

SHEPHERD'S STAFF

A newsletter for "Pastors who pastor."

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What the Shepherd's Staff is About

This monthly newsletter is a resource for pastors. I am Baptist, Fundamentalist, and conservative. We define pastors as called men of God who are administrating, governing, and ministering in a local church. These people have a difficult job, and between the demands of the ministry before them, their own ministerial development, as well as that of being a husband, father, and just being a Christian, things can get difficult at times. What **this newsletter purposes to do is to both inform you of news in churches and pastoring in general, as well as to offer helpful Bible studies that are directed at the pastor's ministry and person.** We also focus on cult problems, abusive churches, and basically anything having to do with church growth, or church problems, as well as constructively forming a biblical NT church. Our desire is to serve the Lord by helping other pastors.

▣ Judgment Day for Lesbian Mayor Annise Parker.

Lesbian Houston TX mayor Annise Parker passed a non-discrimination ordinance basically criminalizing anybody that speaks out against gays. She set out a court order for Houston pastors to submit any sermon they preached about homosexuales. Her opponents raised 50,000 signatures stopping her. The left's agenda of promoting homosexuality continues. As a pastor, we are under the obligation to preach against fornication, and this is it. (wnd.com)



▣ "Church leaders assess campaign to end literal belief in Jesus' Resurrection"

Article written by Rev. Mark Rutledge (United Church of Christ) This is an article on a campaign to convince ministers that "Jesus's [sic] resurrection was not a literal or historical kind of event that could have been captured on a camcorder... One liberal Christian minister who suffered the consequences of telling the truth (and is now working as a grocery bagger at Kroger's) said he was pelted by small plastic replicas of empty tombs thrown by angry church members." Rutledge expresses shock and disapproval that the campaign didn't work. Thank you Lord, there is still a God in heaven on the throne! (einnews.com)

Editor DCox: *This is where we have gotten to, a "correction" of incorrect beliefs, and these people want to correct the "false" belief that Jesus didn't resurrect from the tomb. This is the foundation stone of Christianity. How can people so miss the mark?*

▣ **Marks of the False Prophet: Introduction.** Basically we can divide the marks of a false prophet into one of three groups, what is his fruit, what is his methods, and what is his character. There may be more, but these are very prominent in Scripture. **1Pet 5:8** *Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour.* As pastors we must be very aware of the dangerous quality of our adversary the Devil. He is very personified in the Bible with distinct qualities. One of these issues in his personality, is that he is the exact opposite extreme of God. So when we see that God is merciful, Satan is the opposite, he has no mercy, pity, nor does he lighten up when we are suffering under his hand.

Part of understanding and dealing with Satan's opposition is the understanding that Satan uses speakers, principal high profile ministers to do his bidding. These people (often they are women) are people who are well controlled by Satan. They put out false doctrine, and like a farmer that poisons rats, he uses 99% good grain and 1% poison. The good grain is what tricks the rodent to consuming without discernment, and that is his mortal failing.

Definition of a False Prophet. *A person who perverts, twists, manipulates, (changes), and/or over or under emphasizes the message of God according to his personal purposes. In doing this he does not give the message of God as God has commanded and specified.* Note that according to this definition, some pastors would be considered false prophets because (1) they don't preach the whole counsel of God, (2) because they focus on hobby horse topics instead giving a balanced complete distribution of biblical topics, and/or (3) they neglect certain topics to the damage of their people. (4) Almost always they invent other doctrines.

Briefly, pastors must both focus on covering at last in a marginal way all the counsel of the Word of God, and also not "over-preach" on personal hobby horse topics, unless they are specifically emphasized in Scripture, i.e. salvation, evangelism, holiness, pious character, the work of God, prayer, etc. which are legitimate if they are constantly emphasized. These are the core values of Scripture.

But God has not left us defenseless against Satan's attacks, which God calls the "god of this world", so he is probably the most powerful being in existence apart from God himself. God has given us the Holy Spirit to aid our understanding and discernment, as well as the Word of God which is inspired and is reliable to the point that we can count on it continually, and God has given us in addition to this the example of the life of Christ.

Our problem with false doctrine and false prophets then can be divided into three areas where we need to (1) recognize the doctrine as bad, that not being biblical, (2) recognize the way the minister giving that doctrine works to mark him as a false prophet, and (3) recognize the character of the minister. These correspond to our three-fold division.

There is a difference between a false prophet/teacher, and an erring "good" minister. The difference lies in the fact that a "good" teacher may commit errors, but he repents and corrects his mistake when he realizes it. God also disciplines his erring children. Any good minister is a reasonable man that allows others to talk to and challenge his position, doctrines, methods, and practices. When he sees he is not following Christ nor Scripture, he abandons his error and follows the truth. A false prophet will defend his own ministry, putting himself as more important than truth, and he will justify or totally ignore his own wrong doing.

(This ongoing series has a lot of its entries from my book in Spanish, "*The Marks of the False Prophet and False Teacher*", by David Cox ©2009. We will run this for a dozen or so issues, giving a different mark in each issue of this newsletter.)

📖 **Rick Warren and the Vatican.** Rick Warren and Russell Moore (SBC) spoke at a conference at the Vatican (Nov. 18) on the sexual revolution. How can any serious student of Scripture take anything Rick Warren puts out seriously is simply amazing. Warren is following in Billy Graham's ecumenical path, (christianpost.com)



📖 **Bob Jones and the Grace Report.** For those familiar with Bob Jones University, the scandal of sexual impropriety has rocked the university for several years now. Let me give a personal opinion, being a BJ graduate. First of all, there is a defense (legitimate) by BJU that it cannot be responsible for all the actions of all the people related to it. When an employee at a burger joint abuses a coworker or a client, the burger joint is not responsible for that. The individual is. But the burger joint is responsible if they know of the wrongdoing of an employee, and they do not (**THE RULES:**) (1) **discipline the wrong doing equally for all** - immediately rebuke and chastise the employee, removing him/her immediately from any point of contact with the victims that they were involved with or future potential victims. (2) **prevent any further wrongdoing in the future** - If they permit the employee to continue working, to not immediately fire that employee if they are caught in wrongdoing a second time. (3) **don't publicly disclose a limited amount of the details** - the burger joint has to admit to what has happened in their establishment, and give particulars (details), especially naming the abuser and his wrong doing (generally), and what actions were taken against the abuser, and what they are doing to prevent similar things from happening in the things under their control.

These responsibilities are more seen universally, and not just pertaining to Christian organizations. For ministries, the degree of preventing these things should be **MORE STRICTER**. The immediate rebuke and chastisement by BJU administration would seem to have been done over the years. I remember "things happening" and teachers, staff, and employees were dismissed. But **the major problem with BJU is their attitude of impunity**. There are two classes of people at BJU, those that are in with the administration and those that are not. For those that are in, it would seem that they can do no wrong, while those that are not, are often dealt with overly harshly. BJU has been hung up for years on public disclosure, because they cover up all the details always.

Note that in the above article, a false prophet always puts their own ministry above and beyond the reputation of the Lord, i.e. they avoid the principle of public disclosure. Instead of confessing their own failings and "coming clean" on the details, (causing people to separate between "God's work" and that particular earthly ministry). The false prophet cannot distinguish between their personal ministry and God's ministry, nor can they understand nor accept that **public disclosure**, repentance, and remorse is healthy for both God's work in general, and their ministry in particular. They continue to defend their own reputation denying anything wrong was done, denying access to information and details, especially the existence of cases and what was done (as a business) to the guilty, and they mount a public relations campaign to attack and work against anybody that criticizes their ministry, and here, the criticism is just, why doesn't BJU just "come clean with the facts"?

While BJU continues to promote themselves in the Christian world as a great ministry, but the particular details of their actual ministry practice, methods, and attitudes certainly do line up with that of a false prophet. Righteousness in a God's servant certainly isn't covering up his own faults and wrong doings, but confession, remorse, repentance, and abandonment. God himself put in some pretty embarrassing details about the sexual sin of King David, then his murder of Uriah, and the failings of Moses. Part of what

made these ministers so great is that they were not perfect, flawless, or "divine" (human-god rulers). They were like us, normal, average Christians that God used. These ministers allowed God to do something in their life, and even though they messed up personally, they admitted it (Psa 51), and they continued on with life. Putting aside the question as to whether BJU has done wrong or not (they have), it would mark BJU as a godly ministry if they were to "come clean with the facts". Abandonment (true repentance and remorse) can never be judged by others unless public disclosure (confession) is first done right. If Bob Jones IS CONCERNED ABOUT WHAT PEOPLE THINK ABOUT THEIR MINISTRY (and enrollment falling has hit the panic button for them as it should), then they should start by being clear about the facts of specific cases over the years, what happened, what they as an authority did. Let us judge whether they were clean or now changed, and not some Grace Commission. People who do wrong at BJU, to the degree of going to jail over these things, should not be protected by being anonymous. All criminals, especially sexual offenders have their crimes at public disclosure on public court records. That is the law, and that is to protect the innocent. They lost their rights in committing criminal acts. BJU becomes an accomplice to them in its own covering up of this sin. Compare this with the same thing happening in the Roman Catholic church, and we see the Catholic's guilt so obvious because civil courts award hundreds of millions of dollars to the victims, because the Catholic administration did not really protect their people by isolating or dismissing criminal individuals in their own organization.

In the end analysis, it is not the rights and impact of sexual predators that a ministry must protect, but the rights and impact of these sins against the sheep. BJU was entrusted with a ministry to help and service the body of Christ. They are violating that trust by the way they are acting in all of this. If BJU's conduct were that of an 18 year old attending the school acting this way, the dean of men would immediately jump all over him for his not accepting the responsibility of his actions, and also accepting the punishment that may be forthcoming. BJU would expell the student for lack of confession, lack of true remorse and repentance, and lack of visible change in his public conduct. **BJU, shape up, or shut your doors!**

📖 **Calling Good evil, and Evil good. (Or just shutting up when you should speak out! Isa 5:20 Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter! God strongly condemns the reversing in identification of what is good, for what is evil. This is Satan's work 100%. Whatever is good and beautiful, Satan calls evil and wicked, and doesn't want to have any part of it. Whatever is evil and wicked is proclaimed to be our desire, good for us, and in our day, society proclaims an inalienable "right" to it. The homosexuals have a "right" to their lifestyle, but they don't want to suffer the medical problems it causes, therefore there is a national push towards finding a cure for AIDS. Also medical insurance MUST cover them at a cheap monthly premium! Moreover, the gays also impose a national duty to educate and orientate young people towards their lifestyle. If pedofiles did that, the nation would be in an uproar, but because gays are now under the protection and promotion by the federal government, everything is great. But God calls down a "Woe" on all who flip good for evil, or evil for good. You can never escape the judgment of God.**

Suggestions and Questions

If you have questions about anything in this newsletter, questions outside of this newsletter that you would like for me to address, or doubts or problems, please send me an email with your thoughts: davidcoxmex@gmail.com