

FALSE PROPHETS

By Brother Mike Sutherland

Turn in your Bibles to *Psalm 1:1-6*:

Blessed *is* the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. 2 But his delight *is* in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. 3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. 4 The ungodly *are* not so: but *are* like the chaff which the wind driveth away. 5 Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. 6 For the LORD knoweth the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish.

Psalm 1:1-6

Because we have men walking in the counsel of the ungodly, standing in the way of sinners, and sitting in the seats of the scornful we are being blown about by every wind of doctrine. We are not to use the world's methods in running the church of the living God. That is walking in the counsel of the ungodly. We are not to bring the world's dress standards and music into the church. That would be standing in the way of sinners. We are not to fellowship with so called Christian denominations that hold doctrines that are opposed to sound Biblical doctrine. That would be sitting in the seats of the scornful. With things being the way they are today, you are either going to have to have a limited message or a limited fellowship.

Psalm 119:104 says: "Through thy precepts I get understanding: therefore I hate every false way".
Psalm 119:126-128 says:

¹²⁶*It is time for thee, LORD, to work: for they have made void thy law.* ¹²⁷Therefore I love thy commandments above gold; yea, above fine gold. ¹²⁸Therefore I esteem all *thy precepts concerning all things to be right; and I hate every false way.* *Psalm 119:126-128*

In today's churches, most men and women that should hate every false way have the backbones of jellyfish. They love the praise of men more than they love the praise of God. If you are going to do anything that will be pleasing to God, you are going to have to love God more than you love men or the praise of men. According to the Lord Jesus Christ, seeking and receiving the praise of all men is the mark of a false prophet. *Luke 6:26* says: "Woe unto you, when all men shall speak well of you! for so did their fathers to the false prophets". *Psalm 36:1* (quoted in *Romans 3:18*) says: "The transgression of the wicked saith within my heart, *that there is no fear of God before his eyes*". The reason that we have so many false prophets today is that there is no fear of God.

There is no fear of God today in the United States of America. We want God to bless America and yet we deny, scorn, and mock every precept that God has given us to live by. We want our sin and our prosperity too. We want a God of love and not a God of judgement. We want a God that we can

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call on, but not a God that can call on us. We are a country full of hell bound sinners that are on the broad pathway to destruction. We mock God in our arrogance and self esteem while murdering his unborn babies. We are a nation of filthy dreamers that parade sodomy before God as if it were some kind of puppet show. These filthy dreamers have not the Spirit of God. We are a country that is full devils and their reprobates. We are deserving of the judgement and condemnation of God. Why are we constantly at war? *Isaiah 26:1-4* says:

In that day shall this song be sung in the land of Judah; We have a strong city; salvation will *God* appoint *for* walls and bulwarks. 2 Open ye the gates, that the righteous nation which keepeth the truth may enter in. 3 Thou wilt keep *him* in perfect peace, *whose mind is stayed on thee*: because he trusteth in thee. 4 Trust ye in the LORD for ever: for in the LORD JEHOVAH *is* everlasting strength: *Isaiah 26:1-4*

We are a country full of ungodly religious people in churches that hold to ungodly doctrines that are an abomination before God and an affront to sound Biblical doctrine. In America, what should be the church of the living GOD has been poisoned by religious leaders that are doing what is right in their own eyes. Our churches in America are full of unbelieving professors that have a form of Godliness, but deny the power thereof and have not known the way of truth.

Much of the responsibility for the downfall of the church lies in the pulpits of American churches. The Bible says in *Hosea 4:6* :

My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children. *Hosea 4:6*

We are not talking about knowledge that has been gained at the feet of unbelieving seminary professors that are gathered around the tree of knowledge. We are talking about Godly knowledge that has been gained from the teaching and leadership of the indwelling God the Holy Ghost. True wisdom is knowledge that has been enlightened by God the Holy Ghost.

Deuteronomy chapters 13 and 18 tell us how to distinguish between a true prophet and a false prophet. *Deuteronomy 13:1-3* says:

If there arise among you a prophet, or a dreamer of dreams, and giveth thee a sign or a wonder, 2 And the sign or the wonder come to pass, whereof he spake unto thee, saying, Let us go after other gods, which thou hast not known, and let us serve them; 3 Thou shalt not hearken unto the words of that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams: for the LORD your God proveth you, to know whether ye love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul. *Deuteronomy 13:1-3*

Deuteronomy 18:20-22 says:

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20 But the prophet, which shall presume to speak a word in my name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or that shall speak in the name of other gods, even that prophet shall die. 21 And if thou say in thine heart, How shall we know the word which the LORD hath not spoken? 22 When a prophet speaketh in the name of the LORD, if the thing follow not, nor come to pass, that *is* the thing which the LORD hath not spoken, *but* the prophet hath spoken it presumptuously: thou shalt not be afraid of him. *Deuteronomy 18:20-22*

We are living in an age when church leaders will not take a stand for sound Bible doctrine. The pulpits in American churches are full of heretics, apostates, and unbelievers. We have churches that are calling and ordaining sodomites to serve in the pulpits of American churches. It seems that the Presbyterian Church USA, the United Methodist Church, and the Church of Christ are the leaders in this movement that includes Episcopalians and yes even some Baptists including American Baptists and Southern Baptists. There is a denomination that was organized strictly for sodomites. It is called the Metropolitan Community Church. *Leviticus 18:22* says: “Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it *is* abomination”. *Leviticus 20:13* says “If a man also lie with mankind, as he lieth with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination: they shall surely be put to death; their blood *shall be* upon them”. The last time I checked *Romans 1:26-28*, *1 Corinthians 6:9*, and *1 Timothy 1:10* were still in the Bible. These passages state:

²⁶ For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: ²⁷ And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet. ²⁸ And even as they did not like to retain God in *their* knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient; *Romans 1:26-28*

⁹ Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, *1 Corinthians 6:9*

¹⁰ For whoremongers, for them that defile themselves with mankind, for menstealers, for liars, for perjured persons, and if there be any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine; *1 Timothy 1:10*

I am not advocating violence against sexual perverts that the King James Bible calls sodomites. I believe that the Lord Jesus Christ done away with the death penalty for sexual sins in *John 8:3-11* and *Matthew 19:3-12*.

Churches have heaped to themselves teachers having itching ears. The Bible says in *2 Timothy 4:3-4*:

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3 For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; 4 And they shall turn away *their* ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables. *2 Timothy 4:3-4*

How is that Satan tears down sound Biblical churches? Satan does it in the same way men of God are supposed to build those churches up. The Bible says in *Isaiah 28:10-13*:

10 For precept *must be* upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, *and* there a little: 11 For with stammering lips and another tongue will he speak to this people. 12 To whom he said, This *is* the rest *wherewith* ye may cause the weary to rest; and this *is* the refreshing: yet they would not hear. 13 But the word of the LORD was unto them precept upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, *and* there a little; that they might go, and fall backward, and be broken, and snared, and taken. *Isaiah 28:10-13*

Satan almost never attacks directly. As in the Garden of Eden, Satan's prime objective was to cast doubt on the word of God. Satan attacks the doctrines here a little and there a little. He adds a little leaven here and a little leaven there until the whole lump is leavened. Satan is very subtil. Church members who refuse to hear and receive sound doctrine will fall backward and be broken in the snare of Satan's false doctrine.

I believe there is another reason that so many professing Christians are holding to false doctrines. Because most churches have rejected the truth, I believe that God has also sent them strong delusion that they would believe a lie.

I have already said that much of the responsibility for the great falling away in America's churches lies at the feet of those in the pulpits. Much of the responsibility for this great falling away lies at the feet of the congregations also. Since pastors, preachers and evangelists are called and ordained by churches, we as members of those churches are under an obligation to God to make sure that those that occupy our pulpits are preaching and teaching sound doctrine. God builds his church upon sound doctrine through the teaching ministry of God the Holy Ghost and the precious holy Word Of God. WE MUST REST IN the word of God. *Acts 17:11* says: "These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so". *2 Timothy 2:15* says: "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth." *Hebrews 5:12-14* says:

12 For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which *be* the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. 13 For every one that useth milk *is* unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. 14 But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, *even* those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil. *Hebrews 5:12-14*

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Today, our churches are being murdered by congregations who make enemies of the preachers and teachers who tell them the truth (*Galatians 4:16*). “Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth”?

Today, we are living in the most Biblically illiterate time in American church history. That is why we are unable to stand fast in the faith. As Paul said in *Ephesians 4:14*: “That we *henceforth* be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, *and* cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive. That is why a lot of our Independent Baptist churches sound like nurseries. We have many church members that should have matured in the faith that are still babes in Christ because the simply will not read and study the Bible. They refuse to receive sound doctrine.

We must be very careful who we allow in the pulpits of our churches. We must put men in our pulpits who will stand for the truth. Men who will: “Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine”. The religious sharks, wolves, and roaring lions have gathered around the living bodies of Bible believing churches seeking whom they may devour. And believe me they are having a feeding frenzy. They are literally devouring the Life’s Blood of Bible believing churches. They say: “We don’t want any of that bloody religion”. They have gone in the way of Cain. Like Cain, they don’t want any of the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ and they have murder in the hearts. There is a conspiracy in Satan’s heart to replace Bible believing preachers with false prophets. *Ezekiel 22:23-32* says:

²³ And the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, ²⁴ Son of man, say unto her, Thou *art* the land that is not cleansed, nor rained upon in the day of indignation. ²⁵ *There is* a conspiracy of her prophets in the midst thereof, like a roaring lion ravening the prey; they have devoured souls; they have taken the treasure and precious things; they have made her many widows in the midst thereof. ²⁶ Her priests have violated my law, and have profaned mine holy things: they have put no difference between the holy and profane, neither have they shewed *difference* between the unclean and the clean, and have hid their eyes from my sabbaths, and I am profaned among them. ²⁷ Her princes in the midst thereof *are* like wolves ravening the prey, to shed blood, *and* to destroy souls, to get dishonest gain. ²⁸ And her prophets have daubed them with untempered *morter*, seeing vanity, and divining lies unto them, saying, Thus saith the Lord GOD, when the LORD hath not spoken. ²⁹ The people of the land have used oppression, and exercised robbery, and have vexed the poor and needy: yea, they have oppressed the stranger wrongfully. ³⁰ And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none. ³¹ Therefore have I poured out mine indignation upon them; I have consumed them with the fire of my wrath: their own way have I recompensed upon their heads, saith the Lord GOD. *Ezekiel 22:23-32*

We are living in a time when people just will not hear the word of God. 2 Timothy chapter 4 has its parallel in the Old Testament prophet Isaiah. *Isaiah 30:9-11* says:

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9 That this *is* a rebellious people, lying children, children *that* will not hear the law of the LORD: 10 Which say to the seers, See not; and to the prophets, Prophecy not unto us right things, speak unto us smooth things, prophecy deceits: 11 Get you out of the way, turn aside out of the path, cause the Holy One of Israel to cease from before us. *Isaiah 30:9-11*

I have said many times over the years that it is not just the pastors, preachers, and teachers that are responsible for that which is preached and taught in our churches. The people in the pews are just as responsible. There is no reason why those who sit in the pews of our churches should not know as much about the Bible as those preaching to them and teaching them. That includes the women in the church. While a woman cannot pastor a church or teach men, there is no reason that she should not know as much as any man does about the standards or qualifications for pastors and deacons. Perhaps if some of our women knew much more about the standards and qualifications for pastors and deacons there would be fewer women usurping pastoral and teaching authority over men which is strictly prohibited. 1 Timothy 2:12 says, "...suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence". When women teach and preach before men, and men allow it, both are in rebellion against the word of God, and the Holy One of Israel will cease to bless their ministries. The Holy One of Israel is the Lord Jesus Christ.

The prophet Amos also said in *Amos 8:11-12*:

11 Behold, the days come, saith the Lord GOD, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD: 12 And they shall wander from sea to sea, and from the north even to the east, they shall run to and fro to seek the word of the LORD, and shall not find *it*. *Amos 8:11-12*

In 2026, we have more Bibles in print than we have ever had in America. Yet, there is a famine of famines for hearing the words of the LORD. It is not just that Americans do not read the Bible. Americans outright reject the Bible and mock and scoff at its contents. Jeremiah said this in Jeremiah:

¹⁰ To whom shall I speak, and give warning, that they may hear? behold, their ear *is* uncircumcised, and they cannot hearken: behold, the word of the LORD is unto them a reproach; they have no delight in it. *Jeremiah 6:10*

⁹ The wise *men* are ashamed, they are dismayed and taken: lo, they have rejected the word of the LORD; and what wisdom *is* in them? *Jeremiah 8:9*

The consequences of rejecting the word of God is a seared conscience that cannot hearken to the word of God. A seared conscience leads to a reprobate mind that experiences no embarrassment even at the vilest of evil. That is where we are in America. We are without natural affection. The prophet Jeremiah went on to say in *Jeremiah 6*:

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¹⁵ Were they ashamed when they had committed abomination? nay, they were not at all ashamed, neither could they blush: therefore they shall fall among them that fall: at the time *that* I visit them they shall be cast down, saith the LORD. ¹⁶ Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where *is* the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk *therein*. ¹⁷ Also I set watchmen over you, *saying*, Harken to the sound of the trumpet. But they said, We will not hearken. *Jeremiah 6:15-17*

All of this is the consequence of rejecting the word of God. Americans are those, “Who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness (*Ephesians 4:19*). What a picture that paints! We just cannot get enough of our wickedness! Moving on to *Ezekiel 13:2-9* says:

2 Son of man, prophesy against the prophets of Israel that prophesy, and say thou unto them that prophesy out of their own hearts, Hear ye the word of the LORD; 3 Thus saith the Lord GOD; Woe unto the foolish prophets, that follow their own spirit, and have seen nothing! 4 O Israel, thy prophets are like the foxes in the deserts. 5 Ye have not gone up into the gaps, neither made up the hedge for the house of Israel to stand in the battle in the day of the LORD. 6 They have seen vanity and lying divination, saying, The LORD saith: and the LORD hath not sent them: and they have made *others* to hope that they would confirm the word. 7 Have ye not seen a vain vision, and have ye not spoken a lying divination, whereas ye say, The LORD saith *it*; albeit I have not spoken? 8 Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Because ye have spoken vanity, and seen lies, therefore, behold, I *am* against you, saith the Lord GOD. 9 And mine hand shall be upon the prophets that see vanity, and that divine lies: they shall not be in the assembly of my people, neither shall they be written in the writing of the house of Israel, neither shall they enter into the land of Israel; and ye shall know that I *am* the Lord GOD. *Ezekiel 13:2-9*

Pastors, preachers, and teachers need to be led of the Spirit of God and not of their own spirit. If they are not led of the Spirit of God, they will prophesy lies out of their own hearts. They will not stand for truth in the day of battle because they are hirelings that have received new revelation from Satan that is contrary to the word of God. How many vain preachers and false prophets have you seen on television that prophesy lies and see vain visions. They claim to receive new revelation from God that is contrary to the word of God. Most of these television evangelists are the modern day diviners that God condemned as an abomination in *Deuteronomy 18:9-14*:

⁹ When thou art come into the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee, thou shalt not learn to do after the abominations of those nations. ¹⁰ There shall not be found among you *any one* that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, *or* that useth divination, *or* an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch, ¹¹ Or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer. ¹² For all

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that do these things *are* an abomination unto the LORD: and because of these abominations the LORD thy God doth drive them out from before thee. ¹³ Thou shalt be perfect with the LORD thy God. ¹⁴ For these nations, which thou shalt possess, hearkened unto observers of times, and unto diviners: but as for thee, the LORD thy God hath not suffered thee so *to do*. *Deuteronomy 18:9–14*

Enough said. Now lets take a look at *Jeremiah 23*. Jeremiah chapter 23 is a rebuke to wicked pastors and false prophets. Today's false prophets would do well to heed the lessons of this chapter. *Jeremiah 23* says:

¹ Woe be unto the pastors that destroy and scatter the sheep of my pasture! saith the LORD. ² Therefore thus saith the LORD God of Israel against the pastors that feed my people; Ye have scattered my flock, and driven them away, and have not visited them: behold, I will visit upon you the evil of your doings, saith the LORD. ³ And I will gather the remnant of my flock out of all countries whither I have driven them, and will bring them again to their folds; and they shall be fruitful and increase. ⁴ And I will set up shepherds over them which shall feed them: and they shall fear no more, nor be dismayed, neither shall they be lacking, saith the LORD. ⁵ Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth. ⁶ In his days Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely: and this *is* his name whereby he shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS. ⁷ Therefore, behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that they shall no more say, The LORD liveth, which brought up the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt; ⁸ But, The LORD liveth, which brought up and which led the seed of the house of Israel out of the north country, and from all countries whither I had driven them; and they shall dwell in their own land. ⁹ Mine heart within me is broken because of the prophets; all my bones shake; I am like a drunken man, and like a man whom wine hath overcome, because of the LORD, and because of the words of his holiness. ¹⁰ For the land is full of adulterers; for because of swearing the land mourneth; the pleasant places of the wilderness are dried up, and their course is evil, and their force *is* not right. ¹¹ For both prophet and priest are profane; yea, in my house have I found their wickedness, saith the LORD. ¹² Wherefore their way shall be unto them as slippery *ways* in the darkness: they shall be driven on, and fall therein: for I will bring evil upon them, *even* the year of their visitation, saith the LORD. ¹³ And I have seen folly in the prophets of Samaria; they prophesied in Baal, and caused my people Israel to err. ¹⁴ I have seen also in the prophets of Jerusalem an horrible thing: they commit adultery, and walk in lies: they strengthen also the hands of evildoers, that none doth return from his wickedness: they are all of them unto me as Sodom, and the inhabitants thereof as Gomorrah. ¹⁵ Therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts concerning the prophets; Behold, I will feed them with wormwood, and make them drink the water of gall: for from the prophets of Jerusalem is profaneness gone forth into all the land.

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¹⁶ Thus saith the LORD of hosts, Hearken not unto the words of the prophets that prophesy unto you: they make you vain: they speak a vision of their own heart, *and* not out of the mouth of the LORD. ¹⁷ They say still unto them that despise me, The LORD hath said, Ye shall have peace; and they say unto every one that walketh after the imagination of his own heart, No evil shall come upon you. ¹⁸ For who hath stood in the counsel of the LORD, and hath perceived and heard his word? who hath marked his word, and heard *it*? ¹⁹ Behold, a whirlwind of the LORD is gone forth in fury, even a grievous whirlwind: it shall fall grievously upon the head of the wicked. ²⁰ The anger of the LORD shall not return, until he have executed, and till he have performed the thoughts of his heart: in the latter days ye shall consider it perfectly. ²¹ I have not sent these prophets, yet they ran: I have not spoken to them, yet they prophesied. ²² But if they had stood in my counsel, and had caused my people to hear my words, then they should have turned them from their evil way, and from the evil of their doings. ²³ *Am* I a God at hand, saith the LORD, and not a God afar off? ²⁴ Can any hide himself in secret places that I shall not see him? saith the LORD. Do not I fill heaven and earth? saith the LORD. ²⁵ I have heard what the prophets said, that prophesy lies in my name, saying, I have dreamed, I have dreamed. ²⁶ How long shall *this* be in the heart of the prophets that prophesy lies? yea, *they are* prophets of the deceit of their own heart; ²⁷ Which think to cause my people to forget my name by their dreams which they tell every man to his neighbour, as their fathers have forgotten my name for Baal. ²⁸ The prophet that hath a dream, let him tell a dream; and he that hath my word, let him speak my word faithfully. What *is* the chaff to the wheat? saith the LORD. ²⁹ *Is* not my word like as a fire? saith the LORD; and like a hammer *that* breaketh the rock in pieces? ³⁰ Therefore, behold, I *am* against the prophets, saith the LORD, that steal my words every one from his neighbour. ³¹ Behold, I *am* against the prophets, saith the LORD, that use their tongues, and say, He saith. ³² Behold, I *am* against them that prophesy false dreams, saith the LORD, and do tell them, and cause my people to err by their lies, and by their lightness; yet I sent them not, nor commanded them: therefore they shall not profit this people at all, saith the LORD. ³³ And when this people, or the prophet, or a priest, shall ask thee, saying, What *is* the burden of the LORD? thou shalt then say unto them, What burden? I will even forsake you, saith the LORD. ³⁴ And *as for* the prophet, and the priest, and the people, that shall say, The burden of the LORD, I will even punish that man and his house. ³⁵ Thus shall ye say every one to his neighbour, and every one to his brother, What hath the LORD answered? and, What hath the LORD spoken? ³⁶ And the burden of the LORD shall ye mention no more: for every man's word shall be his burden; for ye have perverted the words of the living God, of the LORD of hosts our God. ³⁷ Thus shalt thou say to the prophet, What hath the LORD answered thee? and, What hath the LORD spoken? ³⁸ But since ye say, The burden of the LORD; therefore thus saith the LORD; Because ye say this word, The burden of the LORD, and I have sent unto you, saying, Ye shall not say, The burden of the LORD; ³⁹

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Therefore, behold, I, even I, will utterly forget you, and I will forsake you, and the city that I gave you and your fathers, *and cast you out of my presence:*⁴⁰ And I will bring an everlasting reproach upon you, and a perpetual shame, which shall not be forgotten. *Jeremiah 23*

We are warned time and again of false prophets. The Lord Jesus Christ said in *Matthew 7:15-16*:

15 Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. 16 Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? *Matthew 7:15-16*

And in *Matthew 24:24*:

24 For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if *it were* possible, they shall deceive the very elect. *Matthew 24:24*

Notice that signs and wonders are associated with the false prophets in the end times. The apostate American church has much emphasis on signs and wonders in the Charismatic movement that has crossed all denominational lines. It is a mark that identifies the fulfillment of end times Bible prophecy. *2 Thessalonians 2:9* says: "*Even him*, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders". *Revelation 13:13-14* says:

13 And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men, 14 And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by *the means of* those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live. *Revelation 13:13-14*

Paul said in *Acts 20:29-30*:

29 For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. 30 Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them. *Acts 20:29-30*

2 Corinthians 11:13-15 says:

13 For such *are* false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. 14 And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. 15 Therefore *it is* no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works. *2 Corinthians 11:13-15*

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1 John 4:1-3 says:

Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world. 2 Hereby know ye the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God: 3 And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: and this is that *spirit* of antichrist, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world. *1 John 4:1-3*

2 Peter 2:1-2 says:

But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction. 2 And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of. *2 Peter 2:1-2*

If there ever was a day when the church is evil spoken of, it is today. Because of false prophets and Christians who will not live holy lives the name of the Lord Jesus Christ is profaned among the heathen. Many will not take a stand for Biblical separation from false prophets and false doctrine because they are afraid of being accused of being unloving, of being judgmental, of being legalistic, or of being a Pharisee. Many are afraid of contention, but you must contend for the faith whether you want to or not. It is a Bible commandment. Our Bible says in *Jude 3*:

Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort *you* that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints. *Jude 3*

Not only must we contend for the faith, but we must also realize that there is a call that goes forth unto to God's people to be separate. Separation is for our protection and for the protection of the church. *2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1* says:

14 Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? 15 And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel? 16 And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in *them*; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. 17 Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean *thing*; and I will receive you, 18 And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty. 7:1 Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit,

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perfecting holiness in the fear of God. *2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1*

Ephesians 5:11 says: “And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove *them*”.

Romans 16:17-19 says:

17 Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them. 18 For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple. 19 For your obedience is come abroad unto all *men*. I am glad therefore on your behalf: but yet I would have you wise unto that which is good, and simple concerning evil. *Romans 16:17-19*

Philippians 3:17-19 says:

17 Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample. 18 (For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, *that they are* the enemies of the cross of Christ: 19 Whose end *is* destruction, whose God *is* their belly, and *whose* glory *is* in their shame, who mind earthly things.) *Philippians 3:17-19*

Revelation 18:4 says: “And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues”.

What is the price to be paid if we will not be separated from false doctrine, worldly lusts, and false prophets? *Jeremiah 6:10-19* says:

¹⁰ To whom shall I speak, and give warning, that they may hear? behold, their ear *is* uncircumcised, and they cannot hearken: behold, the word of the LORD is unto them a reproach; they have no delight in it. ¹¹ Therefore I am full of the fury of the LORD; I am weary with holding in: I will pour it out upon the children abroad, and upon the assembly of young men together: for even the husband with the wife shall be taken, the aged with *him that is* full of days. ¹² And their houses shall be turned unto others, *with their* fields and wives together: for I will stretch out my hand upon the inhabitants of the land, saith the LORD. ¹³ For from the least of them even unto the greatest of them every one *is* given to covetousness; and from the prophet even unto the priest every one *dealeth* falsely. ¹⁴ They have healed also the hurt *of the daughter* of my people slightly, saying, Peace, peace; when *there is* no peace. ¹⁵ Were they ashamed when they had committed abomination? nay, they were not at all ashamed, neither could they blush: therefore they shall fall among them that fall: at the time *that* I visit them they shall be cast down, saith the LORD. ¹⁶ Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where *is* the good way, and

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walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk *therein*.¹⁷ Also I set watchmen over you, *saying*, Hearken to the sound of the trumpet. But they said, We will not hearken.¹⁸ Therefore hear, ye nations, and know, O congregation, what *is* among them.¹⁹ Hear, O earth: behold, I will bring evil upon this people, *even* the fruit of their thoughts, because they have not hearkened unto my words, nor to my law, but rejected it. *Jeremiah 6:10-19*

The call goes forth from the word of God. *1 Kings 18:21* says:

21 And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, How long halt ye between two opinions? if the LORD *be* God, follow him: but if Baal, *then* follow him. And the people answered him not a word. *1 Kings 18:21*

Joshua 24:15-16 says:

15 And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that *were* on the other side of the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD. 16 And the people answered and said, God forbid that we should forsake the LORD, to serve other gods; *Joshua 24:15-16*

Let me state this in the strongest possible terms. If you do not have any backbone, then God has not called you to preach or teach the word of God. Sadly, we have come to a time in American churches where God knows most men today for what they will NOT preach on. The prophet Elijah could come to the average preacher's meeting today and legitimately state:

How long halt ye between two opinions? if the LORD be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him. And the people answered him not a word, *1 Kings 18:21*

There is not a penny's worth difference between the prophets of Baal and today's average preacher. With very few exceptions, there is no sure word of prophecy in the land. Most preachers today are scared to death of their congregations. Any preacher that claims he has been called to preach would do well to heed the instructions of God to the prophets Jeremiah and Ezekiel and to Pastor Timothy. Turn in your Bible to Jeremiah chapter 1 where we read:

⁶ Then said I, Ah, Lord GOD! behold, I cannot speak: for I am a child. ⁷ But the LORD said unto me, Say not, I am a child: for thou shalt go to all that I shall send thee, and whatsoever I command thee thou shalt speak. ⁸ Be not afraid of their faces: for I am with thee to deliver thee, saith the LORD. ⁹ Then the LORD put forth his hand, and touched my mouth. And the LORD said unto me, Behold, I have put my words in thy mouth. ¹⁰ See, I have this day set thee over the nations and over the kingdoms, to root out, and to pull down, and to destroy, and to throw down, to build,

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and to plant. *Jeremiah 1:6-10*

¹⁷Thou therefore gird up thy loins, and arise, and speak unto them all that I command thee: be not dismayed at their faces, lest I confound thee before them. ¹⁸For, behold, I have made thee this day a defenced city, and an iron pillar, and brasen walls against the whole land, against the kings of Judah, against the princes thereof, against the priests thereof, and against the people of the land. ¹⁹And they shall fight against thee; but they shall not prevail against thee; for I am with thee, saith the LORD, to deliver thee. *Jeremiah 1:17-19*

If you will preach and teach the word of God as commanded by God, you have nothing to fear from the apostate political leaders, the apostate religious leaders, and the apostate church members of our day. Brother Jeremiah quickly learned that it was better to fear God than to fear men. “The fear of man bringeth a snare: But whoso putteth his trust in the Lord shall be safe” (*Proverbs 29:25*). Those of us who preach and teach the word of God without compromise are going to face pitched battles, but we have been made defenced cities by our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Now turn in your Bibles to Ezekiel chapter 3 where it states:

¹Moreover he said unto me, Son of man, eat that thou findest; eat this roll, and go speak unto the house of Israel. ²So I opened my mouth, and he caused me to eat that roll. ³And he said unto me, Son of man, cause thy belly to eat, and fill thy bowels with this roll that I give thee. Then did I eat it; and it was in my mouth as honey for sweetness. ⁴And he said unto me, Son of man, go, get thee unto the house of Israel, and speak with my words unto them. ⁵For thou art not sent to a people of a strange speech and of an hard language, but to the house of Israel; ⁶Not to many people of a strange speech and of an hard language, whose words thou canst not understand. Surely, had I sent thee to them, they would have hearkened unto thee. ⁷But the house of Israel will not hearken unto thee; for they will not hearken unto me: for all the house of Israel are impudent and hardhearted. ⁸Behold, I have made thy face strong against their faces, and thy forehead strong against their foreheads. ⁹As an adamant harder than flint have I made thy forehead: fear them not, neither be dismayed at their looks, though they be a rebellious house. ¹⁰Moreover he said unto me, Son of man, all my words that I shall speak unto thee receive in thine heart, and hear with thine ears. ¹¹And go, get thee to them of the captivity, unto the children of thy people, and speak unto them, and tell them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; whether they will hear, or whether they will forbear. ¹²Then the spirit took me up, and I heard behind me a voice of a great rushing, saying, Blessed be the glory of the LORD from his place. *Ezekiel 3:1-12*

The message of God to both the prophet Jeremiah and the prophet Ezekiel is do not fear the people, but rather deliver the rebuke to the people that God has commanded. Part of God’s message to Ezekiel is that he will be preaching to a hard headed people, but he is to be more hard headed than

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they are. Ezekiel is to stand God's ground without compromise even in the face of extreme resistance. Ezekiel is told that the people will not listen, but he must preach to them regardless. The Holy Ghost stated the following in *2 Timothy* chapters 2 and 4:

³ Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ. ⁴ No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier. *2 Timothy 2:3-4*

¹ I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; ² Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. *2 Timothy 4:1-2*

The message from these passages to those who have been called to the ministry is that they must openly and boldly declare the Word of God regardless of the people's reaction and opposition to it. God even warns them that there will be a fight. We are told to earnestly contend for the faith. That means there will be contention. ¹³ Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong. *1 Corinthians 16:13*