

"Teacheth Thou Not Thyself?"

(For Preachers)

As most of you know, Brother Olen Holderby is my Father in the Faith, that is he took time to teach me the Gospel of Christ, and "How to be a Christian". At first I wasn't too excited about my new found friend, as he would take me here and there (Gospel Meetings, Home Studies and etc.) He made me work, thank God. Not just from lessons from the pulpit, but by example of not only being a Preacher of the Gospel, but actually living as a Christian. You see, Olen never forgot that before he started preaching he was a Christian. As he worked with Elders, and Deacons, he stressed the fact that some may be qualified to be an Elder, Deacon, or Preacher, they were still a Christian and were to conduct themselves as such. This short article that he wrote for the Guardian of Truth on September 21, 1995 shows the character of my beloved Brother.

"In stead of preaching in the "usual" fashion, I recently stood before an audience and quoted Scripture for some forty-five minutes, having arranged the Scripture so as to produce one continuous thought, with the appropriate facts and commands. This was not the first time that I had done this; most gospel preachers have probably done the same thing. Following this particular lesson, as might be expected, I received many comments and compliments.

The first time that I did this, many years ago, I felt rather proud of myself. The second time, some of the "shine" was not there. Now, this last time I was really trying to teach some lessons. Not that I wasn't trying to teach lessons the previous times; but, emphasis simply came through differently.

Then I began to think about this. I remembered that Paul had said for me to examine my self (2Cor.13:5- Try your own selves, whether ye are in the faith; prove your own selves. Or know ye not as to your own selves, that Jesus Christ is in you? unless indeed ye be reprobate.). What was so great about quoting Scripture? The Devil did that (Matt.4:1:11-Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. 2 And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he afterward hungered. 3 And the tempter came and said unto him, If thou art the Son of God, command that these stones become bread. 4 But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. 5 Then the devil taketh

him into the holy city; and he set him on the pinnacle of the temple, 6 and saith unto him, If thou art the Son of God, cast thyself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning thee: and, On their hands they shall bear thee up, lest haply thou dash thy foot against a stone. 7 Jesus said unto him, Again it is written, Thou shalt not make trial of the Lord thy God. 8 Again, the devil taketh him unto an exceeding high mountain, and showeth him all the kingdoms of the world, and the glory of them; 9 and he said unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me. 10 Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve. 11 Then the devil leaveth him; and behold, angels came and ministered unto him.). Maybe the difference was to be found in believing those Scriptures. However, I remember, the devils also believe (Jam. 2:19-Thou believes that God is one; thou doest well: the demons also believe, and shudder.). What makes me any better than the devils? Surely there is a difference! After some moments of meditation, I think I came up with the right answer; and the process was not to long. God gave the Scripture, all Scripture (2Tim.2:3:16-6 Every scripture inspired of God [is] also profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for instruction which is in righteousness.); the devil(s) and his messengers believe them and quote them (2Cor.11:14-15- And no marvel; for even Satan fashioneth himself into an angel of light. 15 It is no great thing therefore if his ministers also fashion themselves as ministers of righteousness, whose end shall be according to their works.). These Scriptures were given to his "holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit," and they wrote them down (Eph.3:1-5- For this cause I Paul, the prisoner of Christ Jesus in behalf of you Gentiles, 2 if so be that ye have heard of the dispensation of that grace of God which was given me to you-ward; 3 how that by revelation was made known unto me the mystery, as I wrote before in few words, 4 whereby, when ye read, ye can perceive my understanding in the mystery of Christ; 5 which in other generation was not made known unto the sons of men, as it hath now been revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets in the Spirit;). Now, I am trying to obey the instructions of those Scriptures, and that is the real difference. I may quote Scripture, along with the devil, all the way to hell. If this is not to be my lot, I need to remember that God expects me to obey those Scriptures (Eph. 5:6-Let no man deceive you with empty words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the sons of disobedience.; Heb.5:9- and having been made perfect, he became unto all them that obey him the author of eternal salvation;). I may be a preacher of the gospel, but God does not show respect of persons (Rom.2:11- for there is no respect of persons with God.; Acts 10:34-35- And Peter opened his mouth and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no

respector of persons: 35 but in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is acceptable to him.) As a preacher God expects me to be a good example to all believers (1Tim.4:12-Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an ensample to them that believe, in word, in manner of life, in love, in faith, in purity.). This thought, my friend, is not only awesome, but can be quite humbling!"

We must keep in memory that even the majority of the good Kings of Judah drifted from God's Way. Brethren, we need to remember that preachers are Christians, that they need the support of the brethren. The Devil has targeted them as leaders of truth. If the Devil can sway them they can sway them that hear them! Pray for Gospel Preachers Continually and your other Brethren daily.