

Lifting Up The STANDARD

“When the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the LORD shall lift up a standard against him” (Isaiah 59:19).



Challenging And Encouraging God's Remnant To Remain Faithful

Monday, September 28, 2015

The Tolerating Pastor

“And unto the angel of the church in Thyatira write; These things saith the Son of God... I know thy works, and charity, and service, and faith, and thy patience, and thy works; and the last to be more than the first. Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols.” (Revelation 2:18-20)

The Pastor Was Busy

Christ commended the pastor for his very active ministry. This pastor was not a lazy man. Christ said, *“I know thy works, and charity, and service, and faith, and thy patience, and thy works; and the last to be more than the first.”* The pastor at Thyatira was a busy man and he was a burdened man. Christ commended him for his growth in spiritual maturity. He referred to his, *“...patience, and...works; and the last to be more than the first.”* Christ said, *“I know thy works, and charity.”* The word *charity* used here is *“agape,”* meaning an unconditional love.

“Notwithstanding”

Christ said, *“Notwithstanding I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants to commit fornication, and to eat things sacrificed unto idols.”*

“That Woman”

Christ rebuked the pastor because he allowed *“that woman”* to influence the people in the congregation. Notice the rebuke was *“thou (the pastor) sufferest that woman...to teach and to seduce my servants.”*



It has been my experience over many years in the ministry that most of the women in the churches I have pastored have been godly people. Christ does not rebuke the pastor concerning *“women,”* in the church but rather, *“that woman.”* Sadly, it has also been my experience that the majority of problems in a local church are caused by a woman.

The Lord used Jezebel as an analogy concerning the issue in the local church at Thyatira. She was a wicked woman and so is any woman who would dare to influence church members against the teachings of the Word of God.

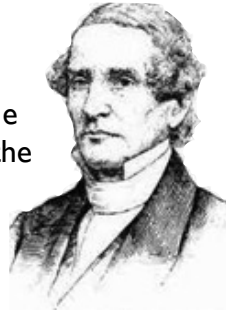
Sin must never be condoned in the church. The pastor is responsible to, *“Mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them”* (Romans 16:17).

God gave pastors three specific Books concerning how sin is to be dealt with in the local church. (First and Second Timothy and Titus). He then gave pastors seven letters that were written for the pastor’s *“admonition.”*

Speaking to the pastor God's Word says, "Them that sin rebuke before all, that others also may fear" (First Timothy 5:20).

"It Is A Painful Duty"

Referring to this verse Barnes, in his notes on the New Testament wrote, "It is a duty to reprove those who err. It is a painful duty, and one much neglected; still it is a duty often enjoined in the Scriptures, and one that is of the deepest importance to the church."



Albert Barnes

The word "sufferest" in our text means "to tolerate, to permit, to allow." Christ rebuked His pastor at Thyatira because he allowed a woman to **influence** the sheep to go in the direction of the wolves. When this happens the pastor has a God-given duty to stand up and do something about it.

Spiritual Fornication

Fornication is an illicit relationship. The word fornication occurs twelve times in the Book of Revelation and is used as an analogy of what we call "spiritual fornication." A better designation than spiritual fornication might be "doctrinal fornication."

In Revelation 2:14 the Lord rebuked the pastor because he allowed "the doctrine of Balaam...to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication."

Separation "UNTO"

Separation is an action of moving from something "**unto**" something. The following are a few verses written specifically to the pastor concerning the command to be separated "**unto**" something. As you can see, these moves "**unto**" something are very positive.

- **First Timothy 2:4**,
- "Unto the knowledge of the truth."
- **First Timothy 4:7**,
- "Unto godliness."
- **First Timothy 4:16**,
- "Unto the doctrine."
- **Second Timothy 2:15**,
- "Unto God."
- **Second Timothy 2:21**,
- "Unto every good work."
- **Second Timothy 3:17**,
- "Unto all good works."

God commanded the pastor at Ephesus to, "Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee" (First Timothy 4:16).

Save Thyself?

Timothy was obviously already a Christian. Paul wasn't talking about the pastor being saved from Hell, he was referring to him being saved from himself. He said "Take heed unto thyself." Paul said, "Thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee."

Save Himself From What?

Timothy was to "take heed" to saved himself from the false doctrine that was permeating the local church at Ephesus. He would save himself and the people in his local church from false doctrine by being separated "unto sound doctrine."

The pastor is to "take heed" to... "Charge some that they teach no other doctrine" (First Timothy 1:3).

The pastor is to "take heed" lest... "There be any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine" (First Timothy 1:10).

The pastor is to "**take heed**" because some would be, "Giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils" (First Timothy 4:1).

The pastor is to "take heed" to be... "Nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine" (First Timothy 4:6).

The pastor is to “take heed” to...

“Give attendance to reading, to exhortation, to doctrine” (First Timothy 4:13).

The pastor is to “take heed” to... “Labour in the word and doctrine” (First Timothy 4:13).

The pastor is to “take heed”...

“That the name of God and his doctrine be not blasphemed” (First Timothy 6:1).

The pastor is to “take heed”...

“To the doctrine which is according to godliness” (First Timothy 6:3).

The pastor is to “take heed” to...

“Reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine” (Second Timothy 4:2).

The pastor is to “take heed” because... “The time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine” (Second Timothy 4:3).

Separation Unto People

We are commanded in many places in the Word of God concerning who our friend should be. The Believers are often referred to in the Scriptures as a “company.”

“Their Own Company”

- **Acts 4:23**, “And being let go, they went to their own company...”
- **Acts 13:13**, “Now when Paul and his company loosed from Paphos, they came to Perga in Pamphylia.”
- **Acts 15:22**, “Then pleased it the apostles and elders, with the whole church, to send chosen men of their own company to Antioch.”
- **Acts 21:8**, “And the next day we that were of Paul's company departed, and came unto Caesarea: and we entered into the house of Philip the evangelist, which was one of the seven; and abode with him.”



“Their Company”

In contrast we read...

Luke 6:22, “Blessed are ye, when men shall hate you, and when they shall separate you from their company, and shall reproach you, and cast out your name as evil, for the Son of man's sake.”

First Corinthians 5:9, “I wrote unto you in an epistle not to company with fornicators.”

First Corinthians 5:11, “But now I have written unto you not to keep company, if any man that is called a brother be a fornicator, or covetous, or an idolater, or a railer, or a drunkard, or an extortioner; with such an one no not to eat.”

Second Thessalonians 3:14, “And if any man obey not our word by this epistle, note that man, and have no company with him, that he may be ashamed.”



Address Change

In an effort to cut back on expenses we have cancelled our P.O. Box.

Effective immediately all mail for Local Church Ministries should be sent to our church address.

NEW MAILING ADDRESS:

Local Church Ministries

467 George St, Sarnia,
ON N7T 4P8

(Our email address remains the same)