

## Don't Bash The Preacher!

### Introduction

I took a 21-day reprieve from my personal Facebook page except for posting my morning Bible Scripture. One day, I was listening to George Pearsons as he tells of a story pastor **Rick Renner** that God told him, “**No word, no breakfast.**” What he meant is that God comes first before anything else. I have adopted it, so I place Scripture first before I have breakfast with my wife.

Scanning through Facebook, I came across another person bashing a pastor for their preaching of the Prosperity Gospel. The meaning of this Gospel, according to some religious groups with doctrines mostly with man-made rules, is a perversion of the Gospel, which the full blessings of God for those who approach Him in faith and obedience include wealth, health, and power.

### Be A Good Investigator of God's Word

Mind you, I always investigate first, like a good Berean (**Acts 17:11**), to see what they are saying lines up with God's Word. Bereans took upon themselves as open-minded and always seeking the truth in Scripture. Jesus warned us about the future with false preachers/teachers of the Bible (**Matthew 24:3-13**).

Being a preacher of God's Word is not easy by no stretch of the imagination. Friends on my personal Facebook page that are ministers or pastors know exactly what I am talking about. We all have different callings, especially in pastoral ministry.

There are many denominations and none possess the same doctrine or beliefs, no matter what you hear or see. Maybe similar, but never the same or identical. Some called to preach a certain doctrine such as faith, healing, prosperity, and they do evangelize along with it.

I once heard miracles died with the apostles, but I do not believe it. The **greatest miracle is being born-again**. I believe in healing when it comes down to the body as I am living proof. I also believe in healing of the mind, relationships, finances, I could go on and on. Here is an example. When

thinking about prosperity, the first thing that comes to mind is wealth. There is more to prosperity than wealth. I love to prosper in my health, don't you?

I have gone through the Bible over and over again but cannot find anywhere in the Bible that God wants us to be poor and sick. On the contrary, when then the Bible talks about prospering, it states **God desires to bless us abundantly.**

### **Laws of Prosperity**

Kenneth Copeland wrote a book some time ago called *The Laws of Prosperity*. In his book, he mentions health and wealth, but the other five caught my eye.

- **Spiritual:** We must be born-again and when we are, our Spirit is reborn and in fellowship with God
- **Emotional:** True peace and joy can only be found through Christ Jesus!
- **Mental:** Revelation knowledge, mental abilities beyond our own, and a sharp mind like Moses had even at 120 years old
- **Relational:** Only God can truly prosper you in the area of relationships
- **Accomplishment or favor:** It opens doors and causes things to go your way, even when, in the natural, it may not seem possible

The apostle John wrote, **"I pray that in all respects you may prosper and be in health, just as your soul prospers"** (3 John 2). God wants to do exceedingly and abundantly above all we can ever ask for (**Ephesians 3:20**) and His plans for us are for success (**Jeremiah 29:11**).

So, what's the problem? All it takes is one word either explained incorrectly, interpreted wrong, or taken out of context, and it starts a media and religious frenzy/bashing. **Don't bash the preacher!** If he or she says anything that does not line up biblically, use your church's chain of command.

If that does not work, move to another church that lines up with what God's Word says to you. I have said to others move on when you are not getting fed properly. If this preacher is on radio, television, podcast, or other media, shut it off.

## **Be Accountable for Your Actions**

A professor one evening gave some sound advice. He told us he will be held accountable for every student that comes through the door of the college, every student he teaches, in addition to every person that came to the churches he pastored at. Think about that for a minute. We will also be held accountable on the day of judgment for the people that we preach and teach the infallible Word of God (**Matthew 12:35-37**).

We are to hold ourselves accountable for our preaching and don't worry about others. No one likes to be bashed for their beliefs, the job, or the tasks they perform. **Bashing causes anger and strife** and Jesus called us to peace (**John 14:27**). Instead of bashing, pray.

Another accountability, how we use our words. Jesus warned us that it is not what comes into our mouths, but what comes out (**Matthew 15:18; Mark 7:15**), which is a spiritual heart issue. Jesus told us before taking the speck out of their eye, take the plank out of yours, and do not criticize others (**Matthew 7:3-5**).

## **Conclusion**

We all have different beliefs and the arguments will continue right or wrong. We must be accountable for our actions and words and not others. One thing that is true, **there is only one way to heaven and that is through our Lord Jesus Christ (John 14:6), Amen!**

**I am Dale Van De Bogart and I approve of this message!**

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