

From the “LOOKS” of things there is just as much **dearth of preaching on modest dress** as there is on church discipline!

Take heed! Are YOU causing one to lust???

Matthew 18:6 “But whoso shall **offend** [*enticer to sin*] one of these little ones which believe in me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and *that* he were drowned in the depth of the sea.”

Matthew 5:28 “But I say unto you, That whosoever **looketh** on a woman **to lust** after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.”

Worldliness Vs. Godliness

“Now **the works of the flesh** are manifest, which are *these*; **Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness** [*“wanton (acts or) manners, as filthy words, indecent bodily movements, unchaste handling of males and females, etc.”* (Thayer)],²⁰ Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies,²¹ Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, **and such like**: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told *you* in time past, that they which do **such things** shall not inherit the kingdom of God” (Gal. 5:19-21).

“**Love not the world**, neither the things *that are* in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.¹⁶ For all that *is* in the world, the **lust** of the flesh, and the **lust** of the eyes, and the **pride** of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.¹⁷ And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever” (1 John 2:15-17).



Sound Words



“Hold fast the form of sound words”

SW

(2 Tim. 1:13 cp. Tit. 1:9; Jude 3)

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Sin Is No Longer Of Consequence!

by Perry Sexton

Lo, and behold, a marvelous thing has happened in the land; sin is no longer of any consequence. Therefore the Bible has become, for the most part, obsolete. However, the Bible is still used for good sayings and wise words to live by, and for some preachers to make money from by “good words and fair speeches.” The complete verse, “For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple” (Rom. 16:18). Certainly we do not want to insult people by pointing out their sins. And who cares about their souls anyway? In some churches it is politically incorrect to call sin sin and certainly to preach against specific sins! Ha, I have thought that idea (political correctness) must have come from some brethren: it likely started out by some crying, “You will drive people away,” etc. They should have learned from Jesus in John 6:32-66. Will we?

I base these things on my observation of the preaching and teaching I have heard in many churches of Christ I have attended throughout this land. Sin, it seems, is no longer sin. It is just a mistake or err in judgment, etc. And therefore nothing really to be repented of, just ask God to forgive you and everything will be alright. Nothing much is said of changing one’s lifestyle to conform to the will of God. It is more, “just as you are,” no change necessary. It seems to be all about numbers and money stemming from pride of life: a super inflated ego of the preachers and leaders of the congregation.

Little, if anything, is said about moral issues in many places. In most places, it seems, nothing at all is ever said about the obvious sins of the flock (sheep), or is it the goats? Observations have been made of very immodest dress, both in worship and public life of those professing to be “Christians.” Even one preacher for a congregation that oversees a school of preaching displayed his teenage and pre-teenage daughters before the world on Facebook in a very skimpy two-piece bathing suit. Oh what Godliness!?? And to think this kind has influence over student preachers! Where are his elders? No doubt they are upholding such ungodliness.

Social drinking has not only been a neglected subject, but some congregations have publically embraced it. And most unbelievably some have defended abortion and homosexuality! From evidence I have seen, many members of the church even when they had a clear choice supported abortion and homosexuality by voting for those who support these great evils. **Their motive is the same motive as** those who: have abortions contrary to God’s will; and who are contrary to nature in their ungodly deeds of homosexuality (both classes hold God’s Word in contempt): that ungodly motive is **SELFISHNESS!** It surely seems that most, in the world and many even in the church care more about dollars (1 Tim. 6:10) than they do about morals (see June’s article and others on 2012, 9 & 10 SW on website or send for them).

The sin of denominationalism has passed from the land, at least from the standpoint of many congregations. Thankfully some “brethren” know better than God. They (I am not speaking of all who are caught up in the damnable doctrines of men, I am sure some are honestly misguided) are not rebellious people as is seen in God’s Word, they are just misguided people. Well it is true that they are misguided, but for multitudes it is more than that and God gives us the answer. If they are just honestly misguided then it should not take long to correct their error because God’s Word is not complicated or hard to understand concerning salvation.

Oh and how some of our preachers are so loved by the denominations. Isn’t it a shame our Lord could not accomplish such high status from those of His time who would not obey the truth?! And what about those apostles of His and other followers of His, not to mention the FAITHFUL prophets of old? And just think what advice some of our very own preachers could give to all these FAITHFUL preachers above. Had they been there and controlled what was preached and went into the Bible we would not have those “hard

sayings” of Jesus and the marvelous sermon by Peter on the day of Pentecost, not to mention Steven’s sermon (Acts 7), etc.

Good, sound, distinctive preaching and teaching has almost entirely vanished from the land especially concerning the one true church (cp. 2 Tim. 4:1-3). The concern is no longer to be careful to preach the whole council of God (Acts 20:26,27), and not to offend God, but the emphasis is on not offending the people. A dearth of good, sound tracts and publications is found in many church buildings. Now to be sure a lot of the preaching done is Bible, but the same sermons and even the invitations (see below) could be preached in any denomination without upsetting anyone and without moving anyone toward God’s saving truth. God has issued warnings of sin and doctrinal error and **we are charged with preaching and teaching ALL these things (Eze. 3:17-22; Acts 20:26,27; 2 Tim. 4:2,3).**

It is not only come as you are and remain as you are in the moral realm, but the underlying invitation is: “Come with your denominational error and we will accommodate you.” Yes, I have seen this! **(By the way do you see any comparison as to what is happening in the church to what is happening to our country)?**

Instrumental music, faith only salvation, whatever, no problem; we can and **will** compromise with you! We will not preach against your sins and error here. I heard a preacher about 35 years ago say that exact thing concerning sin, and I am sure he felt the same way about error. Even sadder than that, many in the congregation seemed to love it (Cp. Jer. 5:31). And it surely has worsened (2 Tim. 3:13).

The invitation at the end of the sermon (a good custom), is no longer the **first law of pardon** for alien sinners: Hear, believe, repent, confess Christ, and be baptized for the remission of sins; and the **second law of pardon** for erring members of the church: Repent, confess the sin, and ask for the prayers of the church. No, the invitation now is, in the changing church, “Come if you have a spiritual need” or some equally watered down invitation.

By that same SELFISHNESS (above) whereby millions of innocent children are slaughtered every year, some, if not many super ego inflated preachers are ripping asunder the church and trampling underfoot the blood of THE Innocent One by compromising His doctrine (2 John 9). The choice is ours. But remember God’s warning: “Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting” (Galatians 6:7,8). ♥