

The Perils of the Preacher

10-20-18. Phil Gabbard ThD. (Gibbs chapter 10) lesson #6 HHBI

Text:

Romans 8:35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

2 Corinthians 11:26 In journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren;

2 Timothy 3:1 This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.

I. The Peril of Undue Familiarity with Divine Things.

1. The preacher is always in peril of losing his spirituality, his power, his vision, his usefulness and his life for God.

2. The greatest [Peril] could be the personal peril of becoming a “castaway”

1 Corinthians 9:27 But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a castaway.

a. Live a clean personal life.

b. Pay attention to your spiritual and physical self. (2 Corinthians 7:1 Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.)

c. Never forget He’s the Saviour, you are the servant!

II. The Peril of Inconsistent Living

1. Hypocrisy, a guide post but not a guide! An exporter but not an example!

Matthew 23:3 All therefore whatsoever they bid you observe, that observe and do; but do not ye after their works: for they say, and do not.

2. Romans 2:21 Thou therefore which teachest another, teachest thou not thyself? thou that preachest a man should not steal, dost thou steal? [22] Thou that sayest a man should not commit adultery, dost thou commit adultery? thou that abhorrest idols, dost thou commit sacrilege? [23] Thou that makest thy boast of the law, through breaking the law dishonourest thou God? [24] For the name of God is blasphemed among the Gentiles through you, as it is written.

3. Titus 2:7-8 In all things shewing thyself a pattern of good works: in doctrine shewing uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity, [8] Sound speech, that cannot be condemned; that he that is of j the contrary part may be ashamed, having no evil thing to say of you. ...

III. The Peril of Neglecting One’s Own Spiritual Life

1. they made me the keeper of the vineyards; but mine own vineyard have I not kept. (Song of Solomon 1:6b.)

2. Again in Paul’s words to Timothy, “Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine.” Note the inseparable order: first thyself, and then the doctrine. (1 Tim.4:16)

3. As he thus takes heed unto himself, the doctrine will logically follow. Electricity must flow in before it can flow out. The preacher’s intake must be greater than his outlet, or spiritual malnutrition will

result. God's word to Abraham is appropriate in this connection, "I will bless thee... and thou shalt be a blessing" (Gen. 12: 2). The servant of the Lord must live in the good

2.

of what he preaches. What has proved a blessing and profit to his own soul will doubtless become a blessing and a profit to others as it is passed on in preaching.

IV. The Peril of Callousness to Others' Needs.

1. Losing your compassion for the hurting of others.
(Matt. 15:21-28 read)
2. In feeding the multitude (Matt. 14:13-21) send them away?
3. Luke 9:52-56 in calling fire down on those that were not friendly to them?
4. It is a sad day when a preacher loses the keen edge of his sympathy and compassion, and is no longer able to "weep with them that weep, and rejoice with them that rejoice" (Rom. 12: 15). We all need to spend much time in the school of Christ and learn of Him.

V. The Peril of Professionalism, & the Folly of Taking Oneself Too Seriously

1. 1 Peter 5:3 Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being examples to the flock.
2. Condescending to others. Lack of humility. A better than thou attitude. You have something no one else has?
3. No preacher should take himself too seriously, or consider himself beyond criticism and, least of all, behave like a martyr if he is criticized.
4. Romans 12:3 For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.
5. 1 Timothy 4:6 If thou put the brethren in remembrance of these things, thou shalt be a good minister of Jesus Christ, nourished up in the words of faith and of good doctrine, whereunto thou hast attained.

VI. The Peril of Compromise.

1. In relation to his own life.
2. In relation to others.
3. In relation to the ministry of the Word. (Jeremiah 26:2 Thus saith the Lord ; Stand in the court of the Lord's house, and speak unto all the cities of Judah, which come to worship in the Lord's house, all the words that I command thee to speak unto them; diminish not a word:) (Acts 20:20 And how I kept back nothing that was profitable unto you , but have shewed you, and have taught you publicly, and from house to house,)

VII. The Peril of Popularity

1. It is much easier to become a man of popularity than a man of principle. Many a preacher has sacrificed his spiritual power on the altar of secular popularity, and lived to regret his abysmal folly. (John 12:43 For they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.)
2. He needs ever to remember that often what is "highly esteemed among men, is an abomination in the sight of God" (Luke 16: 15). Both self-confidence and self-esteem combine to dim one's spiritual vision to the value of unseen, but eternal realities. It causes the preacher to degenerate from a servant of God to a servant of man. Paul determined that, by the grace of God, this should never be true of him (Galatians 1:10 For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ.)

3. Jude 1:24-25 Now unto him that is able to keep you from falling, and to present you faultless before the presence of his glory with exceeding joy, [25] To the only wise God our Saviour, be glory and majesty, dominion and power, both now and ever. Amen.