

DAUBING WITH UNTEMPERED MORTAR

Ezekiel, the country prophet in captivity, had to contend with the false teachers in his day. He wrote concerning the false prophets of Israel, “And the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, Son of man, prophesy against the prophets of Israel that prophesy, and say thou unto them that prophesy out of their own hearts, Hear ye the word of the LORD; Thus saith the Lord GOD; Woe unto the foolish prophets, that follow their own spirit, and have seen nothing! O Israel, thy prophets are like the foxes in the deserts. Ye have not gone up into the gaps, neither made up the hedge for the house of Israel to stand in the battle in the day of the LORD.” (Ezek. 13:1-5). The false prophets were prophesying out of their own hearts (13:2). They had seen nothing and were guilty of lying divination, saying “The Lord saith:” but the Lord had not sent them (13:6).

The Lord through Ezekiel described the false prophets as those who would daub a wall with untempered mortar:

“One built up a wall, and, lo, others daubed it with untempered mortar: Say unto them which daub it with untempered mortar, that it shall fall: there shall be an overflowing shower; and ye, O great hailstones, shall fall; and a stormy wind shall rend it. Lo, when the wall is fallen, shall it not be said unto you, Where is the daubing wherewith ye have daubed it? Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; I will even rend it with a stormy wind in my fury; and there shall be an overflowing shower in mine anger, and great hailstones in my fury to consume it. So will I break down the wall that ye have daubed with untempered mortar, and bring it down to the ground, so that the foundation thereof shall be discovered, and it shall fall, and ye shall be consumed in the midst thereof: and ye shall know that I am the LORD. Thus will I accomplish my wrath upon the wall, and upon them that have daubed it with untempered mortar, and will say unto you, The wall is no more, neither they that daubed it; To wit, the prophets of Israel which prophesy concerning Jerusalem, and which see visions of peace for her, and there is no peace, saith the Lord GOD.” (Ezekiel 13:10-16).

To “daub” means to cover, coat or plaster with any substance. “Untempered” means “unmixed (in proper proportion).” In order for concrete to be strong, there must be the right amount of cement mixed with the water. If too much water is used, the concrete will be weak. The false prophets, in a figurative sense, were using concrete that had too much water and not enough cement. Some translations say “whitewash.” They were “covering up” the truth.

The Lord promised to send an overflowing shower, great hailstones, and a stormy wind. Then when the wall is failing the question will be raised, “Where is the daubing wherewith ye have daubed it?” In other words, when Jerusalem is completely destroyed, then the question will be: Where are those prophecies that said there would be peace?

The false prophets in Jeremiah’s and Ezekiel’s day held out a false hope to God’s people. The Weeping Prophet had been warning Judah that Nebuchadnezzar’s army was coming against Jerusalem and that God’s people were going to go into captivity for seventy long years. But the false prophets would accuse Jeremiah of being the false prophet and say that if Judah went into captivity at all, it would be only for a couple of years then they would return (Jer. 28:1-4).

In principle, we have the same problem today. False teachers who say the Lord says when the Lord has not said. They comfort others with a false hope; however, the comfort they extend will be short-lived, and people’s hope will be dashed. Then the question will be raised, “Where is the daubing wherewith ye have daubed it?” What are some examples of the untempered mortar used by false teachers today? What are some statements made by them that hold out a false hope to others? Let me list a few.

It is untempered mortar to say that one translation of the Bible is as good as another. Those who make such statements may be demonstrating their ignorance or their lack of concern for truth. Those who would place the New International Version on a par with or above the King James Version make an egregious error. When it is pointed out that the NIV teaches that one is born in sin (Psa. 51:50), the retort is sometimes made, “Well, the KJV also teaches Calvinism.” That response is false. One would have to misinterpret the KJV on certain passages to teach Calvinism, but a correct interpretation of the rendering of Psalm 51:5 from the NIV would teach that one is born a sinner.

If a preacher says, “I would not preach against the NIV,” my question would be, “Would he preach against Calvinism?” If so, why would he not preach against a book that teaches it? Would the same preacher point out to an individual who has come out of the Jehovah’s Witnesses that the New World Translation is not a reliable Bible? If so, why would the same preacher not point out the errors of the NIV? If someone says, “Elders should not dictate what Bible a preacher uses in the pulpit or classroom,” my response would be: Should they allow a man who came out of the Catholic Church to get up and preach a sermon from his Catholic Bible, The New American

Bible? Or what about a man’s preaching from Jehovah’s Witnesses’ New World Translation? If someone advocates no restrictions on what is used in services of the church, then no holds are barred. New converts, as well as others, need to be taught to use a reliable Bible, not to whitewash the truth.

To say that one church is as good as another is to daub with untempered mortar. Jesus built only one church (Matt. 16:18). He died for only one church (Acts 20:28). He is the head of only one church (Eph. 1:22-23). Such untempered mortar is to hold out a false hope which will be dashed when the overflowing showers, hail and stormy wind come. To be a part of a church which one cannot find in the Bible is to build upon a weak foundation. Paul wrote, “For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.” (I Cor. 3:11).

When one teaches that baptism is not essential to salvation, one is daubing with untempered mortar. It is covering up the truth. Jesus plainly said, “He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.” (Mark 16:16). Note the order: Belief + Baptism = Salvation. It is not: Belief = Salvation + Baptism. A child can understand that. If a general in the army said, “If you take that hill and knock out the enemy you will be victorious,” all faithful soldiers under his command would recognize that taking the hill and knocking out the enemy would mean victory. So, why is it the case that many will not obey the Captain of our salvation?

It is untempered mortar to reason that it is not necessary to assemble with the saints on the Lord’s day. The writer of Hebrews teaches that to forsake the assembly of the saints is to be guilty of willful sin:

“And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching. For if we sin wilfully after that we have received the knowledge of the truth, there remaineth no more sacrifice for sins, But a certain fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation, which shall devour the adversaries” (Heb. 10:24-27).

Let us be watchful of the daubing with untempered mortar.

Ben F. Vick, Jr. from *The Informer*

BIRTHDAY

Linda Thomas, 12-02; Bob Adams, 12-06.

ILL

Sunday: Steve Brown; John Cody Carter (AM).

Wednesday: Taylor Nemechek.

Lindsey Brown will have an outpatient procedure on December 5. Allen Scott is recovering at home. Bob Adams is having some difficulties. He will have an outpatient procedure when he is feeling better.

Those battling cancer: Jamal Abyad, David Cole, Ledgia Campbell and Betty James. Please remember these in your prayers, as well as: Millie Robertson, Allen Scott, and Ralph and Helen Franklin.

HOME BOUND

Bob Adams resides at Room D-4 of the Johnson County Nursing Center in Olathe. Marion Stone is at home. Please remember these in your prayers and visitation.

OUT OF TOWN

Several were out of town over the Thanksgiving weekend: Melissa Cole, Chris Edwards, Debra Gragg, the Nemecheks and the Thrashers.

POT LUCK DINNER

Our monthly Pot Luck Dinner will be held this Sunday, December 2 following our AM worship. All are invited to come and enjoy the good food and company.

MEN'S BUSINESS MEETING

Our monthly Men's Business Meeting will be held next Sunday, December 9 following our AM worship.

GOSPEL MEETING

Chuck Northrop will be at Chipman Road in Lee's Summit, MO, December 2-5. See the flyer in the foyer.

ATTENDANCE

Sunday AM, 41; Sunday PM, 27; Wednesday PM, 35.

Those To Serve

December 2, 2007

BUILDING AND COMMUNION..... Brown

MORNING WORSHIP

ANNOUNCEMENTS..... Trent Thrasher

SONG LEADER..... Joel Nelson

OPENING PRAYER Jared Nelson

PRESIDE..... Jeff Nemechek

ASSIST..... John Cody Carter

ASSIST..... John James

CLOSING PRAYER..... George Thomas

EVENING WORSHIP

OPENING PRAYER John Dodson

CLOSING PRAYER..... Chris Edwards

LORD'S SUPPER..... Jeff Nemechek

WEDNESDAY 5th

SONG LEADER..... Jared Nelson

INVITATION John Cody Carter

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday

Bible Study 9:30 AM

Morning Worship 10:30 AM

Evening Worship 6:00 PM

Wednesday

Ladies Bible Study 10:00 AM

Bible Study 7:00 PM

Preacher: Ted J. Thrasher

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