

“Truth without Love is too hard; Love without Truth is too soft”

Through the Maze

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Do You Have A Red Pencil? Mark up these quotations

Quotation # 1:

Are You Preaching the Gospel?

Martyn Lloyd-Jones

The true preaching of the gospel of salvation by grace alone always leads to the charge that the preacher is promoting “easy grace.” There is no better test as to whether a man is really preaching the New Testament gospel than this: that some people might misunderstand and think the preacher is saying “Since you are saved by grace alone it does not really matter what you do, you can go on sinning all you like...” [That was a charge often leveled against the Apostle Paul.]

This is a very good test of gospel preaching, because *if my preaching does not create that misunderstanding, then I am not preaching the true gospel!*

Let me show you what I mean: If a man preaches justification by *works*, no one would question him. Should he say, “If you want to go to heaven, you must stop committing sins, live a life filled with good works, and keep this up regularly and constantly until the end, then you will be a Christian and go to heaven when you die.” Obviously,

Thirty-six years ago I was an active Mormon Elder. In January 1974 I was suddenly, sovereignly saved. Six years later I was in full-time pastoral ministry. I loved that ministry. To this day, many of the people who were part of the church I pastored tell me that God used me to important effect in their lives. I say that not with pride, but with wonder and gratitude.

Twenty years ago I left the pastorate in response to a call from God to a form of evangelism. That call was in response to Ephesians 3:8-9:

Although I am less than the least of all God's people, this grace was given me: to preach to the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ, and to make plain to everyone the administration of this mystery, which for ages past was kept hidden in God, who created all things.

Before God, I declare I have been faithful to that call. My friend, Ed Decker (author of *The God Makers*), says that I have led more Mormons to Christ than anyone he knows of. Be that as it may, I do not take credit for being smart nor talented. I played the hand God dealt me.

The one thing I am certain of is this: The message of the Cross—which is foolishness to those who are perishing—is the only message worth giving one's life for. And it is a simple message. It is a declared message:

This [is] a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.

(I Tim. 1:15).

The quotations you will find in this letter are from various preachers who underscore the simplicity of the Christian message. As my friend, the late Ron Mehl said, “It is easy to be complex, it is hard to be simple.”

Today, the Church stands at a crossroads. Will it cling to the Old Time Religion in the face of those who demand that it become “relevant,” or will it abandon authoritative preaching in favor of politically correct pap?

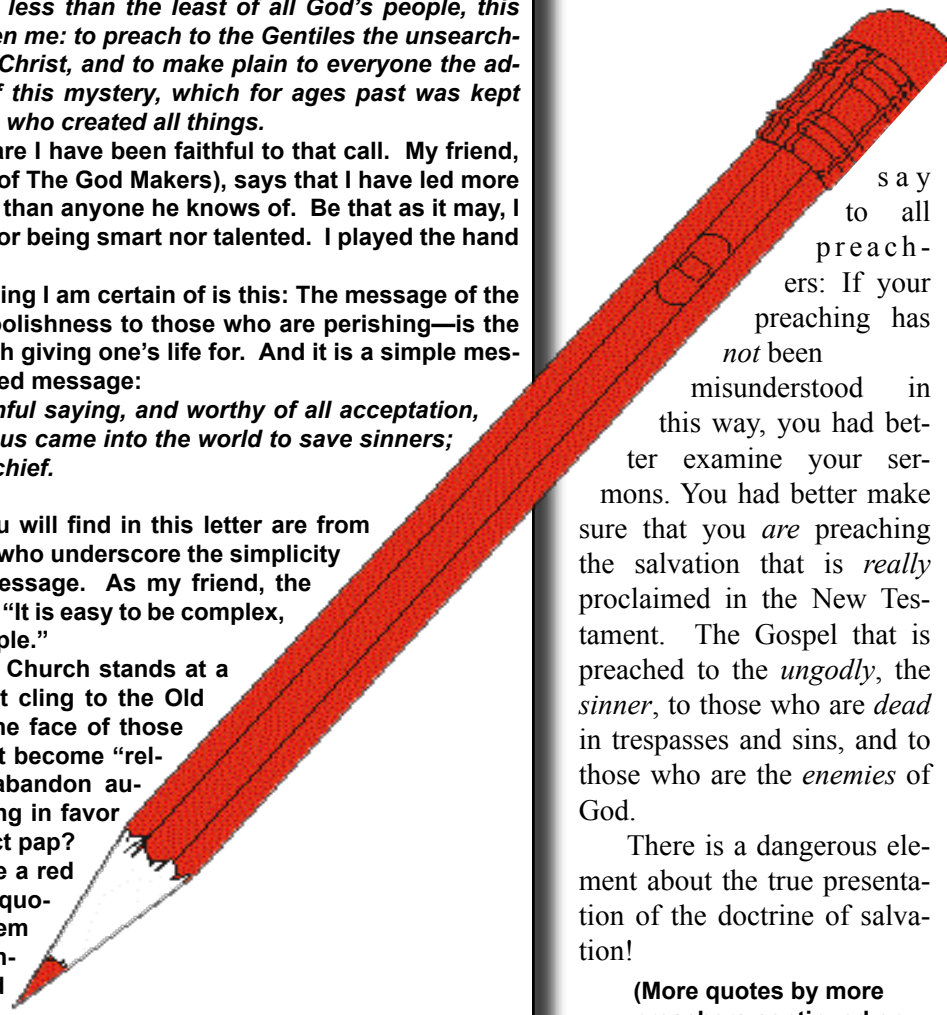
If you have a red pencil, read these quotations; mark them up; don't give up until you understand each one thoroughly. If you do, I think you are safe from the current sophistry within the Church.*

no one will accuse a man who preached like this of saying, “Let us continue in sin that grace may abound.” However, *every preacher who preached the real gospel* has been accused of teaching easy grace! They have all been accused of “antinomianism.” I would

say to all preachers: If your preaching has not been misunderstood in this way, you had better examine your sermons. You had better make sure that you *are* preaching the salvation that is *really* proclaimed in the New Testament. The Gospel that is preached to the *ungodly*, the *sinner*, to those who are *dead* in trespasses and sins, and to those who are the *enemies* of God.

There is a dangerous element about the true presentation of the doctrine of salvation!

(More quotes by more preachers continued on back.)



John Bunyan on the Law

John Bunyan

(Author of *Pilgrim's Progress*)

Wherefore, whenever thou who believest in Jesus, dost hear the law in its thundering and lightning fits, as if it would burn up heaven and earth, then say thou, "I am freed from this law, these thunderings have nothing to do with my soul; nay, even, this law, while it thus thunders and roars, it doth both allow and approve of my righteousness."

I know that Hagar (see Gal. 4:21-31) would sometimes be domineering and high, even in Sarah's house, *and against her*, but Sarah would not allow Hagar to get away with this. No, though Sarah herself be barren, she cast Hagar out. Therefore, treat the law as Sarah treated Hagar, and expel her out from thy house. (Gen. 16:1-5.)

My meaning is, when this law with its thundering threatenings doth attempt to lay hold on thy conscience, shut it out with a promise of grace; cry, "The inn is took up [sic] already, the Lord Jesus is here entertained, and here is no room for the law I being now made upright without it [the law]; *I may not, will not, cannot, dare not, make it my savior and judge, nor suffer it to set up its government in my conscience*; for by so doing I fall from grace, and Christ Jesus doth profit me nothing. (Gal. 5:2)

Francis L. Patton

Former President of Princeton University

The only Hope of Christianity is in the rehabilitating of the Pauline theology. It is back, back, back, to an incarnate Christ and the atoning blood, or it is on, on, on, to atheism and despair.

Martin Luther

Glory to God Alone

When I first took over the defense of the Gospel, I remember what Doctor Staupitz said to me. "I like it well," said he, "that the doctrine which you proclaim gives glory to God alone and none to man. For never can too much glory, goodness, and mercy be ascribed unto God." These words of the worthy Doctor comforted and confirmed me. The Gospel is true because it deprives men of all glory, wisdom, and righteousness and turns over all honor to the Creator alone.

Edgar Andrews

Idolatry

SINCE the true God reveals himself only in Christ any system which does not hold Christ central to its worship and teaching is false religion or idolatry. This includes much that passes for Christianity, but which centers on man rather than Christ. Those who elevate men as dignitaries in the church; who make human 'priests' or 'saints' the intermediaries between man and God; whose prime purpose is to satisfy man's desire for 'health,

wealth and happiness'; who preach novel experiences rather than Christ; who claim that man's choice, not God's, is the final arbiter of salvation—these alike are guilty of idolatry, for they teach a false idea of God.

Horatius Bonar

About Saving Faith

With a weak faith and a fearful heart, many a sinner stands before the Lord. It is not the strength of our faith, but the perfection of Christ's sacrifice that saves! No feebleness of faith, nor dimness of eye, no trembling of hand can change the efficacy of Christ's blood. The strength of our faith can add nothing to it, nor can the weakness of our faith take anything from Him. Faith (weak or strong) still reads the promise, "The blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin." If at times my eye is so dim that I cannot read these words, through blinding tears or bewildering trials, faith rests itself on the certain knowledge of the fact that THE PROMISE IS THERE, and the blood of Christ remains in all its power and suitability upon the altar, unchanged and unaffected. God says that the believer is justified. What God hath joined together, let not man put asunder.

Unknown

Preaching the Gospel

My dear friend, we need nothing in these days for revival and refreshing but THE PREACHING OF THE GOSPEL! This is the only great battering ram that shall dash down the bulwarks of iniquity. This is the great light that shall scatter the darkness. We need no new schemes nor "isms"; we need but PREACH THE WORD! We must not neglect it nor despise it. The age in which the pulpit and the preaching of the Word are despised will be an age in which truth will cease to be honored. Once put away God's ministers and you have taken the candle out of the candlestick, quenched the lamp God has appointed in the sanctuary. God has ordained by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe. Oh, what power there is in THE PREACHED WORD!

The Only Thing That Will Last

Donald Bell

While driving through town the other day, I saw a church sign that read, "Only one life, 'twill soon be past, only what's done for Christ will last." You and I have heard this Saying for years. And it seems like a good saying. But is it really? No! It's true, "Only one life, 'twill soon be past." Our days are a shadow, a vapor that appears for a moment, then is gone. David, the sweet psalmist of Israel prayed that the Lord would make him to number his days and to know his end. But it is not "only what's done for Christ will last." No, my friends! When we get to the end of our lives, or as we get to the end of a particular day, and we look back over it, we will not gloat, or feel good about what we have "done for Christ." God's Word teaches us that it's only what Christ has done for us that will last!

Some of you received a postcard from me within the last month, saying the ministry was in financial difficulty. Thank you for your response, I am so grateful. The lights are still on, but the crisis is not over. I ask you to continue to pray for *Through the Maze*.

If you missed my December 2009 newsletter on the Emergent or Emerging Church, I have a few left. If you would like me to send on to you, write "Emerge" on the purple card and return it. The quotes in this newsletter mesh with the material in the Emergent Church newsletter.