

Spiritual Plagiarism

“Therefore, behold, I am against the prophets, saith the LORD, that steal my words every one from his neighbor”, Jeremiah 23:30.

Webster’s Dictionary describes “plagiarize” as stealing ideas or words of another and passing them off as one’s own. God warns against such action, especially when it comes to teaching His word.

Jeremiah speaks about false prophets, those who are supposed to spiritually feed the people but who, instead, cause division and harm, *“Therefore thus saith the LORD God of Israel against the pastors that feed my people; Ye have scattered my flock, and driven them away, and have not visited them: behold, I will visit upon you the evil of your doings, saith the LORD”, (Jeremiah 23:2).* This wickedness is not only found in the world at large but, sadly, in the living church itself! *“For both prophet and priest are profane; yea, in my house have I found their wickedness, saith the LORD”, (Jeremiah 23:11).*

How does this wickedness creep into our churches and why cannot the false prophets themselves or the people who follow them detect this apostasy? The prophet Isaiah points out that some people, who once began in the truth, become dissatisfied with God’s word and begin to search for alternatives, *“...Prophesy not unto us right things, speak unto us smooth things, prophesy deceits”, (Isaiah 30:10).* It is much like the situation when the Israelites became dissatisfied with the heavenly manna that God freely provided to them daily on their journey toward the Promised Land. Essentially, dissatisfied people will become so hard of hearing that they will demand that their preachers tell lies that they cannot detect, *“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”, (2 Timothy 4:3).*

The prophets, on the other hand, who also began in the truth, begin to search for deeper understandings and more revelation to avoid losing souls to unbelief. Certainly, to the mind this seems to be the correct approach, one filled with good and admirable

intentions. However, as our text shows, such prophets blindly spend much of their time studying the teachings of others subsuming their words and ideas into their own faith and believing them to be directly from God to them. Jeremiah tries to warn that this approach to teaching the word of God will come to naught, *“Wherefore their way shall be unto them as slippery ways in the darkness: they shall be driven on, and fall therein: for I will bring evil upon them, even the year of their visitation, saith the LORD”, (Jeremiah 23:12).* Clearly, had they stood fast in the word of God and not included the words of others, souls would truly have been saved, *“But if they had stood in my counsel, and had caused my people to hear my words, then they should have turned them from their evil way, and from the evil of their doings”, (Jeremiah 23:22).*

The apostle Paul provides clarity to all preachers, *“I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine”, (2 Timothy 4:1-2).* In similar manner, the apostle John gives guidance to all listeners, *“Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world”, (1 John 4:1).* Following the advice of Paul and John will limit the growth of false prophets and reduce the number of individuals who fall away from living faith because all will be focused on the true word of God, the Bible.

God’s Peace,
Charles Korhonen

Online Broadcasts

From our webpage: <http://www.tapiolachurch.org/> you will see the mixlr live audio – we will be 'on the air' during our church services.

Summer Schedule

Church at 10:00am
Bible Study at 7pm on Wednesday.
No Sunday School or Adult Bible Study.

Special Dates

Sunday School Picnic – June 19, Twin Lakes, 10:00 A.M.

June 5	Ken Storm	10 am Holy Communion
June 12	Nathan Ruonavaara	10am
June 19	Ken Storm	10am Sunday School Picnic at Twin Lakes
June 26	Jesse Mattson	10am

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