

The Pastor's Corner Vol. 8

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Itching Ears



.... I felt I had to write and urge you to contend for the faith that was once for all entrusted to the saints. Jude 1:3 NIV

Itching Ears

2 Timothy 4:3-4 (NIV) *“For the time will come when men will not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires, they will gather around them great number of teachers to say what their **itching ears** want to hear”*

In the Apostle Paul’s last letter before his execution to Timothy his son in the Gospel, he warned Timothy (2 Timothy 4:3-4) that the time would come when men would not put up with sound doctrine. Instead, to suit their own desires they will gather around them a great number of teachers to say what their itching ears want to hear. Paul said, referring to those no longer putting up with sound doctrine, they would turn their ears away from the truth and turn aside to myths. It saddens me to say that the time Paul warned Timothy about is here now and has become more evident than ever before.

One need only turn on their television to see what I’m saying is in fact the truth. To be specific, one can tune into TBN (Trinity Broadcasting Network) and hear messages from well-known preachers that should make the average student of the Bible cringe. This is not limited to television, there are many radio stations that air the same preachers. On both radio and television, we hear well-known preachers like Benny Hinn who in 1991, said things like: “Here’s first what I see for TBN. You’re going to have people raised from the dead watching this network. You’re going to have people raised from the dead watching TBN...I’m telling you, I see this in the spirit...people around the world who will lose loved ones, will say to undertakers, “Not yet. I want to take my dead loved one and place him in front of that tv set for twenty four hours”...I see rows of caskets lining up in front of this tv set, and I see them bringing them closer to the tv set, and as people are coming closer, I actually see loved ones picking up the hands of the dead and letting them touch the screen, and people are getting raised as their hands are touching the screen” (Christianity in Crisis, 21st Century, pg.32).

In addition, on January 1, 1990 Benny Hinn said, “The Lord tells me to tell you in the mid-90’s, about 94, 95, no later than that, God will destroy the homosexual community of America...He will destroy it with fire.” (Christianity in Crisis 21st Century, pg. 32). Several years have past since Benny Hinn made these predictions, needless to say, they did not come to pass, that makes Benny Hinn a false prophet. But turn on your television, tune into TBN and guess who’s still on the air making predictions, you got it, Benny Hinn. My question is why are Christians still listening to Benny Hinn and buying his books and CD’s after he has proven himself to be a false prophet?

Another well-known preacher that is on television weekly is Joel Osteen. According to Osteen, our words create reality. Osteen says, “Positively or negatively, creative power resides in your words.” As an example, Osteen cites the birth of John the Baptist (Luke 1:8-20). The Bible teaches that Zechariah, John the Baptist’s father was rendered speechless for the entire pregnancy of Elizabeth, John the Baptist’s mother. (Luke 1:57-64). According to Osteen, the reason for Zechariah’s silence was because God knew Zechariah’s negative words would cancel out his plan...See, God knows the power of **our words**. He knows **we prophesy our future**. And he knew Zechariah’s own negative words would stop his plan.” (Christianity in Crisis, 21st Century pg. XIV) A quick look at Luke 1:20 tells us exactly why Zechariah was not able to speak for the entire pregnancy, Luke 1:20 (NIV) “*And now you will be silent until the day this happens because you did not believe my words, which will come true at their proper time.*”

In addition, Osteen writes, “The scripture tells us that we are to call the things that are not as if they already were.” A quick look at Romans 4:17 (NIV) says it is God who gives life and calls things that are not as though they were. Romans 4:17 (NIV) “... *The God who gives life to the dead and calls things that are not as though they were.*” Despite the clear error taught by Joel Osteen, he can be seen every Sunday morning on national television preaching and teaching to his usually packed to capacity mega church. The question is why do Christians continue to support Osteen when his teachings are clearly unbiblical? In my opinion, the answer to this that most Christians today have the “itching ears” Paul warned Timothy about. That is to say, sound doctrine or biblical truth no longer matters, they want to hear what makes them feel good and how God is going to bless them.

The same holds true for Benny Hinn, as long as he continues to say what “itching ears” want to hear, he can make as many false prophecies and blasphemous statements he wants. Benny Hinn has even made some outright ridiculous statements. He said, “The day is coming, I tell you this, I know it like I know my name, the day is coming there will not be one sick saint in the body of Christ. Nobody will be, nobody’s gonna be, no one will be raptured up out of a hospital bed. You’re all gonna be healed before the rapture.” Although Hinn’s statements are utterly ridiculous, and unbiblical, it’s what “itching ears” want to hear. It is quite understandable to not want to be sick, I don’t want to be sick, but the reality is we are all subject to sickness. Some sicknesses are cured by the use of medicine prescribed by a doctor who I believe gets wisdom/direction from God while other sicknesses will take us home to be with the Lord unless he decides to heal us.

In conclusion, there are many preachers on radio and television that are prospering because saints with “itching ears” would rather send them their tithes in exchange for a word of prophecy or some magic solution to their problems that they want to hear even when the response they get is unbiblical. There are too many preachers today preaching error that “itching ears” want to hear because they’ve turned from God’s truth, the Bible. Just to mention a few:

John Hagee - says Jesus wore designer clothes and lived in a mansion. (See Matthew 8:20)

Creflo Dollar - says Christians are gods. (See Isaiah 43:10 and Isaiah 44:6) He also, like Muslims, Jehovah’s Witnesses and all cults, denies the deity of Jesus. He says, “...the Bible says god never sleeps nor slumbers...and yet in the book of Mark we see Jesus asleep on the back of the boat.” (See John 1:1; Colossians 2:9, John 10:30-33 and John 5:18)

TD Jakes - says concerning seed faith, “It would be ridiculous for me to pray that God would give it [your money] back to you because if all He was going to do was give it back to you, you ought to keep it.” In other words, if God is not going to multiply what you give, in offerings you should keep it yourself. Our giving should never be for the sake of getting something in return, we give as unto the Lord as he has prospered us without looking for a return. Jakes also teaches that the tongue has power, he says, “You gotta be careful what you speak too, because the power of life and death is in your tongue.” According to Jakes, “as long as Jesus was talking on the cross, he couldn’t die... He had so much life in his mouth that as long as he was talking death couldn’t get near him.” In other words, Jesus did not stop talking because he died; he died because he stopped talking.”

Fred Price says, “We don’t allow sickness in our home.” An option nobody has. (See Daniel 4:35) Regarding taking medicine Price says, “When you have developed your faith to such an extent that you can stand on the promises of God, then you won’t need medicine.” Paul told Timothy, his son in the Gospel, to drink wine for medicinal purposes because of his stomach problems. Was Timothy’s faith lacking? I don’t think so. (See 1 Timothy 5:23)

Rod Parsley – believes all our problems are devils that need to be exorcised. He says, “... you think you got a headache and you got a devil. You think you just got a problem with your bank account and you got a devil. You think you got a problem with your temper and you’ve got a devil...”

The list of well-known preachers that in my opinion preach unbiblical practices that itching ears want to hear includes at least the following preachers:

Kenneth Hagin
Kenneth Copeland
Joyce Meyer

John Hagee
John Avanzini
Todd Bently

Although these preachers/teachers may not preach/teach exactly the same errors, their messages are intended for those with “itching ears” that want to hear and believe their errors. It is outright blasphemy when preachers like Kenneth Copeland say; “I was shocked when I found out who the biggest failure in the Bible actually is... The biggest one is God...”. Or to be told that your words have enough power, like Zechariah’s to cancel out God’s plans.

The Bible is emphatically clear, Daniel 4:35 (NIV) says, “*All the peoples of the earth are regarded as nothing. He does as he pleases: with the powers of heaven and the peoples of the earth. No one can hold back his hand or say to him: what have you done?*”

The solution to this very serious problem of “itching ears” is not a simple one. However, here are a few steps that must be taken if we intend to return to a Bible believing, Bible directed church.

- 1) Purchase good study materials, commentaries, study Bibles and Bible dictionaries.
- 2) Purchase a good book on the subject of Hermeneutics (the Art and Science of Biblical Interpretation).
- 3) If your church is one of those churches that subscribe to the teachings of the preachers/teachers listed, discuss with your Pastor your concerns. If he/she insists on clinging to the erroneous teachings of the preachers/teachers listed, you should prayerfully consider finding a healthy well-balanced church to transfer your membership to.

Finally, don’t ignore the statements of these preachers/teachers mentioned in this work. Go on the internet check to see if what I’m saying is true, if it is, it’s your responsibility to do what pleases God even if it means losing friends and/or moving to another ministry if necessary. If the statements are false, pray for me, but whatever you do, don’t ignore this; your spiritual health is at stake.

God Bless,
Pastor D. M. Duncan

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