

“Be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord...” - 1 Cor 15:58

NORTHSIDE EXHORTER

A Teaching Bulletin to Inform & Edify God's Family at Northside

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“You Can’t Believe Everything That You Hear”

I remember the first time reading **1 Kings 13:11-19** as a Christian. My response was, “Really? A prophet of God falling for this. Are you serious? Folks actually lie & have the brazen audacity to call themselves religious.” This passage of Scripture, for lack of a better phrase, “blew my mind!” Nevertheless, we are living in an age, where individuals are falling for this. We have family members who are teaching/believing lies. We have neighbors sacrificing their time, their talent, & their treasure in an effort to promote doctrines, dispositions, & “Diotrephes,” which are foreign to Scripture. If we learn nothing else from this article, then let it be known, “*you can’t believe everything you hear.*”

We Cannot Hear Wrong & Believe Right

- In **Acts 13:47-48**, the Gentiles heard the truth of the gospel, they believed what they heard, & baptism was the inevitable result.
- In **Acts 18:8**, Crispus & his household heard the truth of the gospel, they believed what they heard, & baptism was the inevitable result.

There are many who say they may have heard the wrong message & believed the wrong message, but their baptism was right with God. If we hear the wrong thing, then we will believe the wrong thing. If we believe the wrong thing, then our baptism was not right. We cannot be taught wrong & baptized right. The prophet heard the wrong message & believed the wrong message. Although he was obedient to the wrong message, God still said he was disobedient (**1 Kings 13:21-22**) because he did not obey the right message. We cannot be taught wrong & baptized right, no more than we can hear wrong & believe right.

We Must Be Careful Of WHAT We Hear & HOW We Hear It

These are the warnings from the Savior Himself in **Mark 4:24 & Luke 8:18**. Everybody who says they are preaching the gospel is not preaching the gospel. Just like the prophet in the text, there are many who are not preaching the truth, but rather they are being fed, led, & bled by the devil to preach lies (**Jeremiah 23:21-22**). Why do they do this? It is because people do not want to hear what they need, but rather people want to hear what makes them feel good in their sin (**Isaiah 30:9-10**). This was happening then & unfortunately; it is happening more so today.

As Christians, it is our responsibility to get the word out to humanity that they cannot believe everything they hear. We must understand Jesus has already spoken (**John 12:46-50**). The Lord has already laid down the law. Christ has already given us the standard for entrance into His kingdom & what He said, the law which He has laid down, & the standard He has given is obedience to His infallible word! If God said it, then it is in the Book. If God did not say it, then it will not be in the Book. If a preacher, prophet, priest, or king comes around saying God spoke to them & therefore we need to be doing this or that, then God let be true & every man a liar (**Romans 3:4**) because we are going to be judged by the words of God in the Bible & not by the holy imagination of men. Since we know we cannot believe everything we hear, then let us expressly speak the truth & take heed what & how we hear.

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Antoine N. Holloway