

Gimme That Showtime Religion

"The Philosophy Behind Our Ministry"

- Introduction:
1. We are citizens in a kingdom that cannot be shaken (Hebrews 12:28).
 2. The Lord's kingdom will stand forever (Daniel 2:44).
 3. However, the Bible does warn of perilous times (2 Timothy 3:1).
 4. There is today a philosophy that is sweeping through our land, which has the potential to do great harm.
 5. Let's examine some of the dangers of this philosophy.

I. Problems With A Market Driven Philosophy Of Ministry

- A. How It Defines Success.
1. How large, how much money, and how influential you are in a community is what defines success.
 2. However, these things have never been the criterion for success.
 - a. Faithfulness, godliness, and spiritual commitment are the virtues God esteems (1 Corinthians 4:2).
 4. Many great men would have been failures by this Market Driven Philosophy of ministry — (Noah, Abraham, Jeremiah, Jesus...).
- B. It Makes The Customer Sovereign.
1. At the heart of the market driven, user friendly church is the goal of giving the people what they want.
 2. That "Have It Your Way" philosophy may work well for fast food restaurants, but not for the Lord's church.
 3. God is to be sovereign in our worship (John 4:24; Acts 10:33).
- C. It Is Driven By Pragmatism.
1. Pragmatism is the notion that worth is determined by practical consequences.
 2. However, Scriptural and Biblical truth is not determined by what works and what does not work (Psalm 119:89).
 3. Pragmatism pits the wisdom of man against the wisdom of God (1 Corinthians 1:18-29).

II. The Foundation For A Biblical Ministry

- A. (2 Timothy 4:1-5).
1. Remember your calling.
 2. Preach the word.
 3. Be faithful in and out of season.
 4. Reprove, rebuke, and exhort.
 5. Don't compromise in difficult times.
 6. Be watchful.
 7. Endure hardship.
 8. Do the work of an evangelist.
 9. Fulfill your ministry.

- Conclusion:
1. The heart of our ministry must be the gospel.
 2. We must "preach the word." We have nothing else worth saying. There is no other message.
 3. Christianity has always been, and will always be an offense (Galatians 5:11), a stone of stumbling, and foolishness to the world (1 Corinthians 1:23), but to those who are being saved, it is the power of God (1 Corinthians 1:18).