

WHAT KIND OF PREACHERS DO WE NEED TODAY?

By Keith Greer

If this question was asked to one hundred different Christians, we would be given one hundred different answers. Everybody has an opinion about what preachers need to be. May I give you an answer from one "**within**" the ranks?

When I read my Bible and look at the history of those who have gone before, I would have to agree with Solomon: "There is nothing new under the sun." What man needed then, he still needs now. A careful study of the prophets will give great insight into the caliber of men needed in our times. Please listen to their words.

"Then I said, 'I will not make mention of Him, nor speak anymore in His name. But His word was in my heart like a burning fire shut up in my bones; I was weary of holding it back, and I could not...' " {Jeremiah 20:9} Men who have "deep convictions" preach out of desire, not need!

"Therefore thus says the LORD God of Israel against the shepherds who feed My people: 'You have scattered My flock, driven them away, and not attended to them. Behold, I will attend to you for the evil of your doings, , says the LORD.' " {Jeremiah 23:2} Men were willing to "**rebuke the false teachers**." False teachers and teaching must be exposed! We need to keep the purity of the church and faithfulness of brethren always before us.

"But if not, let it be known to you, a king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up." {Daniel 3:18} Men were willing "**to die for the cause of God!**" Men did not buckle from persecution, even in the face of death!

"They say, 'If a man divorces his wife, and she goes from him and becomes another man's, may he return to her again? Would not that land be greatly polluted? But you have played the harlot with many lovers; Yet return to Me, says the LORD.' " {Jeremiah 3:1} Men spoke out on "**morality and ethics**" of the day! Today some preachers want to leave adultery, fornication, and homosexuality out of their preaching! Are they sins? Are men guilty? Then preach it!

"So he said to Jehoshaphat, 'Will you go with me to fight at Ramoth Gilead?' Jehoshaphat said to the king of Israel, 'I am as you are, my people as your people, my horses as your horses'." {1 Kings 22:4} God's prophets do not "**go along with the majority!**" Prophets of old would stand on the side of truth, no matter what the opposition numbered!

"Therefore thus says the LORD: 'Behold, I will cast you from the face of the earth. This year you shall die, because you have taught rebellion against the LORD'." {Jeremiah 28: 16} The prophets did not flinch at the "**reaction of men**"; they simply told it like it is! They taught truth, the application was then left up to man! The same is true today.

"For rebellion is as the sin of witchcraft, and stubbornness is as iniquity and idolatry. Because you have rejected the word of the LORD, He also has rejected you from being king. "{1 Samuel 15:23} Prophets were "**direct and to the point**", not speaking in hidden agendas!

"Is it nothing to you, all you who pass by? Behold and see If there is any sorrow like my sorrow, which has been brought on me, which the LORD has inflicted in the day of His fierce anger. "{Lamentations 1:12} Men were "**touched with grief caused by sin**".

What kind of shape is the world in today? How much respect do men have for God's word? His morality? His ethics? For His law? Sadly, in our world there is a great lack of respect for things belonging to God. We need preachers like the prophets of old! – now***