

(My friend and fellow-laborer in the kingdom, Allan Turner, passed from this life on July 9th. He was a good writer and deep thinker. Here is a small sample of his writing)

PREACH THE WORD!

Allan Turner

Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching. ³ For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; ⁴ and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables. ⁵ But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry (2 Tim. 4:2-5, NKJV).

Notice that Paul did not say God's Word must be accommodated to every new concept that comes along. What he said was, "Preach the word!" Thus, there's something quite suspicious about Christians who turn their sail to every wind that blows. Such will be "tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, [who] in cunning craftiness...lie in wait to deceive" (Eph. 4:14).

Consequently, let us thank God for hardheaded preachers who do not have to test the winds of public sentiment before they decide what they are going to preach. Thank God for hardheaded preachers who will "Preach the word!" Thank God for hardheaded preachers who will "be ready in season and out of season." Thank God for hardheaded preachers who will "convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching." Thank God for hardheaded preachers who, with God's help, will save not only themselves, but those that hear them (1 Tim. 4:16).

⁸ *Behold I have made your face strong against their faces, and your forehead strong against their foreheads. ⁹ Like adamant stone, harder than flint, I have made your forehead; do not be afraid of them, nor be dismayed at their looks, though they are a rebellious house (Ezek. 3:9-9, NKJV).*

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CONSCIENCE = GUIDE?



In Walt Disney's 1955 cartoon classic, *Pinocchio*, a wooden marionette built by Gepetto is brought to partial life by the Blue Fairy as Jiminy Cricket looks on. But in order for Pinocchio to become a real live boy, the Fairy tells him that he must learn to choose between right and wrong. He learns that his conscience will tell him what is right and wrong, and both the Fairy and Jiminy Cricket tell him to "always let your conscience be your guide."

This fairy tale philosophy reflects the thinking of many today. They let their conscience (their own wisdom) be their guide, instead of being guided by the truth of God and letting their conscience judge their actions by that standard.

Notice the problems with this philosophy:

Always letting your conscience be your guide contradicts the inspired advice of Scripture: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths" (Prov. 3:5-6).

Always letting your conscience be your guide conflicts with the warnings of Scripture: "There is a way which seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death" (Prov. 14:12). "O Lord, I know the way of man is not in himself; it is not in man who walks to direct his own steps" (Jer. 10:23).

Always letting your conscience be your guide denigrates the enlightening power of God's word: "Your word is a light to my feet and a light to my path" and "The entrance of Your words gives light, it gives understanding to the simple" (Psa. 119:105, 130).

Always letting your conscience be your guide ignores its potential for wrong as exemplified in Scripture: The apostle Paul declared, "...I have lived in all good conscience before God until this day" (Acts 23:1). Yet he confessed that he "persecuted this Way to the death, binding and delivering into prisons both men and women" and "I myself thought I must do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth" (Acts 22:4; 26:9).

Our conscience can misguide us if we are not determined to follow the truth of God. ***Let God's word always be your guide!!*** MWG

(Some points above were adapted from an article by Hugh Davis)