

The Gospel Herald

“As the truth is in Jesus” (Ephesians 4:21)

For The LORD’S PILGRIMS, STRANGERS & SOJOURNERS

by
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Scriptural Advice

In my travels this past Sunday to a Primitive Baptist church which I frequent from time to time, I heard a “tinkling cymbal” from the pulpit that did not ring true in my Spiritual ear. This particular elder had made the statement, “we are not to give ADVICE, but preach the gospel of our Lord.”

The word ADVICE defined: Counsel, recommendations, experiential wisdom, to advise in a course of conduct.

For a gospel minister to stand and say that we ministers and believers alike are not to give ADVICE is real blow to the spiritual mind. What the preacher was implying was, that it is not up to we ministers to ADVISE folks on how they should or should not live, as if to say God will lead and direct his people as He desires and we are to ONLY preach the good news of Christ and the Hope that lays before us. I shall agree that God will and is leading his people and directing their ways, yet at the same time the Almighty uses “means” to accomplish his divine determined will in our lives as we walk in this time world. If one was to say that we should not give ADVICE in our efforts to minister the whole council of God, then we might as well tear out all of the epistles of Paul and much of the gospels.

This mindset of a “non-advice” preaching (as I have observed) gets its roots from so called brethren that DO NOT want to be told how they should walk in this pilgrim way. It’s a “woe is me” pitiful, sinful self that is helpless and weak in attempting to please the Lord of heaven in their daily performance. This is true as to OUR ability to achieve holiness by our works, devotion and obligations. This is why the gospel minister is to ADVISE the hearer’s that Christ is our sufficiency and grace alone shall cause us to persevere in the Christian way. When I am given the charge to stand before God’s people and attempt to proclaim some thoughts from the Holy Writ, it is most applicable to ME as much as the assembly which sit before me. Oh, how often I preach to myself

in my efforts. How often God causes me to hear my own words to the pricking of my heart, even if I was the ONLY one to be moved by the subject matter set forth.

Beloved brethren, oh that we would be blessed to ADVISE the weary pilgrim's and to give ADVICE to those that are struggling with sin to the vexation of heart, mind and soul to look unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith, to not ADVISE the flock of God's Church is to withhold nutritious food to the Lord's little lambs and sheep, to admonish one another daily as we see the day of the Lord approaching.

I have great concern over one that would not want to be warned of the pitfalls of sins degradation and the chastening of the Lord. I truly wonder if a sin that is besetting one that is offended by "ADVISING" preaching which is intimidating to the soul and cause one to hold their hands over their ears and say, "I do not want to hear of this convicting sin as it vexes my soul?"

May grace always cause us to see ourselves as we really are and beg for divine mercy to help in the time of need. Deliver us dear Jesus from the sins that so often beset us and cause us to be conformed to thy divine image. May I find myself ADVISED of my brethren in the whole council of God's precious Word that I might learn more of my weaknesses and a greater view of Christ my righteousness of whom I have to do.

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