

Division would come; but not God's doing

It was prophesied that division would come in the body of Christ. Note some scriptures that plainly warn the people of God about division.

There should not have been division within their ranks because the men of God warned them about division.

Acts 20-this is a very important chapter. You will find the apostle Paul talking with the elders of the church of Ephesus over at Miletus. Keep in mind that he is talking to the elders of a local church, men who had the oversight of the flock of God which is "among them."

Listen to what he said, beginning at verse 28-"Take heed therefore unto yourselves and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God which he hath purchased with his own blood."

Now there we find that the elders have the oversight of the flock of God which is "among them." Keep this in mind. Then he said, "For I know this." Now, he did not say there was any doubt in his mind, or that "it might be." He said, "I know this, that after my departure shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock."

It is a rather strange thing that these wolves did not come while the apostles were there. They waited for the men of God to get away, then these false teachers sneaked in and divided the body of Christ.

This is the same way they will do it today. You can let a devout man of God, a faithful man of God, stay there and preach the truth, and very seldom will you ever find a false teacher that will challenge him. But yet you let that man get away from the flock, and then these wolves will come in and try to divide the body of Christ, and that is a shame and a disgrace.

But notice what he said inverse 30-"And of your own selves shall men arise speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them." What a shame! What a tragedy! But, yet, the truth.

Paul said, "But even of your own selves shall men arise speaking perverse things." Sometimes people say that this has reference to elders, which I would not deny. I think even of the eldership there would be men to arise who would "speak perverse things to draw away disciples after them." But likewise, it could be true of preachers in a local congregation, where they would arise and start speaking things contrary to the word of God.

Also observe that he said, "To draw away disciples after them." Now then, when they teach things contrary to the word of God, they are going to draw away disciples. When they "draw away disciples after them," that is going to bring division within the ranks of God, and there is no way to get around it.

That is exactly what the man of God said. He said that division would come, that "even of your own selves shall men arise speaking perverse things."

THIS is why we have so many differing denominational bodies, each with a different creed.

Jesus prayed... - - - > read John 17:20-21...