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Free Bible Article: "Can Christians Observe 'Pride Month'?"

<https://johnpolkll.com/files/documents/11f38468-f022-4cc0-aa70-263abeb68a64.pdf>

Salted Speech Colossians 4:6

- ~ A man devoid of religion is like a horse without a bridle.
- ~ Living well is the best revenge.
- ~ The average man's idea of a good sermon is one that goes over his hear—and hits one of his neighbors.
- ~ Praise makes good men better and bad men worse.

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Preaching Like A Prophet by John T. Polk II

God's prophets have always received His message to speak/write to their present generation.

A typical example is Enoch:

"Now Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men also, saying, 'Behold, the Lord comes with ten thousands of His saints, to execute judgment on all, to convict all who are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have committed in an ungodly way, and of all the harsh things which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him'" (Jude 14-15).

Enoch was preaching to people who would be drowned in the flood in Noah's days because of their excessive sins:

"After he begot Methuselah, Enoch walked with God three hundred years, and had sons and daughters. So all the days of Enoch were three hundred and sixty-five years. And Enoch walked with God; and he was not, for God took him" (Genesis 5:22-24; Hebrews 11:5). "Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. And the LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart. So the LORD said, 'I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth, both man and beast, creeping thing and birds of the air, for I am sorry that I have made them.' But Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD" (Genesis 6:5-8).

To prove their message had come from God, they were either given a miracle to demonstrate (as, for example, Moses, Exodus 4:1-9), and/or miraculously given the very words to speak (as, for example, Aaron, Exodus 4:10-18). These are the very credentials Jesus gave His 12 Apostles when He sent them forth to preach to the Jews (Matthew 10:1-8, 19-20).

The common Old Testament Hebrew word for "prophet" is *Nabi*, meaning "bubbling up," hence, being full of the message (Genesis 20:7; Exodus 7:1). The common New Testament Greek word verb *kerusso*, "to proclaim," is used 60 times, including public reading of the Law of Moses (Acts 15:21) and publicly declaring the Gospel of Christ. "Where this word is used, more stress is laid on the publicity of the proclamation than on the nature of the news itself." (p. 224, *Synonyms of the Old Testament*, by Robrt Baker Girdlestone, Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Company, Grand Rapids, Michigan)

God's prophets were the preachers of the day miraculously overflowing with the message, and God's preachers of our day must be full of God's Message which has been written in Scripture. Hence to the preacher Timothy:

"I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His

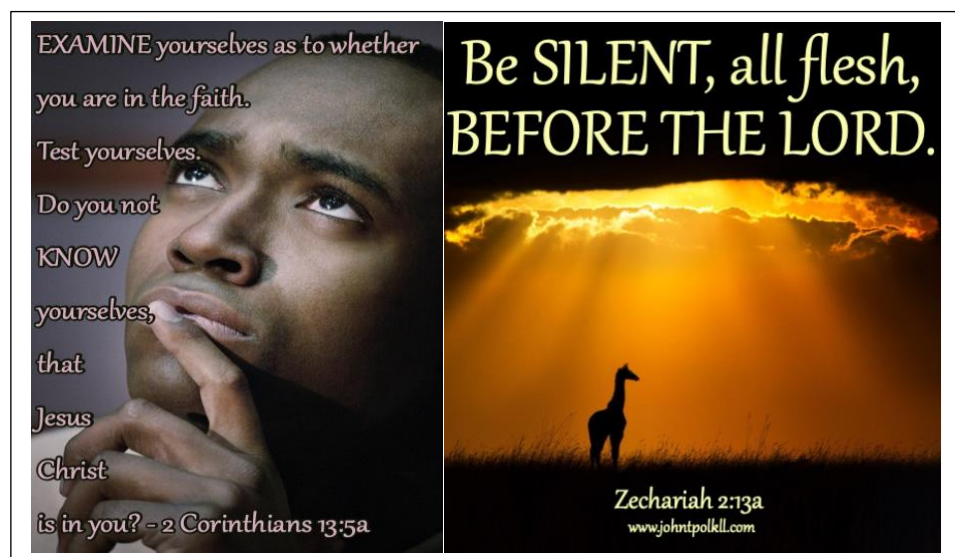
appearing and His kingdom: Preach the word! Be ready in season *and* out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, *because* they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn *their* ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables. But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry (**2 Timothy 4:1-5**).

Gospel Preachers today are not miraculously given God's Message, but must

"Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all. Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them, for in doing this you will save both yourself and those who hear you" (**1 Timothy 4:15-16**); and,

"Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (**2 Timothy 2:15**).

Every conscientious Gospel Preacher must fill himself with the Word of God by diligent study and be able to "preach the word" to his generation. All other activities must take a secondary emphasis. Gospel Preachers must preach like a prophet, since the "gift of prophecy" was replaced by the written Word of God (**1 Corinthians 12:7-10; 13:9-10; Mark 16:17-20**). -----jtpll



Eternal Spring

Of all the seasons, I think I enjoy watching springtime come more than any of the others. After the long slumber of gloomy winter, it's so wonderful seeing the earth awoken with the grass greening, trees budding, flowers blooming, busy birds flitting about, etc. Truly, spring is a time of rebirth, renewal, and refreshing.

I think it is interesting that when we look at the way the Holy Spirit through His word describes the Christian existence, it seems to be in springtime-like terms.

- * *"Repent therefore and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, so that times of refreshing may come from the presence of the Lord."* (Acts 3:19)
- * *"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a **new creation**; old things have passed away; behold, **all things have become new**."* (2 Cor. 5:17)
- * *"Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is **being renewed** day by day."* (2 Cor. 4:16)

In our existence as children of God, every day can be a springtime day in our hearts, no matter what the weather, time of year, or circumstances.

I think it's also interesting that when God saw fit to have heaven described, it appears as a lush, well-watered springtime-like existence.

- * *"Now I saw a new heaven and a **new earth**, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away."* (Rev. 21:1)
- * *"And he showed me a pure **river of water of life**, clear as crystal...and on either side of the river, was the **tree of life**...The **leaves** of the tree were for the healing of the nations."* (Rev. 22:1-2)
- * *"To him who overcomes I will give to eat from the **tree of life**, which is in the midst of the **Paradise of God**."* (Rev. 2:7)

Heaven is not like the dead and cold of winter, nor like the burning heat of summer, and not even like the short-lived color of autumn. But rather, it is the refreshing renewal of spring – eternally.

Enjoy this spring as it bursts open before us in living color, sweet scents, and soothing sounds. But also let it remind you of the eternal spring that God has planned for us in heaven! *"But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life."* (John 4:14)

- Edd Sterchi