



No Apology for Apologetics

By *kurt vonSCHLEICHER*

Preach the Word, no matter the cost ...and cast the net while you're at it!

Preach it in a non-preachy way—in a no compromise way. This is so important in our day! Do you really believe that people need the Word? Do you really believe that there is no spiritual growth apart from the Word of God? There really isn't. So why do so many people go to church week after week and hear everything but the Word of God? Did you know that Christians will actually develop an appetite for what they are regularly fed – good or bad? They will you know. If people get fed a lot of opinions, non-biblical psycho-babble or entertainment at church, that is what the people will generally start to crave. And that is what they will expect at what they call a good church and come to church wanting to hear. I don't think all of this drama and personal opinions are bad in and of itself, but I do think this stuff is all a poor replacement of sound Bible teaching from a mature, born again, spiritual teacher who walks what he talks. And even if what the people get from brother-wonderful regularly is really bad, they will often defend this type of teaching to the death, saying it is so anointed and good. What a weird day we live in when what is bad is called good and what is good, is labeled as bad.

Pastor, did you know that what you catch them with, is what you'll have to keep utilizing to keep them. Is it worth it to compromise just to get a crowd? I think not.

Hey, I really love signs and wonders too, but not more than Him. Here's why I'm writing: I hate the influence of false teachers. I hate to see people hurt, ripped-off and deceived by them. Biblical signs are still performed by Jesus and they should follow the ministry of the Word to confirm it (see the last verse in Mark). We don't dictate when or how God will add numbers to His Church, when or how He will heal, when he will send authentic revival, where he will do whatever, but we can be healed and revived. He alone is God. You and I are not.

Pastor, have you been pressuring God's sheep to go out and fill up the church building, and you feel frustrated, because they simply aren't doing it? Don't get mad at them! Don't lay on the lash or create carnal competition between them to get the work of God done. Teach the people thoroughly through the entire Bible, verse by verse for decisions. They'll get the emphasis God wants them to have that way. Remember, it's well fed sheep that naturally reproduce. Malnourished, neglected sheep or beat-up sheep will not witness or win souls. If you have a bad case of the flu do you feel like going fishing off the pier, no you just want to stay home, rest, eat right and get better as soon as possible. Many Christians haven't been fed well even though they've been told they have been. They are spiritual sick. False teachers (even within the Church on many occasions, masquerading as legitimate Christian teachers) mix hurtful stuff into the people's diet and the people don't even notice because they do not know the Word and because these teachers also mix truth in with the spiritual poison. Many false teachers are deceived as they do this. They might have good intentions and a lot of bad ministry friends they listen to and echo. We don't hate these people. We pray for them and want them to get saved as well. And it's our job to warn and teach the people if they are in danger. We are all accountable before God to test what we hear in the light of Scripture. Don't judge by outward appearance. You don't cast the final judgment with people, because we can't see the inner heart of people like God can, but the Lord expects you and me to judge what you hear righteously.

Abraham Keiper said, *"When principals that run against your deepest (biblical) convictions begin to win the day, battle is your calling, peace has become sin. You must at the price of dearest peace lay your convictions bare before friend and enemy alike with all the fire of your faith."*

A friend of my mom's named, Dr. Walter Martin, once told me this: *"Controversy for the sake of controversy is sin. Controversy for the sake of Truth is a Divine command."*

Blaze Paskel stated, *"Truth is so obscure in these times and falsehood so established that unless we love the truth, we can not know it."*

Mark Twain said, *"A lie travels go around the world before truth will even get its boots on."*

Jesus Christ, ***"Cast out all them that sold and bought in the temple, and overthrew the tables of the moneychangers, and the seats of them that sold doves"*** (Matt. 21:12, also see Mk. 11:15).

Paul said, ***"... Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers. For there are many unruly and vain talkers and deceivers, specially they of the circumcision: Whose mouths must be***

stopped, who subvert whole houses, teaching things which they ought not, for filthy lucre's sake" (Tit. 1:9 KJV).

Paul said, *"Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears. And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified. I have coveted no man's silver, or gold, or apparel. Yea, ye yourselves know, that these hands have ministered unto my necessities, and to them that were with me" (Acts 20:31 KJV).*

Luke said, *"Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood" (Acts 20:28).*

The Apostle Peter said, *"But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction. And many will follow their destructive ways, because of whom the way of truth will be blasphemed" (2 Pet. 2:1-2 NKJV).*

Now these authoritative words from God's Book make it imperative for us to thoroughly test all things by Scripture, as the Bereans did.

I love what it says of them, *"Now the Bereans were of more noble character than the Thessalonians, for they received the message with great eagerness and examined the Scriptures every day to see if what Paul said was true" (Acts 17:11 NIV).*

The Bereans didn't hear high-profile Paul and Silas protest: *"Hey, wait a minute! Are you actually questioning the revelatory message the Lord gave me by the anointing in my hour of prayer?"* No, and Paul and Silas were happy to be checked out! You should check out everything I say, as well. I pray I always do my homework and always agree with Scripture with what I say, but if I ever deny what the Word says, just ditch me too. Follow Christ with loyalty!

How Can I Tell If They Are Sound?

Listen, any one of the Bible's seven marks of false prophets is sufficient identification:

1.) With feigned words, due to their inner covetousness they make merchandise of you (and then merchandisers of you. Gospel greed is the number one mark of a false teacher. Name-it-claim-it, intense money-hunger, it's in the pulpit and it's also in the pews. Preachers preach it to get, and people give to get. I know there are some ministers out there who really struggle to pay their bills. They want to be a good witness by paying them on time, because too many Christians do not pay their bills on time, but why stoop to pressure God's people? Why would any decent preacher or pastor want the marks of a false teacher on their ministry?

2.) Their prophecies don't come to pass (Deut. 18:20 -22);

3.) They contradict God's Word (Isa. 8:20);

4.) They bear bad fruit (Matt.7:17-20);

5.) All men speak well of them (Luke 6:26);

6.) They deny that Jesus, the one and only Christ, has come once and for all in the flesh (1 Jn. 4:3).

7.) Through alleged signs and wonders they lead people astray after false gods (Deut. 13:1-4).

Have Kurt's fishing stuff blessed you at all? Please pray for him to continue, click on the "Contact" button and let him know!

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