

THE PASTORS, PREACHERS, TEACHERS, AND CONGREGATIONS OBLIGATION TO STAND FOR SOUND DOCTRINE

By Brother Mike Sutherland

The responsibility and obligation to teach, preach, and stand for sound doctrine does not rest solely upon the shoulders of those who minister the Word of God in our congregations. It is the responsibility of every Bible believing member in our congregations to know and live sound Bible doctrine. There is nothing that will offend and grieve God the Holy Ghost any faster than a church that is compromised in Bible doctrine. *Matthew 15:8-9* states:

⁸ This people draweth nigh unto me with their mouth, and honoureth me with *their* lips; but their heart is far from me. ⁹ But in vain they do worship me, teaching *for* doctrines the commandments of men. *Matthew 15:8-9*

When you offend and grieve the Holy Ghost with false doctrine your worship is in vain. It is wasted worship. That is why sound doctrine is so very important.

The burden and motivation for my ministry over the years has consistently been to motivate and inspire young men to make the Word of God the very bread of their life. The Bible says this in *2 Timothy 2:2*:

² And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also. *2 Timothy 2:2*

Young men need to literally live and breath the Word of God. The Bible says in *2 Timothy 2:15* :

¹⁵ Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. *2 Timothy 2:15*

However, all that being said, there is absolutely no reason for every man and every woman in the church to be at least as knowledgeable in the word of God as their pastor. There is nothing that I teach or preach that every man and woman should not know. That statement assumes that I am rightly dividing a King James Bible which is God's written standard of perfection for English speaking peoples. The King James Bible is Miraculously Magnificent and Majestic: the crown jewel of all Bible translations in any language. Rightly divided, it cannot be used to teach false doctrine and heresy. Let's move on. Pride is one of the biggest hindrances to the work of the Holy Ghost. In *Isaiah 65:5*, God condemned the men of Judah who thought they were better than the Gentile nations around them. God said that they said "Stand by thyself, come not near to me; for I am holier than thou". God said that the men of Judah were "a smoke in his nose and a fire that burneth all the day". God's attitude toward religious status seekers was described by Job and Jeremiah like this:

²¹ Let me not, I pray you, accept any man's person, neither let me give flattering titles unto man. ²² For I know not to give flattering titles; *in so doing* my maker would soon take me away. *Job 32:21-22*

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²³ Thus saith the LORD, Let not the wise *man* glory in his wisdom, neither let the mighty *man* glory in his might, let not the rich *man* glory in his riches: ²⁴ But let him that glorieth glory in this, that he understandeth and knoweth me, that I *am* the LORD which exercise lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness, in the earth: for in these *things* I delight, saith the LORD. *Jeremiah 9:23–24*

Self worship is rooted in pride. Pride is used 49 times in the King James Bible. Proud is used 48 times in the King James Bible. Pride is described as an abomination to God in *Proverbs 6:16-17* and *Proverbs 16:5*. The words “proud” and “pride” are never used in a good sense in the King James Bible.

HERE IS THE ATTITUDE OF OUR PROUD RELIGIOUS AND POLITICAL LEADERS:

²⁰ Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter! ²¹ Woe unto *them that are* wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight! ²² Woe unto *them that are* mighty to drink wine, and men of strength to mingle strong drink: ²³ Which justify the wicked for reward, and take away the righteousness of the righteous from him! ²⁴ Therefore as the fire devoureth the stubble, and the flame consumeth the chaff, *so* their root shall be as rottenness, and their blossom shall go up as dust: because they have cast away the law of the LORD of hosts, and despised the word of the Holy One of Israel. ²⁵ Therefore is the anger of the LORD kindled against his people, and he hath stretched forth his hand against them, and hath smitten them: and the hills did tremble, and their carcases *were* torn in the midst of the streets. For all this his anger is not turned away, but his hand *is* stretched out still. *Isaiah 5:20–25*

America is 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* :

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 Holy Ghost. True wisdom is knowledge that has been enlightened by God the Holy Ghost. The unbelieving and Bible

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correcting attitudes of Bible college professors has bred at least two generations of false prophets, false teachers, apostates, and heretics.

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

¹ 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:

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

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 up churches doctrinally. 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*

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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 and do 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: "¹¹These 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: "¹⁵ 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*

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

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*: "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 they 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. I did say men didn't I?? 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

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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 and false teachers. *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:

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, prophesy 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*

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-*

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In the words of the prophet Jeremiah, here is the attitude of today's professing Christianity:

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*, Hearken to the sound of the trumpet. But they said, We will not hearken. *Jeremiah 6:16–17*

¹⁵ Then all the men which knew that their wives had burned incense unto other gods, and all the women that stood by, a great multitude, even all the people that dwelt in the land of Egypt, in Pathros, answered Jeremiah, saying, ¹⁶ *As for* the word that thou hast spoken unto us in the name of the LORD, we will not hearken unto thee. ¹⁷ But we will certainly do whatsoever thing goeth forth out of our own mouth, to burn incense unto the queen of heaven, and to pour out drink offerings unto her, as we have done, we, and our fathers, our kings, and our princes, in the cities of Judah, and in the streets of Jerusalem: for *then* had we plenty of victuals, and were well, and saw no evil. *Jeremiah 44:15–17*

In *Jeremiah 44:17* we have an Old Testament presentation of the same type of attitude as that of the Laodiceans in *Revelation 3:17*.