

Church of Christ

... Heart to Heart ...

A few years back, as I was speaking to a dear brother in Christ, I told him it seemed I was saying the same things over and over. His words kindly came out, “*Keep on preaching/teaching those same things because brethren don’t hear very well!*” As the years have passed since he told me that, I’ve discovered he is right.

As a preacher of God’s word, I’ve watched brethren, those who have listened over the years, do exactly opposite of what God wants. I’ve seen young mothers continually sow to their flesh, until one day they leave their family to chase what they think is a dream life, someone else giving them attention they long for, setting aside God in the process. I’ve watched men, teach classes, serve as elders/deacons, and then do things opposite of God and His teachings. God’s word seemed to have little impact in their lives. As I have aged, and hopefully gained some wisdom, I can see things coming in people’s lives. There are patterns people follow, and you can watch it happen, while they are so blind and aren’t even aware. (God’s word calls it “*prudence.*”) When people don’t take God’s word to heart, and respond by faith, it will lead them one day into a painful path with disastrous results.

Isaiah heard a message from God. He was told to preach/teach the same things over and over, while God explained the people he was teaching had insensitive hearts, dull ears and dim eyes (Isa. 6:10). Isaiah asked, “***Lord, how long?***” God replies, “Until cities are devastated and without inhabitant, houses are without people and the land is utterly desolate.” (Isa. 6:11) These people of God couldn’t hear, didn’t want to heed, until one day it was too late in their lives. God told Isaiah, “***Preach My word! Teach My word!***”

The preacher Timothy was told the same thing. “*Preach the word!*” (II Tim. 4:2) Why? Because there will be a time when God’s people will no longer want sound doctrine but want to follow other ideas and courses and you can’t do anything about it! (II Tim. 4:3-4) Peter wrote that even though the saints had already heard what he preached/taught, he would write and remind them again (II Pet. 1:12). Paul reminded the Philippians that to write the same things they had heard was a safeguard for them (Phil. 3:1).

I know some brethren will go the way of the devil, promoting his world through their attitudes and actions. I know there are things people will embrace that no amount of right teaching can change. I also know there are some, who desire God’s word, grow in His word and recognize spiritual dangers to avoid. I know some will deceive themselves, not even aware of what is happening in their lives, while accusing others for their own failures. I know what I need to do: Keep on preaching/teaching the same things for the sake of all! Think about it!!!

Brent