



# The Voice of Truth

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## **Hate Every False Way**

**By Jimmy Pettigrew**

Should we be upset, disturbed, worried when we hear churches of Christ not following God's pattern? Do you hate to hear of these brethren teaching false doctrine? Does it break your heart? Do you grieve? I know of some brethren tell me NO! Jeremiah's heart was broken within him because of the false prophets. "*Mine heart within me is broken because of the prophets; all my bones shake; I am like a drunken man*" (**Jer. 23:9**). He was shocked and saddened by the corruption within the nation of Judah. His heart... is broken... all my bones shake; I am like a drunken man. Why is the prophet so deeply disturbed; why is he overcome by grief? It is because of his reverence for Jehovah, and his respect for the word of God which he hears reviled and rejected even among the priests and prophets of the land.

We as God's children should "hate every false way," **Psalms 119:104**. God hates every false way, and we can see this from **Genesis 6:3-8** and **Revelation 2:6**. It should upset, disturb and grieve us when we hear false doctrine being taught!

We are to expose error! We must be active in opposing, exposing and reproofing it (**Ephesians 5:10-11; John 3:20; Romans 16:17-18; 1 John 4:1**). Don't we have the same respect and reverence for God's word as Jeremiah? Does it not bother you to see Christ's body, the church (**Ephesians 1:22-23**), which He purchased with His own blood (**Acts 20:28**) nothing more than a denomination?

One day, brethren, we are going to stand before the judgment seat of Christ (**2 Corinthians 5:10**), and one of things Christ is going to ask is: did we oppose those who were in error? (**Jude 3**).

## **Who Get's the Glory?**

**By Brian Yeager**

Many times we see people that do work for the Lord and they expect recognition for that work to be given them. I am not saying that a "pat on the back" is a bad thing. Yet this is often times not what is found. We see a pat on the back, and the building of a monument. This is wrong. We need not to be doing things to seek glory for ourselves or for a reward on this earth. We are told that if we remain faithful in the Lord we will have our reward in Heaven. (**Revelation 2:10**) "Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life." This should be the reward that we seek. God deserves glory in those things, which we do in his name. (**Romans 11:36**) "For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things: to whom be glory for ever. Amen." (**1 Corinthians 10:31**) "Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God." (**Galatians 1:3-5**) "Grace be to you and peace from God the Father, and from our Lord Jesus Christ, Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver

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us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father: To whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.”

There are those that we have as Biblical example that did things on the outward for the appearance and glory. (**Matthew 6:1-5**) “Take heed that ye do not your alms before men, to be seen of them: otherwise ye have no reward of your Father which is in heaven. Therefore when thou doest thine alms, do not sound a trumpet before thee, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. But when thou doest alms, let not thy left hand know what thy right hand doeth: That thine alms may be in secret: and thy Father which seeth in secret himself shall reward thee openly. And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward.” Have you ever been present in a service when a man lead a 20-minute prayer and in that prayer exalted himself rather than God? It is a sad thing to see a real life Pharisee. You do know what Christ said about those Pharisee’s? (**Matthew 5:20**) “For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.”

We must remember that we can be as proud of ourselves as we would like but that does not matter if the Lord has not commended us. (**2 Corinthians 10:16-18**) “To preach the gospel in the regions beyond you, and not to boast in another man's line of things made ready to our hand. But he that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord. For not he that commendeth himself is approved, but whom the Lord commendeth.” (Emphasis added B.Y.) Please do remember that this article is not out to attack anyone’s personality but it should serve as a reminder for all of us that have a desire for acknowledgment to keep it in line with what God wants and he does not want us to be “Glory Seekers”!

Pride is deadly and it will not keep us on an upward path. (**Psalms 73:6**) “Therefore pride compasseth them about as a chain; violence covereth them as a garment.” (**Proverbs 8:13**) The fear of the Lord is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate. (**Proverbs 11:2**) “When pride cometh, then cometh shame: but with the lowly is wisdom.” (**Proverbs 29:23**) “A man's pride shall bring him low: but honour shall uphold the humble in spirit.” Above all warnings and disgust the Lord has for pride, some still let it in the way of their relationship with God. Pride is not from or ordained by God and should not be a block for stumbling in the Christian walk. Please remember that Glory is to God and not man, for we are servants of the Lord and not of our own bellies!

## The "Astounding" Doctrine of Jesus Christ

By Jonathan L. Perz

Indeed, there are no words on earth more “astonishing” as those of Jesus Christ our Lord. I found it very interesting, as I was considering Bible references to the “doctrine of Christ,” that there are at least 13 references to people being “astounded” at Christ’s doctrine and teaching.

What made this so interesting is how quick folks today dismiss, by their lack of adherence and reverence, this same doctrine. Many treat it as if it is nothing more than ‘run of the mill’ and ‘boring.’ It is given the ‘back seat’ by many preachers of God’s word to every other form of literature under the sun. Caving in to the demands of their hearers, preachers today offer fancy and humorous illustrations, heart-wrenching and tear-jerking stories, and mountains of emotional “testimonials,” while perhaps garnishing their wonderful lessons with a passage or two of the doctrine of Christ. While these other things might seem fine in and of themselves, it was not their use that “astonished” those of the first century. It was

the substance, authority and power of the doctrine of Christ (cf. **Mark 1:22; Mark 1:27; Luke 4:31-32**).

Another proclamation ringing through the land today also belittles the “astonishing” doctrine of Christ. That is, to preach more Christ and less doctrine. In an attempt to distinguish the Man and His doctrine, folks want to hear more about Christ and His role as Savior and less about Christ and His role as Lord. Folks are demanding more of those “feel-good” lessons that lack any essence of true Bible teaching. Is it not the Master Teacher we read of in the Bible “astonishing” people with His doctrine? Therefore, should we not learn from Him what constitutes faithful Gospel teaching and preaching?

Our Lord’s lessons were not humor laden, feel-good lessons that tickled the ears of those who heard them. They were lessons that taught people how to live godly lives (The Sermon on the Mount—**Matthew 5-7**). They were lessons that taught and explained the divine will of God (**Matthew 22:33**). Some of His lessons warned of the leaven of the Pharisees—that is, their soul-condemning doctrines (**Mark 17:6-12**). Some of His lessons stung the ears—pricking, and in some cases, hardening the hearts of those who heard them. However, even when accompanied with strong rebuke, His doctrine was considered astounding (i.e., when Jesus cast the money changers from the temple—**Mark 11:15-19**).

Thus, in light of such example, anyone and everyone who would break the bread of life (His Word—**John 6:35**) and impart it unto a listener had better take heed not to blaspheme the good doctrine of Jesus Christ in word or in deed (**1 Timothy 4:6, 16; 1 Timothy 4:16; 1 Timothy 6:1**). Little do we realize, to defame the doctrine of Christ is to defame God, for Jesus told us that it is not His doctrine, but God’s (**John 7:16**).

Preachers: take heed to the doctrine—preach it openly and boldly! “Reprove, rebuke and exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine” (**2 Timothy 4:2-3**). Preach it when folks like it and when folks don’t! Make the substance and meat of your lessons the doctrine of Christ and when appropriate, garnish with the other things!

Hearers: command the sincere milk of God’s word (**1 Peter 2:2**). Accept no substitutes for the rock-solid preaching of truth. Demand sound doctrine, which cannot be condemned—which is “according to the glorious Gospel of Jesus Christ” (**1 Timothy 1:10-11**). Ask not that your “ears be tickled;” rather, demand that your hearts be convicted!

### Who Is The Troublemaker In The Church?

It is the one who **CONFORMS** to false doctrine, **NOT** the one who **CEASES** from it (**Rom. 12:1-2; Gal. 5:19-23**).

It is the one who **COMMENDS** false doctrine, **NOT** the one who **CONDEMNNS** it (**Eph. 6:10-17**).

It is the one who **CONDONES** false doctrine, **NOT** the one who **CRIES OUT** against it (**Acts 20:27-31**).

It is the one who **COVERS UP** false doctrine, **NOT** the one who **CORRECTS** it (**2 Tim. 4:24**).

It is the one who **COMPLIMENTS** false teaching, **NOT** the one who **CENSURES** it (**Tit. 1:9-11**).

It is the one who **CHEERS** false teachers, **NOT** the one who **CHECKS OUT** false teachers (**1 Jno. 4:1**).

It is the one who **CHOOSES** to set at the feet of false teachers, **NOT** the one who **CALLS** the names of false teachers (**2 Tim. 2:17-18**).

It is the one who **COMFORTS** the false teacher, **NOT** the one who **CAUTIONS** others about the false teachers (**Matt. 7:15**).

It is the one who **CALLS** the false teacher sound, **NOT** the one who **CALLS** upon the false teacher to speak whereof he stands (**1 Pet. 3:15**).

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### What People Out Of Christ Do Not Have

The Bible repeatedly emphasizes the importance of being in Christ,

1. Outside of Christ there are no children of God (**Gal. 3:26-27**).
2. Outside of Christ there is no redemption (**Eph. 1:7**).
3. Outside of Christ there is no forgiveness (**Col. 1:13-14**).
4. Outside of Christ there is no eternal life (**1 Jno. 5:11-13**).
5. Outside of Christ there is no acceptable fruit-bearing (**Jno. 15:1-8**).
6. Outside of Christ there is no grace (**2 Tim. 2:1**).
7. Outside of Christ there is no new life (**Rom. 6:1-4; 2 Cor. 5:17**).
8. Outside of Christ there is no freedom from condemnation (**Rom. 8:1**).
9. Outside of Christ there is no preparation for death (**Rev. 14:13; 1 Thess. 4:13-18**).
10. Outside of Christ there is no completeness (**Col. 2:10**).
11. Outside of Christ there is no salvation (**Acts 4:12; 2 Tim. 2:10**).
12. Outside of Christ there is no light (**Eph. 5:8**).

God has *blessed us with all spiritual blessings* in Christ (**Eph. 1:3**). Baptism is the only scriptural way to enter Christ (**Gal. 3:27; Rom. 6:3-4**).

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### What Must I Do To Be Saved?

**Hear and Learn** - **Rom. 10:17 m. 10:9-10 ; 1 Pet. 3:21 ; John 6:45; 17:3**

**Believe** - **Heb. 11:6; John 6:29; 8:24**

**Repent** - **Luke 13:3; Acts 3:19; 17:30**

**Confess the Lord** - **Matt. 10:32-33; Romans 10:9-10; 1 Pet. 3:21**

**Be Baptized** - **Mark 16:16; Acts 22:16; Gal. 3:26-27**

**Continue in the Apostles' Teaching** - **Acts 2:42; 2 Tim. 3:14-17**