

Old Union Baptist Ministers' School

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**"Handling the Word"**

by

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**Lesson Scripture – II Corinthians 4:1-2**

**II Corn. 4:1-2** *Therefore seeing we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we faint not; But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.*

We have many things that are of our own choosing or making. The home you live in, you chose; you may have designed and built it according to your own mind. **If you chose this ministry you are in the wrong place.**

**I Timothy 1:11-12** *According to the glorious gospel of the blessed God, which was committed to my trust. And I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who hath enabled me, for that he counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry;*

I believe in a divine call of God by which men have this ministry.

**I Corin. 9:16** *For though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of: for necessity is laid upon me; yea woe is me, if I preach not the gospel!*

It is vital that those who handle the word know who they are and what they are.

**II Corin. 4:5-7** *For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord; and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake. For God who commanded the light to shine out of the darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.*

Those that handle the word must seek to please God, not man.

**I Thessalonians 2:1-4** *For yourselves, brethren, know our entrance in unto you, that it was not in vain: But even after that we had suffered before, and were shamefully entreated, as ye know, at Philippi, we were bold in our God to speak unto you the gospel of God with much contention. For our exhortation was not of deceit, nor of uncleanness, nor in guile: But as we were allowed of God to be put in trust with the gospel, even so we speak; not as pleasing men, but God, which trieth our hearts.*

When Peter and John were brought to appear before the high priest to answer for the healing of the lame man at the temple gate they declared that it was by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth that this man stands here before you whole.

Acts 4:18-20 *And they called them, and commanded them not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus. But Peter and John answered and said unto them, Whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto God, judge ye. For we cannot but speak the thing which we have seen and heard.*

Not much later we read where they encountered the same opposition again and were brought before the court of the high priest.

Acts 5:27-29 *And when they had brought them, they set them before the Council; and the high priest asked them, Saying, Did not we straightly command you that ye should not teach in this name? and, behold, ye have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this man's blood upon us. Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men.*

Paul stated that they had renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully;

II Corin. 2:17 *For we are not as many, which corrupt the word of God: but as of sincerity, but as of God, in the sight of God speak we in Christ.*

We have within our church families today every sin that has a name. Some are offended if we preach the truth contained in the scriptures of sin. If you preach about divorce, homosexuality, abortion, etc. there are sympathizers who may be offended. As a young preacher thirty years ago I struggled with this issue until God let me know we are to preach his word without fear of or favor to man.

I believe we are to preach the whole counsel of God.

Acts 20:27 *For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God.*

II Timothy 4:2 *Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long suffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears. And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables. But watch thou in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, make fall proof of thy ministry.*

The Apostle Paul wrote to the church at Corinth in II Corin. 12:14, *for I seek not yours, but you.*

II Corin. 12:15 *And I will very gladly spend and be spent for you;*

**II Corin. 4:2** *but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God.*

Those that handle the word must ever be mindful that everything we present to the world must be the truth.

When Jesus was brought before Pilate, falsely accused by the Jews.

**John 18:37 – 38** *Pilate therefore said unto him, Art thou a king then? Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Everyone that is of the truth heareth my voice. Pilate saith unto him, What is truth?*

The apostle John who had been called by Jesus to follow him wrote of Jesus in **John 1:1** *In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.*

**John 1:14** *And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (And we beheld his glory, the glory of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.*

**John 14:6** *I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*

Truth is the only thing that will benefit a lost and dyeing world. Truth is unchangeable. Those that handle the word must abide by the words of wisdom found in **Proverbs 23:23** *Buy the truth, and sell it not.*

When the Apostle Paul appeared before King Agrippa and Festus because of the charges brought against him at Jerusalem he told his experience of how he met Jesus.

**Acts 26:24 – 25** *And as he thus spake for himself, Festus said with a loud voice, Paul, thou art beside thyself; much learning doth make thee mad. But he said, I am not mad most noble Festus; but speak for the words of truth and soberness.*

What we are in God's sight as those that handle the word.

**II Corin. 2:15 – 17** *For we are unto God as a sweet savour of Christ, in them that are saved, and in them that perish: To the one we are the savour of death unto death; and to the other the savour of life unto life. And who is sufficient for these things?*

**II Corin. 3:5** *Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God; Who hath also made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life.*

Wisdom in handling the word.