God and we need bold men of God who will call us back to a close walk with God. That is one of the purposes of the Word of God: "**All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, REPROOF, FOR CORRECTION, FOR INSTRUCTION IN RIGHTEOUSNESS.**" What good is it to fill your head with "sound doctrine" and all while you are living in sin and facing the certain chastisement of God? If you're wrong, there is only one proper and safe course - get right! Repent! One thing is certain, you are not fooling God.

I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. 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. But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry. II Timothy 4:1-5

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