

PARK HEIGHTS CHURCH OF CHRIST

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Thus Saith the Lord

TELLING THE TRUTH

By Jeff Sweeten

Religious truth seems difficult to establish these days. I suspect the reason it is less popular than it ought to be is because of the repercussions of telling the pure truth. You see, if the the Divine message contradicts what one wants to do, or what one has always done, or a point of tradition that was "good enough for grandma, so it's good enough for me," then the gloves must come off! Truth-telling can be a messy business and, of course, this is nothing new. From the harbingers of truth in the Old Testament and on into the New Testament, persecution was the popular response to an unpopular truth. It is certainly the case that, when a rebellious soul cannot give a logical, Bible answer for some religious proclivity, a ready recourse is to sling mud or, worse, stone the messenger.

Such was the case for Elijah, who certainly felt like he was the only one left standing for God's truth (1 Kings 19:9-18). Haters cast Jeremiah into a miry dungeon (Jeremiah 38:6) and gave dirty looks and dirty words to Ezekiel (Ezekiel 2:6). John was beheaded (Matthew 14:10), Jesus was crucified (Mark 15:25), Stephen was stoned (Acts 7:59) and the Apostles and evangelists threatened, beaten and martyred (Acts 4:21; 5:40; 12:2; 16:23).

It is curious to me that, in most cases and with but few exceptions, the source of such sore persecution against those preaching and teaching the truth came from none other than the people who publicly and piously claimed to being followers of God. With only a few exceptions, the religious people of the day feigning fealty to God, were actually the most egregious perpetrators of hatred.

It seems things haven't changed much. The religious world is full of divisions and petty differences, and when the prospect of a unity based truth is introduced, the bristles arise, particularly when a "book, chapter, verse" fails to surface in defense of pet practices or doctrines. Why is the response not to sit down, calmly and civilly, and sort it out using the Word of God that everyone claims to be following?

Oh no! Those who profess so profusely the love of God mutate into children of Satan, dealing misery and malice in bucketloads upon anyone who dares question their tradition.

Yes, telling the truth has a price.

JOIN US ON SUNDAY AND WEDNESDAY!

SUNDAY: 9:30 a.m. Bible Study • 10:25 a.m. Morning Worship • 1:30 p.m. Bible Study

WEDNESDAY: 7:00 p.m. Bible Study • Contact the minister at 254-370-4130