

Preach The Word!

By Roelf L. Ruffner

July 13, 2015, I heard a sermon which epitomizes what real preaching is all about. A brother was holding a Gospel Meeting for a congregation in middle Tennessee. He had been the preacher for this congregation years before and knew many in attendance. He also knew that they had problems fellowshiping false teachers, unfaithful congregations and unsound brotherhood organizations. At the risk of being ostracized and denounced he preached on 2 John 9-11 and how the church and the individual Christian should not fellowship the following: 1) congregations which use women preachers, 2) congregations that use mechanical instruments of music in worship, 3) marked false teachers such as Jeff Walling, Mac Deaver and Dave Miller, 4) compromising brotherhood organizations such as Apologetics Press, Gospel Broadcasting Network, and 5) para-church organizations such as Churches of Christ Disaster Relief, Helping Hands International, etc. He pointed out that if you support a preacher or some religious organization financially, you are in fellowship with them (Phil.4:15- ASV).

This brother spoke in a spirit of love and kindness. His love for the Truth overcame any fears he may have had. He even notified the eldership of that congregation what he was going to do. In the audience were some of his friends and family who regularly violate Christ's law of fellowship (cf. Eph. 5:1; 2 John 9-11). Yet this did not cause him to dilute the Truth because he loves the Lord, the church and the souls of men. Many in the brotherhood are afraid to preach about these things today. They fear the wrath of their "friends," blackballing by congregations, the loss of preaching appointments/lectureship slots and the even the loss of that weekly paycheck. Others don't want to be bothered by "issues." Even though they know what the Bible says about all these errors, they don't want to "rock the boat." If it doesn't intrude on their circle of fellowship it doesn't concern them. For shame! "Nevertheless among the chief rulers also many believed on him; but because of the Pharisees they did not confess him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue: For they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God" (John 12:42-43).

This preacher is not only a brother-in-Christ but my friend and a friend of Jesus Christ. His name is Danny Douglas. May his tribe increase! "But watch thou in

all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make full proof of thy ministry” (2 Tim. 4:5).