

Prophet's Column

"Marks Of A False Prophet"

By J. M. Little
Special To The Post
At no time has God ever called a man to misrepresent Him. A man of God may make errors on his own, but my heavenly Father, who is omniscient, omnipotent, and omnipresent, will make all things clear to him. "If any man will do his will, he shall know..." That was a dogmatic statement by Christ in John, Chapter 17, verse 7.

Never before in the history of man on earth have we seen so many false ministers as we see today. Many go into the ministry to make a good living. And some have admitted that is why they are out preaching. But God calls His own men and stations them wherever He pleases. He may call one and station him to minister to a large group. He may call another to minister to a small group. He may ordain one to endure a great amount of persecution, while allowing another to suffer only a small amount of persecution. He may raise up one as a pastor, another as an evangelist. But each one knows the Lord if he is called by the Lord. Each God-called man will preach the Word as it is to man as he is, without fear, favor, or compromise. Each one preaches the Christ of the Bible and the Bible of the Christ. It may cost him everything, even his reputation, but he'll do the will of God. But where will you go today to find a God-called man who can and will be true to the souls of men like that? Several years ago I was talking to a young man in his home and he made this statement: "I don't know where to go to find someone who knows how to be true to your soul." Now, with over 500 churches in Mecklenburg County at that time, wasn't that a tragical statement to make? But that young man was right. And I will quote the late A. W. Pink (you're sick of my quoting L.R. Shelton): "The God of the average pulpit no more resembles the God of the Bible than a dim flickering taper resembles a midday July sun!" Now, that's why that young man could make the statement he did. Brother Pink made that statement before he went home to be with the Lord in 1952. What would he say if he could come back today?

The first mark of a false prophet I call your attention to is this: he does not understand an awakened sinner. So few of our preachers, pastors, and evangelists understand an awakened sinner. Why? They've never been there themselves. Most of our preachers and Bible teachers have gone through the seminaries and



J. M. Little

First in series

Bible schools and have never been awakened to their lost condition under Holy Spirit conviction, (John 16:7-11). That is why preachers in my family and here in my community don't understand my messages. You are a total stranger to Holy Spirit conviction. Therefore, you hate the messages and the messenger. That is why you won't have the messages in your church. And you tell every lie to get the messages out of the church. As a class, I don't trust preachers. I trust the ones who have proved they are trustworthy. I have found so many to be liars.

Only a soul who has been awakened to his lost condition and brought to know Christ as his Lord and Saviour can understand an awakened sinner. It will be a great tragedy when the multitudes of our preachers right here in America have to stand at the Great White Throne Judgment, (Rev. 20), and answer for keeping souls out of the Kingdom of Christ. But just as certain as God is on the Throne, you are going to have to stand there and give account. No mercy will be shown to you. I can go in a church, the members want me there but the pastor doesn't, simply because he is not saved. I can go in another church where the pastor wants me and some of the members don't. Simply because they are not saved.

Another, and the second mark of a false prophet, is that he does not preach Christ in the first person as a living reality to his heart. Why? Simply because Christ is not real to him. The reason Christ is not a living reality to his heart is

because Holy Spirit conviction has never been real to his heart. And that is why you cannot be true to the souls of sinners. One Sunday, several years ago, I said to a certain preacher; "There are a lot of preachers preaching about Christ, but not many preaching Christ." He said yes to that and then turned right around and preached about Christ, never boiling it down to how Christ was a living reality to his heart. You can't help it, friends. One day I was there in your blinded and lost condition. And I know that my messages and the messages I distribute here by my late pastor are giving unsaved preachers "unshirred hell." I just praise the Lord for them. If you can reject the messages as we have set them forth, telling how God saves a lost sinner, that is the concrete evidence you are not saved. I don't care who you are. If you knew the Lord you wouldn't reject these messages, you'd love them. It doesn't matter that you are a preacher, that is no sign you are saved. And I know preachers and Bible teachers don't like for me to stand in their pulpits and tell how I was a Bible teacher and deacon in the church but was not saved. I know you hate that testimony. If you admit I am right, you are going to have to admit you are wrong. Before you admit you are wrong, you'll keep your reputation as a great preacher and go to Hell for your trouble. These false prophets are not going to admit they are lost until they lie on their death beds. It'll be too late then, friends.

Continue listening to my late Pastor, L. R. Shelton, with THE VOICE OF TRUTH and over WAGI-FM at 7:30 and over WAGL-AM at 8 each Sunday morning.

"Kick-Off" Luncheon Opens United Way Campaign

This year's United Way Community Campaign for Mecklenburg and Union Counties extends from September 17 through October 25. Money raised during the campaign, which opened with a "kickoff" luncheon at the Radisson Plaza Hotel on Tuesday, goes directly to 37 member agencies, which provide services to people who live or work in Mecklenburg and Union Counties.

Tom Sullivan, reporter for "Good Morning America," was the keynote speaker at the kickoff.

Tom Sullivan is a native of Boston and he attended Providence College and Harvard University. An Eastern Conference wrestling champion while at high school, Tom, who has been blind since birth, also wrestled competitively at Harvard. In 1982, a feature film, "If You Could See What I Hear," based on Tom's life, was released. Tom authored an autobiography of the same name. He composed and sang the theme song for the film.

Tom's sensitive and insightful reporting for "Good Morning America" has won him recognition throughout the United States from many organizations and community groups. His stories have included profiles of the New York State School for the Deaf; the Meeting Street School in Rhode

Island; the Blind Children's Center in Los Angeles; a Rocky Mountain school that teaches blind and handicapped people how to ski, and a school where you can learn to be a movie stunt person. Tom has also done interviews for "Good Morning America" with Liza Minnelli, Jack Nicklaus, Muhammad Ali, Bo Derek, Loni Anderson, Stevie Wonder, Sugar Ray Leonard, Julie Andrews and Blake Edwards, Gene Hackman, and Barbara Mandrell.

Tom is a regular guest on such programs as "The Tonight Show with Johnny Carson," "Merv Griffin," "Mike Douglas," and "Hour Magazine." He has appeared on "MASH," "Mork & Mindy," and "WKRP in Cincinnati." His film credits include "Airport '77," "Black Sunday," and "Love's Dark Ride."

Tom has authored several books in addition to "If You Could See What I Hear," including "Adventures in Darkness," based on his life experiences. He appears regularly in concert, night clubs, and at resorts with such headliners as Helen Reddy, Don Rickles, Buddy Hackett, and Liza Minnelli. His stirring rendition of the "National Anthem" at the 1976 Super Bowl is still recalled by countless people. Tom was

the recipient of the Most Outstanding Performer Award at the 1976 Yamaha Music Festival in Tokyo.

Tom, his wife, Patty, and their children, Blythe, 12, and Tommy, 10, live in Los Angeles. For recreation Tom enjoys golfing, running and skiing.



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