

## IT'S ALL THE PREACHER'S FAULT!

**TEXT:** 2 Cor. 6:3

**THESIS:** To show that individual responsibility must be accepted for many of our shortcomings and spiritual problems and lack of revival.

**INTRO.:** A. Preachers fall into many pitfalls and when they do they are to be blamed. There are four primary pitfalls into which preachers may fall...

1. The pitfall of **IMMORALITY**
2. The pitfall of **DOCTRINAL ERROR** (*"smoooooth preaching"*)

**NOTE:** Like the leading psychologist on TV who wrote a popular book on dating, romance & finding the right mate. The only problem is that she was married 5 times! *"Physician of no value"*

3. The pitfall of **SUCCESS, FINANCIAL IRRESPONSIBILITY:** (*"I can do no wrong"*)
4. The pitfall of **ECCLESIASTICAL COMPROMISE** and interdenominational confusion (*Getting on Joel Osteen's or Rick Warren's bandwagon to a phony millennium*)

**NOTE:** There are other things preachers can and should be blamed for that bring reproach upon Christ and cause the ministry to be blamed. But there are many things which go wrong in churches & that Christians get involved in that are **NOT THE PREACHER'S FAULT**, and for which his ministry should NOT be blamed!

### I. IT'S NOT THE PREACHER'S FAULT IF THERE IS...A LACK OF REVIVAL:

A. Preachers Don't Produce Revival – God Does!

B. Preachers Can't Pray Down or Preach Up Revival – God Must Send It!

C. Preachers Cannot Be Blamed for a Lack of Personal Revival – YOU can!

1. That is the individual believer's personal responsibility
2. Personal revival includes confession of all known sin: 1 Jn. 1:9
3. It includes the fullness of the Holy Spirit: Eph. 5:18
4. It includes internalizing God's Word: Ps. 119:11

**DEFINITION:** "Revival is that special season of spiritual refreshing when believers experience a deep Holy Spirit conviction of sin, causing them privately & publicly to confess and renounce such sin, all of this resulting in a renewal of their dedication to God & the whole experience bearing fruit in the salvation of lost souls." Dr. DeHaan

"Revival is God's blessing and God's Power" - P.F.

### II. IT'S NOT THE PREACHER'S FAULT IF THERE IS...A LACK OF GROWTH:

A. Preachers Can Serve a Balanced Diet, But Cannot Make Christians Partake:

**ILLUS.:** When you go to a restaurant buffet, it is not the cooks fault if everything is prepared and set out for you to partake and you fail to do so.

**1 Peter 5:2-3** *Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof (Take Heed), not by constraint, but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; 3 Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to (Lead) the flock.*

1. Peter places the feeding of the flock upon the preacher's shoulders
2. But he also places the burden of growth upon the believer's shoulders

B. The Preacher is Often Limited in the Diet He Serves Because of Immature Believers:

**Hebrews 5:11-14** *Of whom we have many things to say, and hard to be uttered, seeing ye are dull of hearing. 12 For when for the time ye ought to be teachers, ye have need that one teach you again which be the first principles of the oracles of God; and are become such as have need of milk, and not of strong meat. 13 For every one that useth milk is unskilful in the word of righteousness: for he is a babe. 14 But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, even those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.*

**ILLUS.:** A family told me they were leaving the church because my messages were "over the heads" of their elementary school children. I hope so!!! Paul blamed the carnality of the Christians in Corinth for their lack of spiritual growth.

**1 Corinthians 3:1-3** *And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ. 2 I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able. 3 For ye are yet carnal: for whereas there is among you envying, and strife, and divisions, are ye not carnal, and walk as men?*

### III. IT'S NOT THE PREACHER'S FAULT IF THERE IS...A LACK OF CONVICTIONS:

A. The Preacher Should Have High Standards & Strong Convictions

B. The People Must Mature & Grow in Both Areas:

1. We must learn to suffer wrong and not be easily offended.

**1 Corinthians 6:7-8** *Now therefore there is utterly a fault among you, because ye go to law one with another. Why do ye not rather take wrong? why do ye not rather suffer yourselves to be defrauded? 8 Nay, ye do wrong, and defraud, and that your brethren.*

**Psalms 119:165** *Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them.*

2. We must tailor our convictions to God's Word, not the world's whims or fashions
3. We must be willing to give up that which offends other weaker believers
4. We must not demand of others what we do not practice ourselves
5. We must examine the historic & biblical standards identified with Bible-believers
6. We need to be gracious, not judgmental & Pharisaical towards those who do not share our convictions

### IV. IT'S NOT THE PREACHER'S FAULT IF THERE IS...A LACK OF MOTIVATION:

A. The Pastor is Responsible to Motivate & Inspire His People by Example & Teaching/Preaching

B. The Pastor is NOT Responsible if His Leadership is Neglected or Ignored!

1. If you don't read the Bible – it's YOUR FAULT!
2. If you don't have devotions – it's YOUR FAULT!
3. If you don't go soul-winning – it's YOUR FAULT!
4. If you don't make Christ Lord – it's YOUR FAULT!
5. If you don't get involved in ministry – it's YOUR FAULT!
6. If you don't get baptized – it's YOUR FAULT!
7. If you don't join the church – it's YOUR FAULT!
8. If you don't love others – it's YOUR FAULT!
9. If you are lazy, unfaithful & disloyal – it's YOUR FAULT!

**Hebrews 10:24-25** *24 And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: 25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching.*

### V. IT'S NOT THE PREACHER'S FAULT IF THERE IS...A LACK OF STEADFASTNESS:

**1 Corinthians 15:58** *Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.*

A. YOU Need to Take the Blame if:

1. If you quit or drop out – it's not the preacher's fault!
2. If you compromise doctrine, convictions or standards – it's not the preacher's fault!
3. If you fall into sin – it's not the preacher's fault!
4. If you backslide – it's not the preacher's fault!
5. If you become critical, or develop a wounded spirit – it's not the preacher's fault!

**CONCL.:** Preachers have more than enough to answer for and will give an account to the Great Shepherd (Pastor) without the people in the pews blaming them for their own laxity, lethargy and laziness! **IT'S NOT THE PREACHER'S FAULT!**

**If YOU choose today *not* to get saved – it's not the preacher's fault!**