

Wednesday, July 12, 2017 - Guarding Souls

The question is raised far too often and the fact that it is raised is far scarier: Why do you have to talk about false teachers and why do you have to be so negative.

Did that send a shiver down anyone's spine because it certainly does mine whenever it is asked of me. The answers are very simple. First, the bible teaches us to warn against false teachers and second there is nothing positive to say about a false teacher UNLESS he repents!

Unfortunately, too many Christians don't see the "hidden" damage or the "generational" damage done when the Lord's church is not properly guarded against these sons of Satan and they are allowed to spew their soul damning nonsense to the masses.

Let me give you two examples which illustrate the points I'm making.

1) For years, Harding University used (and may still use) apostate ministers from apostate congregations to be the featured "speaker" at their yearly UPLIFT events. What these men stood for and the apostasy which "their" congregations engaged in were blatant and clearly visible for the world to see via websites (the "ministers" and the congregations). Each year, after the events, high praise would be relayed that "all was well and nothing uncomfortable happened." So what? Did these men repent of the sins they were guilty of? Did they work to bring their respective congregations back into the practice of the New Testament church we find in the bible? Their answer to both questions is a resounding NO!

The young people that were allowed to go to these UPLIFT events, which I referenced, come away with two very critical misnomers: These men are sound preachers of God's word and, if they happen to move to the city where one of these congregations is, it would be a sound place to worship and serve God. The souls of those young people have been placed in a peril and there was NO NEED for it.

Harding should have NEVER allowed false teachers or representatives from apostate congregations to take part in UPLIFT and parents and elders should have not allowed it to occur either.

2) In the summer of 2010, the elders of a large congregation in Richardson, TX invited the pulpit minister from Highland Oaks, one of the largest apostate congregations in the country, to preach. These elders were warned via written communication and verbal discussion of what this man taught and the error associated with Highland Oaks. They allowed him to come preach anyway.

He had the audacity to stand in the pulpit and use a book written by a denominational "pastor" as his foundation for a study theorizing that Jesus found nothing wrong with drinking of alcoholic beverages. All but one elder was in the audience that night and not one stood to stop his blasphemy. Fortunately, he was challenged and forced to stop his irreverent teaching of the Lord's Word.

Unfortunately, one of the elders stood to praise "the message" in his closing prayer and in spite of the elders being called on to repent for what they had allowed to happen, they still to this day have not.

Preaching, teaching, and leading the flock all come with the highest degree of responsibility for the soul "in your care." Some will state that "we should know the difference between right and wrong" and we should be able to "discern truth from false teaching." I don't disagree with that statement but it simply isn't factual with too many in the Lord's church today.

What was said in Hebrews 5:12-14?

12 For when by reason of the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need again that someone teach you the rudiments of the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of solid food.

13 For everyone that partaketh of milk is without experience of the word of righteousness; for he is a babe.

14 But solid food is for fullgrown men, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern good and evil.

They had been Christians long enough to have grown spiritually and been teachers; however, they had not become teachers. In fact they still needed to be taught the basic principles of Christianity. They are spiritual babes who still need milk; however, they had been Christians long enough to be spiritually mature and need the meat of the word. In view of this, they were in danger of drifting away because they were not rooted and grounded in the truth. This is true all over the church still today!

A baby must begin on milk; however, the day comes when they must eat meat to grow like they should. The same is true spiritually. These Christians had stayed on milk and had not grown. These verses remind one of 1 Peter 2:2; and 1 Corinthians 3:2.

When one has grown spiritually, he is fullgrown. One becomes full grown spiritually by studying God's word and making application to his life. When he does this he is able to discern between right and wrong as the choices are placed before him. This would include the right choices between truth and error, which is the main thrust of this context.

We cannot stand before God as ones who throws red herrings that possibly cause others to stumble!

Again, the cost of one soul is too high!