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PEARLS MAKE SWINE ANGRY

THE LESSON PREACHERS REFUSE TO LEARN

It did not begin with the arrival of the printing press, but that wondrous ability to multiply one's words certainly gave it great impetus. The arrival of reusable, moveable type brought the capability for a preacher acting the fool to increase and to amplify dramatically instantly the results of his action. Moreover, what might have been merely a transitory episode, easily forgotten having been said and thus heard but once and then by only a few, now took on a permanency of existence that perpetuated the foolishness before multitudes who never personally heard the preacher. But, the 'improvement' did not end with the Gutenberg press; it is growing every day.

For generations, the capability for a particular preacher to make a fool of himself was limited to the extent of his personal reach in communication (speaking to individuals and assemblies or handwriting letters). Any notice of his foolishness by others was capable of being spread only by the words of their mouths or their personal letters. The extent of the knowledge of his misadventures was confined, therefore, largely to his local community and within the memory of his generation. The record of his foolishness generally died with him. It was only what he could say with his mouth, write with his hands, or do with his life that would negatively reflect on his testimony or adversely affect the ministry of other preachers. I do not seek to imply that this ability was inconsequential, but it was limited in its effect.

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Matthew 13:12 For whosoever hath, to him shall be given, and he shall have more abundance: but whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken away even that he hath. 13 Therefore speak I to them in parables: because they seeing see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand. 14 And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Esaias, which saith, By hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and shall not perceive: 15 For this people's heart is waxed gross, and *their* ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with *their* eyes and hear with *their* ears, and should understand with *their* heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them.

That truth might seem unpalatable to some, but that it is the teaching of Scripture cannot be denied. Until a person responds to the light given, all else will be darkness.

It is not the intent—it is not the purpose—it is not the will of God for every Bible truth to be “broadcast” to the entire listening world. Some teachings of Scripture were not to be given to the unbelieving mob so that the truth might not be played with and twisted beyond recognition.

Matthew 7:6 Give not that which is holy unto the dogs, neither cast ye your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn again and rend you.

When the “pearls” are fed to the hogs, the swine trample right over the “pearls” to attack the one who feeds them. The attack is so vicious as to result in “a shattering to minute fragments.” PEARLS ALWAYS MAKE SWINE ANGRY, NEVER HUNGRY.

Pastor Jerald Manley



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Of the undoubted thousands of preachers (both wise and foolish) who lived between the days of the apostles and the fifteenth century, we know the identity of a mere ‘handful.’ From the mid 1400’s and forward our knowledge of individual clergymen (again, both wise and foolish) abruptly begins to grow. Each century provides more names than the previous. This change flows directly from the invention/development of the printing press. The inventive genius of Guttenberg enabled the words and deeds of a given preacher, whether wise or foolish, to be transmitted widely and with a continuing result, even perpetuated into future generations. Printing with hand carved wooden type (making no two examples of the same letter exactly alike in style, shape, or size) tediously set (letter by letter for each word) for each page was still extremely labor intensive. No printer had sufficient type to leave a page permanently ‘set-up’ forcing the work accomplished for one page to be disassembled to prepare another page. Each page was individually inserted into the press, forced against the type, removed from the press, and then stacked awaiting the preparation of the type for the reverse side. These hindrances made the effort costly, but the advantage over the medieval scribal rooms was near miraculous in its scope. The physical barrier to spreading foolishness and error was broken with the arrival of the press.

When after four hundred years of little growth in technology, the industrial revolution of the early 1800’s produced rapid innovation (first, presses that were steam powered and used both metal type and continuous rolls of paper,) the production cost dropped so dramatically and so quickly that newspapers were able to make profits with “penny papers.” Rapidly the economic hindrance to prevent foolishness from mass distribution disappeared. Nearly every preacher could now propagate his individual views with unbridled liberty.

Thus for these six centuries the capacity to spread such folly was aided, while also limited, by the increasing skill of type-setters, the development of techniques to speed the printing operation, and the improvement of distribution

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methods. However, the inventive mind of humanity seems to have taken a quantum leap in the twentieth century. With the invention of radio, the unwise preacher could scatter his silliness before an even greater audience. What was previously confined to local situations or restricted to printed materials reached instantly beyond local physical constraints, even beyond national borders. "Goat-gland Brinkley" was only the first preacher to realize the importance of broadcasting his message by 'radio waves.' Bold, brash, even brazen, he was a charismatic combination of the camp-meeting preacher and the snake-oil salesman. Preaching fiery religion mixed with fierce patriotism, and proclaiming homeopathic cures for all ailments, he quickly outgrew his native Kansas and, with the 'encouragement' of governmental pressure, he went international, building the most powerful radio station in the world, located "just south of the border, down Mexico way." The man was a visionary, generations beyond his time, and a prophecy of things to come. One only wonders what 'Goat-gland' would have done when science and industry combined to send a picture with the words. It would not have taken him from the 1950's to the 1970 to produce televangelism. Based on his radio record, he would easily have out produced Baker, Falwell, Swaggert, Trinity, and all the rest. This is not to minimize the foolishness produced by the assortment of television preachers broadcasting in the 1970-1980's when televangelism was at its peak. Nor do these overshadow the abundance of gross error and flippant silliness on "Christian' television continuing today where, instead of a program of error and foolishness, entire channels are devoted to the dissemination of the drivel of clowns and the doctrine of devils. The arrival of television multiplied the possibilities of preachers to look silly. Preachers, with much (alleged) zeal and no common sense or biblical knowledge, have brought the Gospel (at least their individual versions of it) before millions in such a manner as to obscure the genuine Gospel of God's grace and, because they use the name "Christian," they confuse the masses with "another Jesus," "another spirit," and "another gospel"

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the teeth of believers. It makes it very difficult for any proper use of John 3:16 in witnessing. John 3:16 has been reduced from eternal truth to a religious slogan. Unbelievers do not see anything from a spiritual view.

The Lord Jesus taught in parables for a specific reason, and that reason was not to illustrate truth so as to make it simpler for the masses to understand. Preacher, pay attention to this truth. It is not what you have heard proclaimed in seminars on preaching or read in books of illustrations. *Parables were not used so that difficult truths could be made simple.* "Bible studies" based on the "modern parables taken from Andy Griffith's *Mayberry* and the *Beverly Hillbillies* are not tools of the wise preacher. This generation of preachers should go back and read "The Gospel Blimp." Borrowing the tactics of the sinful world to proclaim holy truth is foolish. There is a vast difference between the work of the Holy Spirit and the slick, manipulative, conniving of Madison Avenue. The compulsion to produce alterations (translation work seems to be a lost art) of the scriptures so that "the eternal word is made contemporary" flows from this same misconception. (If it is eternal, it could not be made contemporary by definition of eternal and contemporary—they are mutually exclusive.) The Lord Jesus Christ did not use parables as illustrations simplifying truth. He did not attempt to make the eternal to be contemporaneous.

Luke 8:10 And he said, Unto you it is given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God: but to others in parables; that seeing they might not see, and hearing they might not understand.

Parables were used to keep the mysteries of God remaining as mysteries to the unbelieving heart—so "they might not see" and so "they might not understand." The righteousness of God is "revealed from faith to faith." To those who receive the truth, additional truth is given. Truth neglected remains truth, but unused and thus ineffective. To those who respond to the light, more light is given. From those that reject the light, even that light shall be taken away.

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viewable at nearly every televised major sporting event did so with an earnest desire to serve God and to draw the lost to salvation. It may (eternity alone will reveal) even have done so. It was an expensive task requiring great expenditure of energy as well. However, as any observer of sports events or sports related attire could attest, every slimy character of sports or entertainment fame now has his/her own "3:16." One meets the blasphemy on t-shirts and bumper stickers everyday.

Holding up a sign with "JOHN 3:16" printed in bold type is not the scriptural equivalent of sowing the seed. No farmer ever deliberately sowed seed among the briars or on the rocks. Farmers intend to spread the seed only on good ground, even while making allowance that some seed would be overspread on the pathway or in the fencerows. Feeding birds is not the occupation of the grain farmer. No harvester ever devotes his efforts to the hedgerows. Anything that grows there is extra. Additionally, every sane farmer always prepares the ground for the seed before he begins broadcasting the seeds. To do otherwise is to invite famine.

"JOHN 3:16" painted on a boulder along a mountain road in West Virginia or Kentucky in the 1930-1950 era was seed sown, because the majority of the folks using the highway lived in a Bible-conscious society. They respected the Bible as the word of God and most had some concept of what John 3:16 actually said. That is no longer true in America—not even in the "Bible Belt." We are not a nation with rudimentary knowledge of the content of John 3:16 or of its import. "JOHN 3:16" waved at the Super Bowl is not observed by a Bible-conscious society in 2001. The banner is waved before a Bible-hating society. It is seen by unbelievers who have zero knowledge of the message and the urgency of John 3:16. "JOHN 3:16" posted on the sidelines of a sporting event today produces a snide remark or a sly smile, but it does not produce conviction. It is offensive, not because it is the word of God bringing conviction, but because it is seen as religious intrusion. Therefore, it is mocked—the truth is cast back into

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thus making the true Gospel appear to be as 'kooky' as they are.

In the latter part of the last century, printing presses, their descendents of mass communication—copiers, duplicators, etc., radio and its video mate television, combined with audio cassettes and video tape giving nuts, idiots, frauds, charlatans, fools, deviants, and devils a presence in nearly every American home. However, it is only now, at the advent of the twenty-first century that the capability of preachers to become world-renown fools is completely unfettered. I do not know who actually invented it, but 'The World Wide Web' is the closest approach to omnipresence and omniscience ever conceived and developed by humanity. Every Twenty-first Century preacher has the ability, thanks to the unrestrained imagination of Adam's fallen race, to utilize modems and satellites to expose his foolishness before the whole world.

Humanity is corrupted in heart and depraved in mind. When the LORD declared, "that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually," He was not addressing a problem that disappeared when that generation perished in the Flood. The Flood was not ancient history when the descendents of the faithful survivor, Noah, congregated and constructed a religion to unite the race so humanity could become its own master. (And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth.) When they did so, the LORD again intervened, "the LORD said, Behold, the people is one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do. Go to, let us go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another's speech." The division of language, for these intervening centuries, prevented humanity from uniting into one conglomerate and actually accomplishing every imagination of their collective evil hearts.

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No invention or combination of inventions of mankind ever had the actual capability to totally unify the human race—*until now*. The computer speaks a truly universal language and the Internet unites (not in theory but in capability) every tongue and every mind. It is no accident that the major producer of revenue via the Internet is not legitimate commerce, but is pornography. Nor is it incidental that the chief income from the satellite industry is also wickedness, lust, and greed. Depraved humanity designed the tools to accomplish the imaginations of their hearts. Depraved hearts produce depravity.

However, the thrust of this article is not the wickedness disseminated via the Internet or of satellites. The focus is not even on the heresy and error that is so familiar to anyone who walks by a newsstand, enters a bookstore, or who has a radio, television or computer. Doctrinal deviation is more rampant than is pornography. An alert student of doctrine will easily detect on the front pages of every issue of a major newspaper serious attempts at the propagation of humanistic, evolutionary, paganistic, cultic, or new age doctrine. In addition, on the same front page will likely be an attack upon biblical truth.

However, this article does not have that aspect of the use of printing, radio and television, or the WEB in view. I have a narrow target in my scope. I am aiming at a foolishness of good, sound, sincere, blood-bought, born-again, Baptist preachers. I do not minimize the presence and the attendant danger of heresy and perverted doctrine. Both are most real. However, there is an even greater jeopardy in the foolishness of some of those who are most sound in doctrine. Their foolishness in this particular regard nearly destroys the ability to communicate truth. They are, perhaps unwittingly, guilty of a most serious violation of Scripture. While perhaps having good motive and intent, they foolishly place the “meat” of Scripture (Hebrews 5:14), “the deep things of God” (1 Corinthians 2:10), before the unbelieving appetites of a world that has trouble swallowing “the sincere milk of the word” without

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foolish for preachers to expose the precious “pearls” and “that which is holy” to unbelievers. The result is that the swine “turn again and rend” the believer doing the feeding, and any other believer in sight. Brother Strong gives “a shattering to minute fragments” as a definition for “rend.” One might equate that with the expression “tearing to bits” or “smashing to smithereens.” The exposure to the unbelieving world of the precious “pearls” and the “that which is holy” of Christianity results in the world using those very truths against believers.

The presence of so many “effective tools” in our contemporary world has resulted in *more* preachers using *more* means to be *more* foolish before *more* people. Additionally, for the first time in human history, the Internet provides unlimited, unrestrained capacity—unfettered restraint to the preacher foolish enough to place the “meat” on the Net and unfettered access to the enemies looking for material to use against Christians. The motive of the unbelieving wolves is not in question; it is obvious. The motive of any preacher is not in question; his wisdom, his discernment, his judgment are concerning what he makes available on his website. Even more, the enemies now have the ability to do searches that reveal every published or publicly spoken word. As never before, preachers need to be circumspect in all utterances.

In well-motivated attempts to “reach” everyone and to teach “all things,” this generation of preachers is more effective at spreading their foolishness than all that went before. They have accomplished much even without the Internet. In the efforts to “win them all,” even the “holiest place” is uncovered to the eyes of the swine. The masses know enough of “that which is holy” and the “pearls” to be an easy mark for every swaggering, arrogant foe of Christianity who can twist and pervert the “pearls” and “that which is holy” so that they are used against, and not for, Christianity.

It is not difficult to find examples of this; I shall use but one. I will not question that the individual who made the original arrangements to have the sign/slogan “JOHN 3:16”

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called by the Holy Spirit to repentance and faith. (Romans 10:17 So then faith *cometh* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.) God is 'pleased' "by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe" and that faith necessary to believe "cometh by hearing." While I may not be able to understand how God works "the foolishness of preaching" through to the salvation of the hearer and receiver, I do understand that He does do exactly that. My responsibility is to preach the Gospel; it is the responsibility of God to use the Gospel to draw those who hear unto Himself. The unbeliever needs the Gospel; he/she needs nothing less and nothing else.

To believers, however, I am to teach "the things that are freely given to us of God." The unbeliever does not understand these things; they are "foolishness" unto him/her, because "the things of the Spirit of God" are spiritually discerned. Unbelievers do not have the Holy Spirit indwelling and they *cannot* understand spiritual things, "the things that are freely given to us of God." Sanctification (holiness of life, separation from the world, ecclesiastical separation, and more) *cannot* be understood by an unbeliever. It is beyond his or her ability to understand. The doctrine of the church is a teaching that believers need to receive instruction concerning, but the unbeliever has no understanding whatsoever (emphatic form of whatever). Eschatology is *not* for unbelievers; it is a doctrine for believers. Prayer is *not* a proper subject to teach unbelievers; it is worthy to be taught to believers. Tithing is a subject held for teaching to believers. Bluntly stated, sheep are fed differently than dogs and hogs.

It is not politically correct to speak of dogs and swine with regard to people, but it is scriptural. Whether it is better to be politically correct or to be scriptural, depends upon whom one believes is the Judge. Jude refers to some as "brute beasts" and both Paul and Peter write of dogs; Peter speaks of swine. The Lord Jesus prohibited "that which is holy" and "pearls" from being fed to the dogs and hogs. This foolishness has always been with us. It never accomplished good and it always has produce and always will produce great harm. It is

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choking.

The Lord Jesus said it most plainly, so plainly that no preacher should ever have misunderstood what He intended.

Matthew 7:6 Give not that which is holy unto the dogs, neither cast ye your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn again and rend you.

This is not a casual instruction; this is an imperative injunction. He was not making a mere suggestion; the Lord gave a direct command to believers in general and to preachers of the Gospel in particular. Swine and dogs are not proper subjects to receive the "pearls" and "that which is holy." The word picture is that of one feeding dogs and swine. "That which is holy" and "pearls" are not the correct food for the dogs and the hogs; they are reserved for the sheep. "Pearls" do not belong in the slop. The Lord Jesus Himself applied the teaching in precisely that way.

Matthew 15:26 But he answered and said, It is not meet to take the children's bread, and cast it to dogs.

Preachers have no business feeding "that which is holy" to the dogs and pitching "pearls" to the swine. They are wrong when they do so; they do unspeakable damage when they dare disobey the Chief Shepherd. They will experience the wrath of the swine when they place "pearls" in the hog trough. This command, as do all of the laws of God, has both a purpose for the obedience and a consequence for the disobedience. What the unbeliever cannot understand is not to be taught to them. When it is, it will be used against the Gospel.

It is not that Christianity is secretive; it is that Christianity is spiritually discerned. The Apostle Paul makes this an important issue in 1 Corinthians. Notice in particular the underlined portions.

1:17 For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect. 18 For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of

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God. 19 For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent. 20 Where is the wise? where is the scribe? where is the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? 21 For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe. 22 For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom: 23 But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness; 24 But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God. 25 Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men. 26 For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, *are called:* 27 But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; 28 And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, *yea*, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: 29 That no flesh should glory in his presence. 30 But of him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption: 31 That, according as it is written, He that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord.

2:1 And I, brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God. 2 For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified. 3 And I was with you in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling. 4 And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and

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of power: 5 That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God. 6 Howbeit we speak wisdom among them that are perfect: yet not the wisdom of this world, nor of the princes of this world, that come to nought: 7 But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory: 8 Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. 9 But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. 10 But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. 11 For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God. 12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God. 13 Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual. 14 But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned. 15 But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man. 16 For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.

The Apostle preached "Jesus Christ, and Him crucified" to the *unbelievers* and taught the "spiritual things" (the "that which is holy" and the "pearls") to *believers*. He had, and kept, his priorities and his obedience in proper order.

The unbelieving world needs to hear only the Gospel. It is through the preaching of the Gospel that unbelievers are

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