

WALKING IN WISDOM (Colossians 4:5) Number #32

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All Scripture quotations from the Editor are from the New King James Version
(Bible Resources may be found on: www.johntpolkll.com)

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Eunices, Loises, and Timothys!

Thanks be to God for all the godly mothers of this congregation. Consider how many faithful children of God there are today who were influenced to serve Christ by a godly mother and grandmother. Many Christian parents, gospel preachers, faithful elders and deacons, Bible teachers, and other faithful members could say that “mother” was the major influence on them in obeying Christ.

Consider Timothy. Timothy was a young soldier of Christ and preacher of the Gospel (2 Tim. 2:3; 4:1-5). His mother and grandmother had a powerful influence upon him, as Paul’s words indicate: “I thank God, whom I serve from my forefathers with pure conscience, that without ceasing I have remembrance of thee in my prayers night and day; Greatly desiring to see thee, being mindful of thy tears, that I may be filled with joy; When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also” (2 Tim. 1:3-5).

The Scriptures, which Timothy knew from childhood, were the source of his unfeigned faith (Rom. 10:17). The Bible states: “But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus” (2 Tim. 3:14-15). No doubt, Eunice had a godly mother in Lois, and Timothy had a godly mother in Eunice, who were concerned about instilling a knowledge and respect for God and His Word into their children.

Parents and grandparents, the next time we are tempted to miss Worship or Bible Study, to neglect to pray with our children at home, to fail to teach our children the Word of God, or to not seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness in any other way (Mat. 6:33), consider Timothy! “Timothys” do not happen by accident, they are molded by hearts and hands that are devoted to God! We thank the Father in heaven for parents and grandparents like Lois and Eunice, and for godly children like Timothy! “Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ” (2 Tim. 2:3).

- Danny Douglas

Ten Ways to Love

1. Listen without interrupting (Proverbs 1:8).
2. Speak without accusing (James 1:19).
3. Give without sparing (Proverbs 21:26).
4. Pray without ceasing (Colossians 1:9).
5. Answer without arguing (Proverbs 17:1).
6. Share without pretending (Ephesians 4:15).
7. Enjoy without complaining (Philippians 2:14).
8. Trust without wavering (1 Corinthians 13:7).
9. Forgive without punishing (Colossians 3:13).
10. Promise without forgetting (Proverbs 13:12).



- Selected

Salted Speech Colossians 4:6

~ “In the end, it’s not the years in your life that count. It’s the life in your years.” – Abraham Lincoln

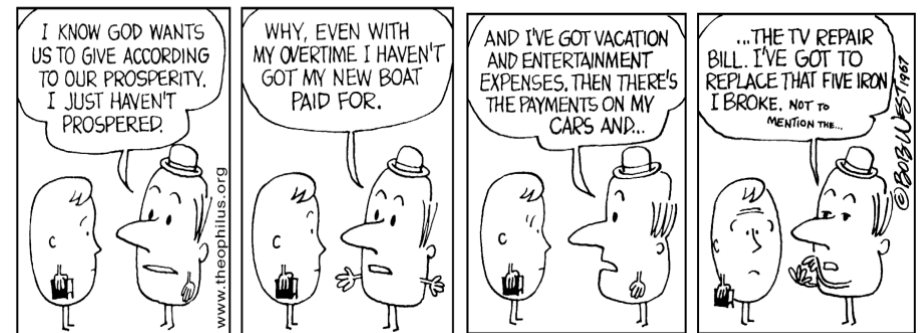
~ “In three words, I can sum up everything I’ve learned about life: it goes on.” – Robert Frost

~ “Yesterday is history; tomorrow is a mystery; today is a gift of God, which is why we call it the present.”
– Bill Keane, “Family Circus” Cartoonist

~ “It is during our darkest moments that we must focus to see the light.” – Aristotle

THEOPHILUS

Me! Me! Me!





Preaching That Causes Men to Tremble

By Dan Jenkins

In my life I have preached over 10,000 sermons, and sometimes I may lose sight of the purpose of preaching. We are told to preach the word, to teach and use those precious moments to convince, rebuke and exhort with a longsuffering heart (2 Tim. 4:2). God describes the focus of preaching as being edification, exhortation and comfort (1 Cor. 14:3).

The pulpit must never center on favorable acceptance by those who hear, but on men being brought into the presence of God as He uses preachers to accomplish His results. The prophets of old often used the word "tremble" as they described their place in His work. Joel said, "Blow the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in My holy mountain! Let the inhabitants of the land tremble; for the day of the Lord is coming" (Joel 2:1). Isaiah gives even more insight as to what to preach and the desired response. "Hear the word of the Lord, you who tremble at His word" (Isa. 66:5).

If my purpose in preaching is to cause the ungodly to tremble, how is this to be accomplished? Perhaps the clearest answer is found on that occasion when Paul's preaching caused some in his audience to tremble. With his destiny at stake, he stood before Felix, the Roman governor. Drusilla, his wife, sat beside him. It was her second or third marriage and

Felix had used a magician to persuade her to leave her husband to marry him. What would you have said in this situation? Paul did not seek to gain favor and thereby to waste such an opportunity. His sermon had three major points and at the end of that sermon the arrogant, sinful ruler trembled.

Felix trembled because Paul preached about righteousness. Paul knew of the life of this ruler and how ungodly he was. Even governors do not have the authority to define and decide what is right and what is wrong. Paul's sermon began by teaching this truth to that king.

The purpose of preaching is not to gain favor but to cause men to tremble

Felix trembled because Paul talked about self-control and temperance. The history of this governor is of one exercised by a lack of self-control. The evidence sat beside him, and this was precisely what the ruler needed to hear. Nothing else, even his release from prison, mattered to the apostle.

Felix trembled because Paul talked about the coming judgment. It is God who defines righteousness; it is man who must let God control his life; it is God who holds us accountable. Every man will eventually stand before God to be judged. Only this kind of preaching can cause men to tremble!

Felix wanted to hear more. Both God and Paul accomplished what happened that day. Preachers, think about this. Preach the word. Use every opportunity. Let God and his word decide the outcome!

Listen to These Women of God

Every woman who has walked with God has a story to tell.

- * Sarah will tell you nothing is too hard for God.
- * Hagar will tell you God always sees you.
- * Rahab will tell you your past doesn't define you; God can use anyone.
- * Hannah will tell you God answers prayer.
- * Ruth will tell you it's not over until God says it's over.
- * Esther will tell you to trust God; He will exalt you in His timing.
- * Mary will tell you it's always worth it to listen to Jesus.
- * Tabitha will tell you no talent is too small to do great things for God.
- * Phoebe will tell you there's a place for you in the Lord's church.

- Selected (with additions by Edd Sterchi)



Questions & Replies by John T. Polk II, www.johntpolkll.com

QUESTION: Why does it seem that, no matter what people are voted into office, government(s) never seem to change?

ANSWER: Because human nature never changes, and the corruption of power appeals to the worst of human nature! This is seen in advance before the Israelites entered the Promised Land. Moses was given detailed instructions for a king to follow if he was to be given the throne over God's people:

Deuteronomy 17: 14- 20: "When you come to the land which the LORD your God is giving you, and possess it and dwell in it, and say, 'I will set a king over me like all the nations that are around me,' you shall surely set a king over you whom the LORD your God chooses; one from among your brethren you shall set as king over you; [1] you may not set a foreigner over you, who is not your brother. [2] But he shall not multiply horses for himself, nor cause the people to return to Egypt to multiply horses, for the LORD has said to you, 'You shall not return that way again.' [3] Neither shall he multiply wives for himself, lest his heart turn away; [4] nor shall he greatly multiply silver and gold for himself. [5] Also it shall be, when he sits on the throne of his kingdom, that he shall write for himself a copy of this law in a book, from the one before the priests, the Levites. And it shall be with him, and he shall read it all the days of his life, that he may learn to fear the LORD his God and be careful to observe all the words of this law and these statutes, that his heart may not be lifted above his brethren, that he may not turn aside from the commandment to the right hand or to the left, and that he may prolong his days in his kingdom, he and his children in the midst of Israel."

In order, kings were NOT to: [1] be an alien or foreign-born; [2] depend on military might and outsiders; [3] disregard marriage rules; [4] selfishly prosper financially; [5] ignore God's Word!

When God had an earthly kingdom under Moses' Law, He was very specific about what the king should and shouldn't do. That God prophesied the Israelite demand for a king hundreds of years before the fact is proof beyond any doubt God is indeed "omniscient" (all-knowing). God's prophecy through Moses in **Deuteronomy 17** was fulfilled after the period covered by the books of **Joshua and Judges**. The people did demand their own king (**1 Samuel 8:6** (read **verses 1-9**), and even then God prophesied the kind of king Israel would have (**1 Samuel 8:10-22**). It seems the nature of those who rule tends to graft, corruption, and greed for power over the people.

In 1 Samuel 8, God predicted the king would: 1) take control over their sons' lives; 2) use them to grow produce for him and make materiel of war and be in his army; 3) employ their daughters for his bakeries; 4) take the best of people's wine and oil for his own; 5) take 10% of vineyards and grain for his own government employees; 6) take over the finest workers (both human and animal) for his own; 7) take 10% of their sheep; and 8) make the populace serve him. **AND the people stubbornly insisted on having their king, anyway!**

People still demand "self-government" and keep putting in office(s) those who can be (and are!) corrupted by that power! THE SAME DEMAND AND ACTION PRODUCES THE SAME RESULT- EVERY TIME!

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