

Howard's Corner

Things not preached!

I have read the bible from cover to cover and hear many sermons on Christian television. I have sat in this congregation for many years. I from my memory have not heard a lot of things preached in this church. Why do we not preach all the bible? Why do we do this one scripture a week for 52 weeks? We will not cover the word in our lifetime. Unless we do our own reading, we will not even know about the many words that God has given us. We do not need a lectionary- we need spirit filled preachers and leaders to preach the whole word.

Where is prophesy? Where is the book of Daniel—the teaching of the statue of Nebuchadnezzar –the 70 weeks of Daniel—The last week (7 years)—the ten toes—the little horn. Where is the coming again of Jesus? Where is the rapture? Where is the return of Israel to the Land after 2000 years? Where is the teaching about Ezekiel's new temple? Where is the teaching of the Day of the Lord's judgement on the earth -Armageddon? Where is the millennial kingdom? Where is the book of revelation? Where is Joel's pouring out of the spirit? Where is the preaching of the baptism of the Holy Spirit? Where is the preaching on what the bible says about hell? Jesus talks about it openly. Why do we not talk about it at all? Where oh where are all the words that have not been preached in this church?

Well, I can tell you. They are in your bible. They are not hidden but are veiled to many because we have not diligently searched the word to understand. We have been trusting in the clergy to tell us, but I am now sure that the reason they have not told the congregation is that they do not know themselves. Or it may be that they have turned away from the bible to some other belief and have cut out the things they do not want to be there and have added their own belief to the word.

For the last 20 years I have not heard any of these things preached and I have not heard the gospel of salvation preached. There is no preaching of the need for repentance for the forgiveness of sin. Why? Do we not believe any longer in saving souls and changing lives? Do we believe that all that come to church are saved? I do not see it so. The gate is narrow that leads to eternal life, but the way is broad that leads to destruction. Are we not warning people that the bridge is out in front of them and they are headed to hell?

We need true preaching for we are ignorant of the word unless we dig it out for ourselves. I do not even care whether I agree or not we need to at least hear the word and decided for ourselves whether the interpretation witnesses to our spirit. Do not hide the word in secrecy but share what you know. **We may not all be ignorant!**

That is what the Catholic church did. They did not let the lay people even read the word (they even put the scripture in Latin so the people would not understand!). The people had to accept the priest's word, and no one would dare question because they would be kicked out of the church. Today they just leave, and no one knows why. Is this what is happening in the Methodist church? Are we a transparent church or do we hide things from the everyday member? I can assure you that many are more knowledgeable than you may think. The world has changed, and information is freely available to lay people. We have the bible and can read for ourselves, but many do not read for themselves. It would be good if we had Spirit filled leaders to teach the whole word.

My point is that we need to hear the whole word preached. The World has changed since John Wesley. I do agree with his peaching of the gospel for salvation but many of the things brought from the Angelicin church are dated and the Angelicin church is now dead. I heard a rumor that John Wesley had died! I do not remember hearing that he had been raised from the dead. Jesus has been raised from the dead! Why are we worshipping John Wesley

and the Methodist church? There is no power to save in John Wesley or the Methodist church. He understood after a long search. He finally received the Holy Spirit after doing the church thing of trying to be righteous by his own works. He received the power of the Holy spirit to preach the real gospel. We are faced with the same thing. Are we willing to search until we find the real outpouring of his power to preach the whole word?

New things have happened in history that have changed our understanding of what is happening. One example is the Replacement theology (Belief that the church has replaced Israel in God's plan). It is obvious that Israel is back in the land of Israel and that God has brought many miracles into being to establish a new nation of Israel. Why Does the Methodist church not look at things as is being revealed to us today? Why hang on to ideas that may have made sense many years ago but are today proven wrong. Do we operate in a time warp? Are we frozen by tradition and ritual? Let us read the scriptures anew with an open mind to what is written and by the words of Jesus and the prophets. After all it is His church. It is not ours. We are to follow Him in word and spirit. He has not called us to ritual and tradition but to love and His Spirit.

The scriptures say plainly that Israel will be "born in a day" (check it out Isaiah 66) and it has happened in our lifetime. The nation of Israel was established in one day by declaration of the United Nations in 1948 and many miracles have taken place since then to establish the nation. Read your recent history. The things that have occurred are comparable to the miracles that happen when the Lord led Israel out of Egypt. Israel is a tiny nation but fought all the surrounding countries and were victorious up to now. We however as a church were silent and are still silent. We are not showing any support that I know of. It appears we are still operating in Replacement theology. You know—Jerusalem is where the Lord is coming back to and I for one want to be there with Him.

You may think I have come to these conclusions hastily, but I can assure you that these thoughts have been developed over 63 years I have been in the

Methodist church. I have seen several Methodist churches dry up and blow away because they were not taught the word and did not live in the Holy Spirit. We have become a church with a form of godliness but denying the power thereof.

The Methodist church is in a slow death spiral. The gospel is not being preached and therefore, there are very few new converts. The older people are dying off and there are not enough new members to sustain growth. The younger generations are not staying in the church because they do not see us as being real in their lives. Jesus said in Revelation to the churches – unless you return to your first love your lampstand will be taken away. He also said to one church that they were neither hot nor cold and He would spew them out of His mouth. Is our lampstand being taken away?

I am 80 years old, and I may not see any results from these words but am praying for this church as I have done for many years. I however do not see anything improving and may not stay because I want to spend the last time, I have surrounded by those that are spirit filled believers. Maybe I can reach a few people with the gospel before my time comes to be with the Lord. I do not think I can endure to watch this “churchism” destroy the Methodist church (which had such a good beginning) and the enemy get his victory. It makes me sad!

My message is to all that will believe. I have come to the place where I must make my stand. The church may kick me out but that is okay because my salvation is in Jesus. I have a personal relationship with him which is witnessed by His Spirit. My prayer is for all of you to receive this personal relationship with Jesus. My trust is not in an organization called the church but is a personal relationship with the Lord. I do not see anything in God’s word that says the organization church will stand before the Lord on **That Day** and vouch for us. It is the Lord that will say “well done good and faithful servant or He will say depart from me. I never knew you.”

I think it would be an incredibly good idea if we knew him personally before **That Day**. Come and join me and walk in the “River of living water”!

With brotherly love

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