

## I. Introduction

### A. Review

1. Beware of preachers who tell you what you long to hear.
2. True preaching learns from Jesus Christ.
3. If we are to be like Christ, then the methods of ministry must also be like Him.

a) *Therefore, when a preacher preaches, he must employ the same reasoning, polemics, and exhortations to his words as Jesus did.*

b) *There are many who want to be considered "pastors" and they do not rightly preach.*

#### 2 Corinthians 2:14–17

**14** But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and manifests through us the sweet aroma of **the knowledge of Him** in every place.

**15** For we are a fragrance of Christ to God among those who are being saved and among those who are perishing;

**16** **to the one** an aroma from death to death, **to the other** an aroma from life to life. And who is adequate for these things?

**17** For we are not **like many, peddling the word of God**, but as from sincerity, but as from God, **we speak in Christ in the sight of God.**

4. That is, true preaching seeks the glory of the Father.
  - a) *A preacher cannot make up his own words.*
    - (1) He communicates, in the sight of the Father, His Words.
    - (2) If he cannot do that, or refuses to do that, God will hold him responsible for the fallout.
    - (3) Therefore, it is wise for the saints of God to compel God's preacher to preach better, clearer, and with greater and greater depth.
  - b) *True preaching is the explanation of the Word of God, clearly, and subsequent exhortation from it.*
5. This cannot be done if a preacher/teacher seeks his own glory; his own display of wit, style, charisma, or ingenuity.
  - a) *What are the signs of a preacher who seeks his own glory?*
    - (1) Does not preach the Word of God-Deuteronomy 13:1-4.
    - (2) He binds people by extra commandments of men-Galatians 5:7-12.
    - (3) By these things, he limits the effect of the Spirit of God in you-Galatians 6:11-16.

John 8:53-55

b) *Therefore, be on guard.*

- B. V. 50 "But I seek not My own glory; He is the one seeking and judging."
- a. Vv. 54-55
- i. If Jesus was seeking His own glory, independent of His Father, He would be no better than these religious leaders.
  - ii. But, He was not seeking His own glory.
- b. Further, God is!
- i. God does seek after His own glory.
  - ii. God does seek after His own judgment.
- c. **Ephesians 1:3-6; 3:14-21**
- d. It is right for the Father to seek His own glory! Satan hates that.
- e. However, hypocritical religious leaders make it a habit to seek their own glory.
- i. John 5:41-47
    1. Impure and defiled religion is this: do biblical things all for the sake of the display of your own righteousness before men.
    2. The Pharisees could not see past this accusation because this is how they always operate.
      - a. Matthew 6:1-5, 16-18.
      - b. Matthew 23:4-7
    - 4 *"They tie up heavy burdens and lay them on men's shoulders, but they themselves are unwilling to move them with so much as a finger.*
    - 5 *"But they do all their deeds to be noticed by men; for they broaden their phylacteries and lengthen the tassels of their garments.*
    - 6 *"They love the place of honor at banquets and the chief seats in the synagogues,*
    - 7 *and respectful greetings in the market places, and being called Rabbi by men.*
  - ii. In seeking their own, they love to rob God of His!!
  - iii. But who really is glorious? God or man?
  - iv.

II. V. 51 "Truly, truly I say to you, if anyone will seek My Word, he will not in any way behold death into the age/forever."

- a. Again, Jesus is pushing the reality further.
- b. He could have simply stopped here because He wasn't getting anywhere.
- c. However, they deserved to be confronted.
- d. They needed to be exposed, even to the point of physical action.
- e. And physical action is where this goes.

III. V. 52 "Then the Jews said to Him, "Now we have known that you have a demon. Abraham died, and the prophets, and you say, "If anyone keeps my Word, he will not at all taste death into the age.""

- C. This statement by Christ clinched their accusation of Him that He has a demon.
- D. The accusation of having a demon is the same as the accusation of being crazy.
- E. What did Jesus say that made them conclude that?
  1. "If anyone keeps My Word he will never taste of death forever."
    - a) V. 51
      - (1) See John 8:55; 14:23; 17:6.
      - (2) To "keep" His Word means to believe them wholeheartedly, and obey them.
    - b) *This is actually what we are supposed to do as well.*
      - (1) John 15:18-20.
      - (2) Matthew 28:18-20
      - (3) Romans 1:5; 16:26
      - (4) Acts 6:7
      - (5) 1 Timothy 4:6, 11-16
      - (6) 2 Timothy 2:14; 4:1-2
  2. We extend the same condition to people: if you will keep the Words of Christ, you will live forever, i.e. escape death, which is the result of judgment.

## John 8:53-55

- F. However, the Jews believed Him to be crazy because of His statement.
  - 1. This is a simple Jew from Nazareth.
  - 2. He was an ordinary-looking Man.
  - 3. What is more, He was offensive.
- G. They understood that Jesus made Himself greater than others; in fact, in saying this, the greatest of all.
  - 1. This would seem Satanically arrogant....were it not true.

## Matthew 12:6

6 **“But I say to you that something greater than the temple is here.**

## Matthew 12:38–42

**38** Then some of the scribes and Pharisees said to Him, “Teacher, we want to see a sign from You.”

**39** But He answered and said to them, **“An evil and adulterous generation craves for a sign; and yet no sign will be given to it but the sign of Jonah the prophet;**

**40 for just as Jonah was three days and three nights in the belly of the sea monster, so will the Son of Man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.**

**41 “The men of Nineveh will stand up with this generation at the judgment, and will condemn it because they repented at the preaching of Jonah; and behold, something greater than Jonah is here.**

**42 “The Queen of the South will rise up with this generation at the judgment and will condemn it, because she came from the ends of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and behold, something greater than Solomon is here.**

H. The facts are facts: He is greater.

I. And, Jesus Christ is greater than all the prophets, both biblical and the so-called prophets in the world.

## Acts 4:10–12

10 let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ the Nazarene, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead—by this *name* this man stands here before you in good health.

11 “He is the **STONE WHICH WAS REJECTED BY YOU, THE BUILDERS, but WHICH BECAME THE CHIEF CORNER stone.**

12 “And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved.”

#### IV. V. 53 "You are not greater than our father Abraham, who died, and the prophets (who) died? Who (do) you make yourself (to be)?"

- J. They got what He was saying.
- K. They got what many in the church seem to miss: Jesus is greater than Moses.
- L. "Who do you make yourself out to be?"
  1. He did not boast of Himself.
  2. They seem to be ignoring the signs of the Father completely, and what that means from the OT. --> He is Messiah.

#### V. V. 54 "Jesus said "If I will glorify Myself, My glory is nothing. My Father is the one glorifying me, Whom you say that, "God is ours.""

- M. Now, Jesus turns it on them.
  1. He lays Himself very low and states the fact that if He did glorify Himself it would be invalid.
  2. But, He cannot deny that the Father glorifies Him (Vv. 28-29).
- N. They say that they have the true God.
  1. They have told that to multitudes, but they don't.
  2. Who they have is Satan (V. 44) and not the true God (cf. Genesis 3:1-7, esp. V. 5).

### VI. Conclusion

Jude 17-21

- 17 But you, beloved, ought to remember the words that were spoken beforehand by the apostles of our Lord Jesus Christ,
- 18 that they were saying to you, "In the last time there will be mockers, following after their own ungodly lusts."
- 19 These are the ones who cause divisions, worldly-minded, devoid of the Spirit.
- 20 But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit,
- 21 keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting anxiously for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to eternal life.