

Thus Saith God

by Rev. Ted Brooks

The Difference between a careful preacher and a Carefree Preacher

A carefree preacher versus a careful preacher. "If they had stood in my council then they would have proclaimed my words to my people" Jeremiah 23:22/

The words of the true prophet were not self produced and certainly not the product of human reflection. They did not have their source and origin in the prophet. They were and still are today, given to him by God. Touching the lips of Jeremiah, God said, "Behold I have put my words in your mouth" Jeremiah 1:9. Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do your men gather grapes of thorns or figs of thistles? Matthew 7:16.

For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, if any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book, and if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life and out of the holy city and from the things that are written in this book. Revelation 22:18-19.

Paul was a carefree minister. In the letter written to Philippi, Paul was in prison waiting for sentence. He had set off an explosion among the synagogues. There were riots: Those persons who believed in Jesus as God's messiah were willing for his sake to accept sharp resistance from their neighbors and kinsmen. No society of that day welcomed the appearance of the church. Paul, himself, came to Rome as a prisoner. For a glimpse of his situation we can turn to a letter to the Philippian Church written from a prison in Rome.

Paul was not alarmed or angered by his imprisonment. He did not worry about the outcome of his trial even though it might result in his execution. It was his work for Christ which led to his imprisonment, whether or not it ended in the death penalty. Phil. 1:12.

It seemed to him entirely reasonable that those who served a crucified messiah should be ready to share his

cross. Paul was a free man, free from all anxieties. "Lo, to me to live is Christ and to die is gain." Phil. 1:21

The carefree had welcomed Paul's arrival in Rome as a convict. They had taken the risk of visiting him, thus admitting that if he were guilty of sedition they were as well. Like him they were confident that the "Living Christ" could use even the scandal of a death sentence to advance his cause. Paul's example made them bolder than ever to preach in the street the same breaking gospel. Although this invited similar arrests and chains, they were thus freed from the care to placate Jewish and Roman authorities.

Paul being a carefree preacher had brought him to the peace of great disension, fearing lest Paul should have been pulled into pieces; however, Paul had been commissioned by God to preach. In doing so, God said, "Be of good cheer, Paul, for as thou hast testified of me in Jerusalem so must thou bear witness of me also at Rome." Acts 23:10-11.

Rome was a city of ungodliness and what they wanted to do they did it. It didn't matter what God said about it. They were rebellious people; but God had a carefree preacher on the way to Rome. Chains and dungeons could not hold back the word of God. Being a carefree minister, Paul said, "Hey you folks, are you aware that God will give up folks to a reprobate mind; those of you with vile affection and you women who did change the natural use into that which is against nature and likewise the men leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust, one toward another." Romans 1:26-27.

"Who knowing the judgment of God that they which commit such things are worthy of death." Romans 1:32. So from the prison cell in Rome, Paul warned the people "Beware of the concision." Phil. 3:2. Paul was not afraid to tell or to call it just like it was.

Beware of those who bring a reproach upon the kingdom of God. Paul referred to them as dogs.

The careful crowd was afraid what Paul was preaching would split up the church. They felt that greater caution was necessary to prevent blood shed and even the extermination of the church. Careful folk felt Paul's fate discredited his message and way of preaching.

To Paul those careful saints were enemies of the cross of Christ because they did not really accept the cross as demanding of them a like humility, a like obedience, a like freedom. Phil. 1:15-17; Phil. 3:18-19.

To them Paul, a carefree preacher, endangered everything with his radical and uncompromising attack upon all securities, all superiority and caution.

Carefree and careful preachers can't walk hand in hand. It is hard to be within the same brotherhood: Paul's presence in prison and his bold advice from that pulpit must have prompted heated debates at every meeting. We can readily imagine some of the epithets which cut through the air. "Dogs" is one of the milder ones. Phil. 3:2.

Next week "Nathan-A Carefree...and the Lord Sent Nathan Unto David."

Christmas Craft Show Planned December 5

Robeson County Extension Home-maker will hold their annual fund raising event on Friday December 5, 1997 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and Saturday, December 6 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the O.P. Owens Center, located on Hwy 72 West, near exit 17 off I-95 Lumberton. Crafters from Robeson and neighboring counties will offer quality hand-crafted items for sale. Lunch and baked goods will be available. Free admission. For more information, call (910) 671-3276

Say You Read It In The Carolina Indian Voice. To Subscribe Call 521-2826



This week we bid "farewell" to my Aunt Sally. To me Aunt Sally was one of the most "respected" in Pembroke being the wife of Judge Lacy Maynor.

Known to respectfully to all as "Miss Sally" her and her husband raised four wonderful daughters who have been truly been an asset to the Pembroke Community and the Native Americans of the entire country. Her daughters are Dr. Helen Maynor Scheirbeck of Fairfax, Va., (Dr. Helen has helped many a person in our community), Mrs. Olivia Maynor Revels (Co-owner of Revels Funeral Home) and Ms. Frankie Maynor Lowry (Director of the Pembroke Headstart Center) both of Pembroke and Ms. Patsy Maynor Barber of Bridgeton, New Jersey. They also raised a foster son, Mr. Chris Scoggins of Frankfort, Germany and a foster daughter, Ms. Jamie Sanderson of Pembroke. She leaves seven grandchildren and thirteen great-grandchild to cherish her memory.

Mrs. Maynor was a lifetime member of Berea Baptist Church and an Active Member of The Burnt Swamp Baptist Association. She served as a Training Union Teacher and a Bible Drill Instructor. She taught many a child about the Bible and also taught them in the classroom being a graduate of Croatan Normal School and taught at Green Grove Elementary School for several years.

Mrs. Maynor will be loved and missed by her family and community. For she was the definition of "A True Lady" "Has anyone told you that they love you today?" Well, I do

LRDA Goal to Feed 3,200 Households at Christmas

The Board of Director of LRDA has set a goal this year to provide food baskets to 3,200 poor and needy Indian families in Robeson, Hoke, and Scotland counties.

Last year through donations from churches, individual and businesses LRDA assisted more than 3,000 Indian households in need at Christmas time.

It is better to give than receive, so this year the LRDA is soliciting donations from businesses, churches, and individuals to assist in helping those in need for the holiday season.

Donations received are used to purchase food at the N. C. Food Bank in Raleigh, NC at .15 cents per pound. A donation of \$20.00 will purchase 140 pounds of food at the Food Bank which will serve nearly four families at Christmas.

Financial donations and/or contributions can be made by check or money order to:

LRDA Christmas Fund
P.O. Box 68
Pembroke, North Carolina
28372

LRDA will begin taking applications for food baskets on November 17, 1997 until December 12, 1997. Applicants must meet Federal Poverty Guidelines. Priority will be given to elderly and single parent households.

Applications will be taken at all LRDA office in Pembroke, Lumberton and Raeford.

For additional information, please contact the LRDA Administrative office at (910) 521-8602

Pembroke Housing Authority Receives Grant

Pembroke-The Pembroke Housing Authority has been awarded another grant from the United States Department of Housing & Urban Development (HUD). This grant is sponsored by HUD's 1997 Public Housing Drug Elimination Program (PHDEP). This is the third consecutive grant selected for funding submitted by the Authority's. Executive Director, Lemark Harris, these grant funds will be used for additional on-site security and physical enhancements; and another summer sports camp at the University of North Carolina at Pembroke. These activities will serve as a complement to the current program's activities funded under the 1996 PHDEP grant.

Gospel film available for local churches

The film "The Shroud" is available to be shown at your church by request. Also available on the 16mm film is "Daniel in the Lion's Den." For further information call 521-8928.

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