

THICK SKINNED WITH A TENDER HEART

Preaching With A Voice Of Thunder And A Heart Of Tears

HOW TO HANDLE CRITICISM?

“Wherein they think it strange that ye run not with them to the same excess of riot, speaking evil of you:” 1 Pet. 4:4

By Pastor Del Wray

Lord give me “thick skin and a tender heart!” Or a tough hide! My friends, my family, our church family will tell you there is hardly ever a church service that goes by that this old preacher is not in tears. My daughter would set in church and laugh not knowing why I was in tears because it happens so often? Ask her! It grieves me to think that people don’t understand why a preacher must preach hard. We’re only doing our jobs!

Our writings have been uploaded to the internet for years exposing the spiritual decay in the church and the foul evil spirit that is damning innocent souls. I know it will offend many of you close friends all over this country but look for them anyway! It doesn’t matter whether you like this old preacher or not, it’s Jesus your eyes should be on! I’m not in this business to be liked and I don’t post on the net to find favor with an apostate church or compromising preachers, it is only to warn of the wrath to come. I thank God for those that do read our writings, though! But the business we’re in, God’s men, is to pull folks out of the flames. I believe there is a Hell awaiting every man when he dies if he doesn’t have Christ Jesus in his life! So make sure you’re hitched to the right hitching post and that’s God’s Word the Bible and God’s Son!

For the man of God whose been led to believe that things will always run orderly and in unison within the body of Christ, let him think again! Some of the meanest people I’ve ever run into have been church members, backbiting, spreading of rumors, poison of asp on the lips and even physical altercations. Cutting words opening wounds that only God can heal. This preacher has been threaten, assaulted and even surrounded by deacons, one threatening to kill me. Once they even tried to burn us out. I have several preacher friends who’ve gone through the same trials. One had his house burn down twice and they tried again a third time but failed. He has one of the largest churches in Smyrna, DE today. Another in Norfolk, VA, had his house shot up several times and had to move for the safety of his wife and children. What’s new! You say what? Wait a minute; you may be looking at it wrong? From all the division, God has used it to raise up a new work, two new Baptist churches in our area. Things are not always going to be rosy but remember He is always in control. Especially, now-a-days, we must develop a thick skin to go along with a tender heart!

It didn’t take me long to recognize the above truth: That it doesn’t matter how thoughtful, generous, winsome, and caring you are, if you oppose the sexual sins or for that matter almost any sin especially the homosexual revolution you are the “adversary,” the “enemy.” God’s people must get that settled! We are living in evil time’s people have gone mad, freaks are hiding in the shadows, queers are playing house. No wonder New Orleans flooded, all the dykes have

left Louisiana and moved to Washington, DC where they've turned into President Lincoln's, I mean Mr. Rainbow's Administration. The Fags set on the Supreme Court, a lesbian heads up the Justice Department and they've painted the Whore House, I mean the White House to attract more Caitlyn Jenner's to serve as concubines, I mean secretaries. Its mind boggling, scary what's happening to our country, our churches have become sanctuaries for fairies and the queers control the pulpits, straight preachers are crooked and the real men of God are being put in jail for calling Sodomites sinful! They're trying to change the King James into the Queen James, so the Roman Pimp, not Pope, Pimp can visit America to attract more lesbians for the Priesthood to have their little whores. While the Whore, the Mother Church wants to force Israel to turn over its capital, Jerusalem, so the anti-Christ can set up his headquarters. Opposing the Sodomite agenda puts you in direct conflict with the free love movement setting its opponents up for character assassination. You may think I sound cruel, wait to you see what God thinks and what He does to this whole bunch of crazies. It's all right there in the Book! Not many handle criticism well because of the old sinful nature. But there is one thing we all have to agree, there was one man in the first century who handled his critics well and with grace, the Apostle Paul and look what the Romans did to him. His example found in this article will help us to handle our critics, too! You don't have any critics? Well you are the exception. The critics started coming out of the wood work the moment I got saved and the devils have been after me since. Seems the closer I get to the Lord the more I abhor myself, the Devil is right there condemning.

PAULS EXAMPLE IS IN ACTS 24

In Acts 24, Paul is on the witness stand before Governor Felix while a shady lawyer named Turtullus is reading through some trumped-up charges against Paul. As you read along in this chapter, you will notice Paul waits for the smoke to clear and then calmly steps up to give a defense. Paul's words are an admonition to God's men today; you better expect criticism. Here we see how he maintained a tender heart and a tough hide while enduring criticism.

Paul refused to be caught up in the emotion of the charges. That's the first mistake we usually make. Everything in us prefers to lash out, to protest, to cry, or simply walk out. Paul refused to overreact. His opening line is disarmingly pleasant, "I cheerfully make my defense." Cheerfully! By now the man ought to be blazing with indignation! I probably would be old hard head. Even though Paul is being labeled as "a real pest" and a ringleader of a cult, Acts 24:5, Paul graciously acknowledges the opportunity to make a defense. He refused to let his emotions take the lead.

When we lower ourselves to the overcharged emotions of accusers, our anger is unleashed. When that occurs, straight thinking ends turning in to irrational responses and impulsive words. Paul didn't do that. I'm guilty! How many words and statements are out there that I would love to take back? How about you?

He stayed with the facts. He said,

"Because that thou mayest understand, that there are yet but twelve days since I went up to Jerusalem for to worship. And they neither found me in the temple disputing with any man, neither raising up the people, neither in the synagogues, nor in the city: Neither can they prove the things whereof they now accuse me." Acts 24:11-13

The apostle never blinked. He stood his ground with stubborn facts. That strategy not only kept him on target, it enhanced his credibility in the eyes of Governor Felix. Tough act to follow!

Paul told the truth with a clear conscience. Paul stated,

“But this I confess unto thee, that after the way which they call heresy, so worship I the God of my fathers, believing all things which are written in the law and in the prophets: And have hope toward God, which they themselves also allow, that there shall be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and unjust. And herein do I exercise myself, to have always a conscience void of offence toward God, and toward men.” Acts 24:14-16

There is nothing like a clean conscience. It not only helps you sleep well, it keeps you thinking clearly. You have no fear that some skeleton will rattle when the investigation begins, because there is no skeletons!

He identified the original source of the criticism. Few things are more maddening than shadowboxing when you're dealing with criticism. One of the worst things you can do is to spread the venom to a number of other people, your children, your parents, your friends, or a group of other Christians, rather than going to the original source of contention and addressing it. You need to be thick skinned to do that! The first thing to do when you receive disapproval or criticism is what I've learned to do. Get on your knees and ask God what are you trying to show me? What are you trying to teach me? And if your point of contention is righteous, crawl on your knees all the way to Calvary, at least in your mind, and have a seat right under the cross, pointing up to Jesus and say your problem is not with me but with HIM! Take it up with HIM! Don't mess with me! He's my big brother, He'll mess with you. I don't have a preacher friend that wants to be unkind or critical with anyone, who does? The truth is the truth, that being GOD'S WORD! (KJV) If it offends you, you may have a spiritual problem and that problem is with Him and you need to take it up with HIM! We'll pray for you. Don't ask the man of God to change the Book! Don't think you can blackmail God's man to appease your sinful conscience. Face it and say God you're right and I'm wrong, forgive me! A broken and a contrite heart will do it. Believe me it's a daily part of my life.

Next, Paul would not surrender or quit. I love that about Paul. He's like a pit bull got a hold of your leg; he won't let go! Take a moment to read 2 Cor. 11:23-33,

“Are they ministers of Christ? (I speak as a fool) I am more; in labours more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequent, in deaths oft. Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save one. Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep; 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; In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness. Beside those things that are without, that which cometh upon me daily, the care of all the churches. Who is weak, and I am not weak? Who is offended, and I burn not? If I must needs glory, I will glory of the things which concern mine infirmities. The God and

Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which is blessed for evermore, knoweth that I lie not. In Damascus the governor under Aretas the king kept the city of the Damascenes with a garrison, desirous to apprehend me: And through a window in a basket was I let down by the wall, and escaped his hands.”

Beaten, bloodied, shipwrecked, harassed, endangered, run out of town, and falsely accused, Paul didn't give up, let up, or shut up. Neither should you or me!

He did not become impatient or bitter. For two years Paul had been waiting for this trial. Did you know that? Yet we see no sign of bitterness. No impatience. No grudges. No ranting against the Roman authorities. Paul believed God was firmly in control of both people and events. Shouldn't we be! O' God, if we could be like Paul. Going on now for over two thousand years look what the world has done to the Church! Man has killed over sixty-million members of the Body of Christ! Man has killed maimed, murdered and subjugated millions to rid this world of anyone or anything that might be construed as an opponent and even a critic. The Muslims, the Roman Catholics and their Crusades the Dark Ages known as the Devil's millennium, Communists killers, Protestant killers all are murderers as well as the Republican and Democratic killers. The right wing vote! And now the homosexual and queer crowd, robbing, raping and killing little innocent children. O how I could go on.

Paul stood on the promise of God. You know what flashed through my mind when I read this passage in Acts 24? How faithless I've been in my own life, how weak, cowardly, and in sincere am I, we all have been. Well maturity and old age has caught up with me now, my days are short, numbered and I'm not going change now.

How did Paul handle criticism? He refused to get caught up in the emotion of the charges. He stayed with the facts. He told the truth with a clear conscience. He identified the original source of the accusations. He refused to surrender or quit. He became neither impatient nor bitter. He stood on the promise of God. Isn't that great or what? And it's all from the Bible. You can do every one of these things too. If you want a tender heart and a thick skin when enduring criticism, you must do them too. So must I! Stay on the firing line we're bound to get hit but remember they're shooting at Him.

“Contrary to what his critics and enemies say about him, my dad is a kind, generous, compassionate and Spirit-filled man. I have seen him weep over the lost and downtrodden. He has led our church to feed many of the poor, hungry people. I've witnessed on many occasions when he would give needy people his last dollar. On the other hand, he courageously and aggressively exposes the evils in our government, social evils, religious racketeers, and charlatans. Like a mad dog he goes after the liberal professors in our Christian colleges, schools, denominations and false preachers who teach heresies. With such indignation and hatred he warns the homosexual agenda of the damnation and hellfire ahead. At times his methods are objectionable to some people who do not agree with his strong biblical views. That's nothing new. Christ's critics and enemies tried on several occasions to kill Him and finally succeeded at Calvary. The same was true of Stephen, Paul, the Apostles, the true prophets of Israel, the martyrs, the faithful men and women of God who made it in the Bible. And the millions of other Baptist martyrs down through the ages, since.” *David Wray*

It'll take thick skin to face what the future holds in this country. Let me close with the real news. Russia's bombers are flying off our borders, Iran threatens to wipe out Israel and America, Cuba promises to deport more fags to the USA, Mexico says more murderers and criminals are on the way with their drugs and Hillary Clinton declares all Christians will have to deny their faith or leave America. She says the unfinished business of the American government is to force Christians to change their beliefs regarding Homosexuals, Queers, faggots and Abortionists. To top that off she says once she is elected president all guns will be confiscated. Do you believe it? We're living in evil times you better get thick skin. I agree but I'm not sure about the second part! Queers make me puke not tender! Old age is slowing me down, stubbornness is too hard to give up, dogmatism likes me too much and my wife threatens to divorce me. 'Hell', forgive me, I might as well go on fighting! I'm undefeated and the Bible tells me in the last war we will be victorious so I'm not afraid of your threats and especially being threatened with Heaven! Our "churches are worshipping in vain" and I'm a hound dog after lost souls.

Are you SAVED?

Read the following and I'll close

Rehoboam the son of Solomon reigned seventeen years in Jerusalem. Under his reign, the Bible says,

"And Judah did evil in the sight of the Lord. . ." I Kings 14:22a.

Among those evils listed was their condoning of Sodomites in the land. This is one of the prevalent sins of America today. In times past the Sodomites were not condoned in America.

Not only are there Sodomites in this land, but they are welcomed and harbored. Under the Carter administration, Cuba dumped thousands of their unwanted Sodomites into Florida. Cuba was anxious to get rid of them and the Sodomites were anxious to escape what they called, "Severe repression in Cuba."

The light of the churches is so faint and flickering that these creeping things of darkness have come out into the open. Let's now turn the light of God's Word directly upon these faggots of moral degradation, and send the Sodomites scurrying back into their hiding places. Will you help? Well then get a thick skin and don't worry about the tenderness. Jesus will make you tender. Thanks Terry!

This treaty can be blamed on, Evangelist Terry Rollins, Sr. he put me up to it, thanks brother!