

What you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also. **2Timothy 2:2**

Store In My Heart Ezekiel 1:1

Now it came about in the thirtieth year, on the fifth day of the fourth month, while I was by the river Chebar among the exiles, the heavens were opened and I saw visions of God.

Ezekiel received his messages from God while in the land of the Chaldeans with the exiled Jews. His message came before the fall of Jerusalem and was for both the exiles and those still in Judah. This was a very low period in the history of God's people, and his message of reassurance that God would renew his people would serve to lift their spirit. As we know, ultimately this renewal brought the Messiah and hope for all mankind through His death, burial and resurrection.

Even when it seems all hope is lost, we can put our trust in God and know all is well. We would do well to let such hope guide us in our present day. Steadfast and sure will see us through.



Toning It Down

Robert Turner

A "country meeting" had gone exceedingly well, and elders from another community asked the preacher to work with them the following year. He came at the appointed time, and found his reputation had spread, and the building was packed. The elders met him at the car, told him they had never had such a gathering of Methodists, Baptists, and no-church folk, so he must be very careful lest he offend someone with his forthright teaching.

Being young and brash, and having no more tact than to tell the truth, he reminded them of the undiluted lessons that had been given at the neighboring church in the previous year. He said that since he had not been in that section of the state before, the previous year's work must have drawn this year's crowd; and certainly was the reason he had been asked to come. He concluded, "If you expect to hold and convert these people with something other than the kind of preaching that brought them together, I'm afraid you have the wrong man. I'll get back into my car and go home."

With much confusion "Oh no, you must have misunderstood us" etc., the preacher was persuaded to stay, and the meeting began. The preaching was strong, and seemed to get a little stronger; but the people continued to come, and several were converted.

I do not now believe, nor did I then, that "skinning the sects" is good preaching. Some folk will turn away from straight, plain truth, no matter how fairly we seek to present it. But we are dead wrong in thinking we can convert people to Christ with anything other than the Bible message. It will convict the world respecting sin, righteousness, and judgment; and many won't

like that. But we are looking for the "few" who will like it, and will genuinely turn to God.

"Toning it down" will produce only "toned down" members of a "toned down" church. You may keep the money, the politicians, and silk-stocking row; but you will lose the backbone and fiber that is necessary for a church to prevail and please the Lord. And if "members" are not interested in pleasing the Lord and saving souls, why bother with any preaching at all?

As brother Turner points out in the article above, only sound teaching from the Word of God will convert sinners into saints. We must stand firm in our efforts to teach the lost and exhort our brethren to remain faithful. There will be many who will turn away from such demanding teaching, but it will not be because we failed to teach them. Love for the lost should prompt us to help them find the remedy for their condition. We would not "water down" the prescription given by a doctor for a sickness of the body. Why would we think it is a good idea to "water down" the Gospel prescribed by God for sin.

We are instructed to "speak the truth in love" but that does not mean we should not include teaching from the Word that might offend the student. Love compels us to do what is best for someone, not what makes them feel good. As Christians we are obligated to present the Word of God in its purity and fullness. This will 'ruffle some feathers' but it is the only way to help our friends and neighbors leave sin and come to God.

Seven weeks from now we have a great opportunity to help others hear the Word. Brother Blaylock will present God's message six times that week. Make plans to be in attendance for each of those services. Persuade others to come hear the Gospel message during that time. The eternal destiny of everyone I know depends on hearing and obeying the Gospel message. Our duty is to do all we can to help anyone who wants to learn about God and His plan for man hear the Word in its purity and fullness. DLH

Contact Us

We like opportunities to speak with others about the Lord.

Church of Christ

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For Our Information

Malcolm Rigsby is wearing a heart monitor for 30 days and dealing with sciatica.

Marla Rigsby is still dealing with a foot infection.

Jim Soliday is doing well in his recovery.

Sue Soliday is slowly improving from her Bells Palsy.

The **Hurst** family is out of town weekend.

Jon Ross Simpson is in Conway with Gracie this weekend.

Sunday Evening – **Isaiah 5:8** Wednesday – **John 18:15**

Gospel Meeting – April 27-May 1 – Alan Blaylock

The
CHURCH OF CHRIST

MEETS HERE



10:20 AM • Sunday Worship Service
5:00 PM • Sunday Night Bible Study
7:00 PM • Wednesday Bible Study