

# PREACH JESUS AND NO ONE WILL BE OFFENDED!

By Keith Greer

"Then His Disciples came and said to Him, "Do You know that the Pharisees were offended when they heard this saying?" {Matthew 15:12} Many times during the public teaching of Christ, men were "**offended**." Did Christ change His teaching methods? Contents? Style?

Today, many are calling for a **change in our preaching**. "We must preach more positive messages." "Leave these issues alone, they only cause division." "Preach just the essentials of the gospel." Can this advice be followed? The title of this lesson has been suggested by many. Will it work? Let us examine these matters from God's word.

"For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified" {1 Corinthians 2:2} What does it mean to preach "**Christ crucified**?"

Can I preach about His life? What of His birth? "And she will bring forth a Son, and you will call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins." {Matthew 1:21} What will my Jewish friends say? Might I offend them if I preach Christ as the **Messiah**? Better leave it alone!

Can I preach about His most beloved possession, the church? " ... the church of God which He purchased with His own blood" {Acts 20:28} "Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and gave Himself for it." {Ephesians 5:25} What will my Catholic friends think if I preach about the **ONE church**? Better leave it alone!

How about the conditions for membership? "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" {Romans 10:17} " ...for if you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins." {John 8:24} "I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish." {Luke 13: 3} ".... with the mouth confession is made to salvation." {Romans 10:10} "He who believes and is baptized will be saved .." {Mark 16: 16} What about my Baptists friends? They believe baptism is not essential to our salvation. Others believe someone else can be baptized for you. This subject is much too controversial. Better leave it alone!

What about our worship services? "Speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart." {Ephesians 5:19} What will my brethren say who use the instruments in worship? "On the first day of the week let each of you lay something aside, storing up as he may prosper,..." {1 Corinthians 16: 2} What will my religious friends say who pass the "baskets" at every service? "Now on the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread,..." {Acts 20:7} What of my friends who partake of the Lord's Supper once a month. All these will cause too much strife. Better leave them alone.

See my problem? What subject in the Bible is not upsetting to somebody? If I am going to endeavor to "preach Christ and Him crucified", I'm going to have to preach the gospel and I must preach it all without fear of favor! "Therefore I testify to you this day that I am innocent of the blood of all men.

For I have not shunned to declare to you the whole counsel of God." {Acts 20:26,27} All the truth and nothing but the truth!

What is our main purpose in preaching? To offend men or save their souls? Preaching, that is biblical preaching, is to edify and inform. Men in sin need to feel the weight of that sin on their souls. God's children who have left the path of safety to return to the "old man of sin" need to know how they can return. Preaching is done to save the lost and edify the saved. Paul made it so plain—"Have I therefore become your enemy because I tell you the truth?" {Galatians 4:16} Better offend them now, so they can be saved in eternity! A no brainer isn't it? \*\*\*