

“FOR THE EDIFYING OF THE BODY...” (3)

By Keith Greer

Should a preacher ever avoid preaching upon certain subjects just because some is involved in the sin? Paul told the Corinthians that he was trying to save the soul of the fornicator, 1 Corinthians 5:5. Pardon me, are we not required by God to do our jobs as preachers and seek to save the souls of men?

The subject of "**DIVORCE AND REMARRIAGE**" is a "hot" issue among Christians today. One gospel preacher "recommended" that I not preach on the subject because it is "too emotional and upsetting." My question is a simple one. Since God has given "...US ALL THINGS THAT PERTAIN UNTO LIFE AND GODLINESS ..." how can I make "full proof" of my ministry, and avoid teaching on a subject when it is needed?

"Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables." (2 Timothy 4:2-4)

Today, "Positive Preaching" has become the theme of the day. While it is certainly true that we need to encourage one another to have love, peace, joy, unity, and happiness, we cannot declare the whole counsel of God without preaching against sin.

Paul told Timothy to "**PREACH THE WORD; BE INSTANT IN SEASON, OUT OF SEASON; REPROVE, REBUKE, EXHORT WITH ALL LONGSUFFERING AND DOCTRINE.**" (2 Timothy 4:2) We cannot preach the whole counsel of God if we only preach part of the scriptures. Maybe we have the wrong idea about "negative preaching." What if "negative preaching" warns us about the dangers that lie before us? We can turn it into a "positive" factor to keep us from falling into sin.

Brethren, if it's in the Bible, then we must preach it! We can only have true unity when we do exactly what God has told us to do. When we do that, then, like the Christians at Corinth, "... the God of love and peace shall be with you."

Near the end of his life, W.C. Fields was observed reading his Bible. The maid who witnessed this once-in-a-lifetime phenomenon gasped! "Mr. Fields, what are you doing"? To which he replied, "Looking for loopholes, my dear, looking for loopholes!" The maid could have saved Mr. Fields his time and efforts. I'm afraid he could look for many days; he would not find some, God did not make any! Man is always one to put things off to the last minute. Personally speaking, depending upon loopholes is a losing proposition!

Someone once made this statement about gospel preachers, "you cannot pay a good gospel preacher enough for what he is worth if he is serious about his work and you will always pay too much for one who is just taking a paycheck."

Preaching the gospel is a serious and sobering work and is not for the faint of heart. Souls are at stake and eternal destinies hang in the balance. Preachers must preach what is needed and not what is convenient for the hearers. Sadly, many today will judge the effectiveness of a preacher by the minutes on a clock. Dear reader, how much is your soul worth? Do you want someone who puts your soul's security into consideration in fulfilling his duty as a local preacher or one who just puts his time in? How much time is "too much" when seeking to save souls? ***