

## THE EVANGELIST PERSPECTIVE OF TODAY'S LOCAL CHURCH

Seeing Truth Ministries

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### I. PROBLEM IN THE LOCAL CHURCH – Judges 19 – 21

Jesus established the local independent Baptist church with total autonomy. Self-governed by the Word of God through the leadership of the Holy Spirit in the man of God, the shepherd, bishop and pastor of the congregation. But because of culture, worldly influences, church and bible college loyalties and a lack personal godliness we see opinion and personal bias (Inclined for a right line: warped; prejudiced) dictating the doctrine and standard of the church. (Honest evaluation of our personal life and ministry)

A. A LACK OF \_\_\_\_\_ – *Judges 19:1; 21:25 . "And it came to pass in those days, when there was no king in Israel,..." Judges 19:1 Judges 21:25 (KJV) 25 In those days [there was] no king in Israel: every man did [that which was] right in his own eyes."*

1. They refused or was ignorant to recognize God's leadership over them. Obedience and adherence to the scriptures instead of personal opinion or prejudice must be the first order of business in us being honest before God and to ourselves.
2. Doctrine or standards that do not produce relationship holiness, humility and fruit that remains. Any doctrine that does not produce holiness is wrong or out of balance.

B. LABOR THAT PRODUCES LITTLE IF ANY FRUIT THAT REMAINS – *"there was a certain Levite" ... "Judges 19:1*

1. The Levite was a purchased priest in Judges 17. Micah's Levite, thought biased, untaught, ignorant and idolatrous was still Active in his position.
2. The Levite was the line of priests, those who led and mediated between God and men. Hebrews speaks of our responsibility of being of a "royal priesthood." This priest was in a \_\_\_\_\_ position. We do not see any personal active action until sin finally beats on his door and destroys his pride and shakes his life to respond.
  - a. \_\_\_\_\_ is active for personal obedience and example
  - b. \_\_\_\_\_ is active and is lacking from the children through adults in most local churches.
  - c. \_\_\_\_\_ is active and is not taught or practiced in the home, individual membership (aged to youth) and in the leadership of the church. Our investment of time and talents is often in the takers not the givers. Our classes and pulpits should be where we counsel God's people.

C. A HIGH TOLERANCE OF \_\_\_\_\_. *"And his concubine played the whore,..." Judges 19:2* There was no personal accountability by her own conscience, the father did not rebuke her for her sin, the community did not judge her for her sin. The consequences of her sin produced the circumstances that caused the loss

of nearly 70,000 lives and division among the children of Israel. (Today we are overwhelmed with the fruit of tolerating sin in our homes and churches.)

- II. \_\_\_\_\_ IN THE LOCAL CHURCH - Biblical passion instead of worldly emotionalism. *"They zealously affect you, but not well: yea, they would exclude you, that ye might affect them. But it is good to be zealously affected always in a good thing, and not only when I am present with you."* Gal. 4:17, 18
- A. Biblical passion affects in a good way.
  - B. Biblical passion is contagious.
  - C. Biblical passion last beyond the meeting or service.
  - D. Biblical passion begins with leadership - Passion must be grounded on right principles, be directed to right ends, and be zealous of the things of God.

- III. \_\_\_\_\_ - Personal daily fellowship with the Lord produces a spring of zeal and fervent desire to please Him in all we put our hands to accomplish. This spring of spiritual water flows from a passionate believer, convicts the unbeliever, converts the backslidden believer, and encourages the fellow believer. The source of God's passion is to know God, His creation, and His will. Love between the servant and Savior is cultivated through time spent in ardent prayer and meditation on His Word.

#### IV. BIBLICAL CONSEQUENCES OF A PRAYER AND PASSION-FILLED LIFE

- A. \_\_\_\_\_ – This is a method of teaching by example. You must be absorbed in His will so as to portray Him in your testimony, talents, and time. Your energy for the Lord should be revealed in your prayer time, singing, teaching, visuals and personal concern for your class. Remember teaching is not what you do, it is who you are. 2Kings 10:16 *"And he said, Come with me, and see my zeal for the LORD. So they made him ride in his chariot."*
- B. \_\_\_\_\_ – The resolve seen in the Savior identifies the level of determination necessary to endure to and through the death, burial and resurrection. The passion-filled worker will display the same resolve in his/her life that will not only be apparent to others but will result in that teacher being guiltless of the blood of all men.
- Isa. 59:17, *"For he put on righteousness as a breastplate, and an helmet of salvation upon his head; and he put on the garments of vengeance for clothing, and was clad with zeal as a cloke."* (*"even the death of the cross."* John 2:13 – 17) (2Cor. 7:10, 11) *"For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death. For behold this selfsame thing, that ye sorrowed after a godly sort, what carefulness it wrought in you, yea, what clearing of yourselves, yea, what indignation, yea, what fear, yea, what vehement desire, yea, what zeal, yea, what revenge! In all things ye have approved yourselves to be clear in this matter."*

C. \_\_\_\_\_ – There is a price to pay for a passionate life. The very word means to suffer. Samuel Rutherford was quoted “My dear brother, let God make of you what He will, He will end all with consolation, and shall make glory out of your suffering.” The dedicated life requires the price of suffering but payment from the Lord is glory in being in His likeness. (Col. 4:12, 13) “Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ, saluteth you, always laboring fervently for you in prayers, that ye may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God. For I bear him record, that he hath a great zeal for you, and them that are in Laodicea, and them in Hierapolis.”

Dedication is a process that leads to Christlikeness and bears the fruit of a zealous and passionate life. The consequences are a battery of talents that God can use through you to bring others to Him. The steps to a dedicated life are:

1. Vision
2. Desire
3. Power
4. Preparation
5. Practice
6. Patience

A passionate life will allow you to see life change in your students and congregation. Knowing the Word of God and being a student of prayer is the only thing that will equip you to stand perfect and complete before your audience. Decide now that you will settle for nothing less than you're very best in preparing for your class and do it because you love Him because He first loved you. Your reward will be life change for your students and eternal blessings, earthly purpose.

## V. PROGRAM

A. Self-evaluation - the balance of your service (personal relationship and devotional time, family time and family spiritual health, ministry evaluation) Is your workers passionate, punctual, producing Christians? Is people getting saved? Are they being disciples, are they producing fruit. It's important to develop a program that works for your church. Biblical principles and doctrine are constant, your location, culture and history determine your action as far as soul winning discipleship and edification.