

CHALLENGES CONFRONTING THE CHURCH

(Ezekiel 3:17-21)

Introduction

- A. God warned us that the day would come when there would be a departure from the truth.
 - 1. 2 PE 2:1-2.
 - 2. 2 TI 4:1-4.
- B. It is my desire to be able to say what Paul said in Acts 20:26-27.
- C. Allow me to warn you of several issues challenging the church today.

DISCUSSION

- I. THE CHALLENGE OF WORSHIP.
 - A. Worship has always been a playground for Satan.
 - B. God's word identifies four types of worship.
 - 1. Ignorant - Acts 17:16-31.
 - 2. Vain - Matthew 15:8-9.
 - 3. Will - Colossians 2:23.
 - 4. True - John 4:24.
 - C. The sovereignty of God has been displaced by the sovereignty of the consumer.
 - D. Christianity is being marketed, packaged, and sold to a secular consumer — However, to do so is to remove the offense of the cross – the message of the cross is a stone of stumbling and a rock of offense – it is disturbing, confrontive, and offensive to human pride.
 - E. Compare “user friendly” with Ananias & Sapphira - Acts 5:1-11.
 - F. We are present before God - Acts 10:33
- II. THE CHALLENGE OF PREACHING.
 - A. 2 Timothy 4:1-2; Jeremiah 5:31.
 - B. Much of the preaching one hears today consists of pop-psychology, felt needs, current events, and pleasant platitudes.
 - C. Truth is dispensed in such small, watered down, diluted doses it lacks the power to convict sinners.
 - D. “Long-windedness” has become a greater sin than heresy.
 - E. It is not so much what is being said as it is what is not being said.
 - F. 2 Chronicles 34:14-15 - Book of the Lord lost in the house of God.
- III. THE CHALLENGE OF THE WOMAN'S ROLE.
 - A. 1 Corinthians 11; 14; & 1 Timothy 2:8-12.
 - B. Subjection is not culture but creation.
 - C. Galatians 3:28.
- IV. THE CHALLENGE OF DENOMINATIONALISM.
 - A. Matthew 16:18.
 - B. Ephesians 4:4; 2:15.
 - C. Whether we are a part of the church that Jesus built can be validated for falsified by Scripture.
 - D. Matthew 15:13.
- V. THE CHALLENGE OF BAPTISM.
 - A. Mark 16:16.
 - B. Acts 2:38.
 - C. Acts 22:16.
 - D. Romans 6:1-4; 17-18.

CONCLUSION

- A. Friends, we live in perilous times when men will not endure sound doctrine.
- B. Some have crept in among us privately.
- C. What can be done?
 - 1. Demand that your preacher teaches the truth.
 - 2. Elders - do not allow your pulpit to be used as a platform to propagate error.
- D. The future of the church?
 - 1. The firm foundation of God stands - 2 Timothy 2:19.
 - 2. Received a kingdom which cannot be shaken - Hebrews 12:28.