

Does this describe us? “Nevertheless among the chief rulers also many believed on him; but because of the Pharisees they did not confess him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue: For they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God” (John 12:42,43). Do we preach the whole council of God (Acts 20:26-27; 2 Tim. 4:2)? Could this be said of us? **“Nevertheless among the preachers of the Lord’s church many believed the truth; but because of fear of sinful brethren they did not preach all of God’s truth, they did not warn the people of their sins and errors lest they should lose their paycheck: For they loved and trusted in money more than they loved and trusted God.”** Remember Matthew 6:33. We need to remember also, “But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death” (Rev 21:8). We should strive to be as the faithful apostles when they were truly converted to the Lord: “Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men” (Acts 5:29).

But where do we as elders, preachers, and all members of the Lord’s church stand today? Right now? If we should die right now would we be found faithful servants of God? These are some of the sins that literally crucified Jesus the Son of God. As we look back to that time it is easy for us to say: “Lord if I had been there I would not have **forsaken** thee as did all others.” But, let us look at our lives now (2 Cor. 13:5): Do we stand by while error is being taught? Do we follow God’s Word in dealing with those who teach error (Gal. 1:8,9; Rom. 16:17; 2 Thess. 3:6)? Do we stand by while Jesus / truth is being attacked and His church, for which He died is being led into error???

It is our day now, our time. Our actions are being recorded by God. **If** you are not standing fully with God now it is certain that you would have fled from the Garden of Gethsemane, and from Jesus on the cross for you are surely doing so now. If anything, the disciples had an excuse then, but where is our excuse? We have God’s complete will for us today. Please consider these things very carefully. Do not be blinded by the cunning evil workers among us today.

Wake up! Your soul, your families’ souls, and all those whom you influence are far too valuable to be led to a devil’s hell. ♥



“Hold fast the form of sound words”

SW

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

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Many Are Still Forsaking Jesus! (part 1)

by Perry Sexton

“Then all the disciples forsook him, and fled” (Matt. 26:31). What a sad picture! After all Jesus had done in their presence; the many good deeds, the miracles, and all that He taught them (cp. John 20:31,31), and they turn their backs on Him and flee. But consider this; it is clear they did not have proper understanding of what Jesus taught them. And this happened before the cross, the resurrection, and before that great outpouring of God’s knowledge on the Day of Pentecost. Today, we do not have that excuse. We have the complete revelation of God (2 Peter 1:3), yet:

A far greater crime is being committed in the church today by members, elders, preachers, and Christians in general by not defending the truth. Many have, and if the world stands no doubt many more will turn their backs on Jesus and flee by not standing for truth! It is a very serious matter and a most pronounced sin in the Bible!

There are many reasons people turn their backs on Jesus and leave Him, here are listed but a few.

- Lack of faith.
- Lack of courage.
- Love of money – preachers not preaching as they ought to for fear of being fired and losing their paycheck!
- Fear of man.
- Love of the praise of men.

- **Pride of life.** It is much more popular for one to be liberal with God's Word.

Jesus foretold His disciples, "All ye shall be offended because of me this night: for it is written, I will smite the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock shall be scattered abroad" (Matt. 26:31).

Jesus forewarns us today, "He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day" (John 12:48). Note a partial comment by brother Woods on this verse, "When you refuse to accept my teaching you refuse, in so doing, to accept me, and my word which you refuse will be that which will condemn you at the judgment. ... And, how vividly this points up the necessity of doing exactly what the Bible says without addition, without subtraction, without modification." [Guy N. Woods, *New Testament Commentary – A Commentary on the Gospel According to John*, (Nashville, TN: Gospel Advocate Co., 1989)].

In this wicked world (past and present) men, even of God's people, often forsake truth. We have many multitudes of examples throughout the Bible of God's people forsaking the right ways of God. Paul tells of one occasion where he alone stood with God at that place and time, "At my first answer no man stood with me, but all *men* forsook me: *I pray God* that it may not be laid to their charge" (2 Timothy 4:16).

Many choose their own ways in spite of God's Word and all the faithful prophets, preachers, and followers of God warning them. The inspired man of God wrote, "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof *are* the ways of death" (Prov. 14:12). Let us note just a few things briefly.

Little or no faith: How many times did Jesus rebuke His disciples for having such little faith? Undoubtedly because of their little faith is a very large part of why they forsook Jesus. It surely must be so today. Though many among us may boast how they believe, for example, Matthew 6:33 (cp. Peter's boasting on that fateful night), but when put to the test do they shine or whine? Many preachers back away from standing for truth and preaching against people's sins because they fear they will be fired and lose their paycheck. Do they

fear God as they ought to (Matt. 10:28; Eccl. 12:13)? Do they love God as they ought to (Matt. 22:37)? Do they love their own families as they ought to? Do they love the church members as they ought to? Do they love the lost as they ought to? Now consider this next point carefully.

Greed crucified Jesus and is still doing so today. The love of money crucified Jesus. Judas Iscariot betrayed Christ for thirty pieces of silver (Matt. 26:14-16), the price of a slave. What people will do for money is amazing. Some will steal, kill, cheat and lie, sell drugs, and even their own bodies, all manner of evil for money (1 Tim. 6:10). Much worse than this, some if not many preachers sell the truth for love of money. Some, if not many, rob people of their soul's salvation because the preacher is afraid to preach on the sins and errors in a congregation (see the severe warning from God in Eze. 3, esp. v.18ff). The wise will, "Buy the truth, and sell *it* not; *also* wisdom, and instruction, and understanding" (Prov. 23:23). Yea, the wise will not sell the truth at any price! Why? Because they know (there's your faith) "... it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek" (Rom. 1:16). It is obvious that many "preachers" care more for money than the souls of their family members and others whom they influence.

Cowardice crucified Jesus and is still doing so today. People were afraid to speak up. The disciples forsook Jesus and fled (Matt. 26:56). Remember how Peter followed afar off and denied the Christ (Luke 22:54,57)? Most people do not want to get involved: Like the priest and Levite, they want to pass on by (Luke 10:30ff), even when there is a battle for the truth and that which is right (Jude 3). Many today will not stand for truth, but want to "wash" their hands of the matter as Pilate sought to do (Matt. 27:24).

Are we like Pilate who was a coward? Pilate knew Jesus was innocent (Matt. 27:24), but he feared the people. How many today know the truth but will not take a stand with Jesus / God? The Bible still warns we should "...fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell" (Matt. 10:28). Pilate chose to please the people rather than God. How many of us today fill the pulpit with the purpose of pleasing the people and keeping our pay checks and making ourselves popular?