

## **A Different Kind Of Preaching A Different Kind Of Church**

Recently, a visiting preacher at a congregation near us made a typical liberal statement, and asked a startling question. He said he chooses to worship in a certain way, because he believed that was right, but, he said, we have to be careful not to **“make our method our message.”** Our method of worshipping God is in harmony with the New Testament, it must be a part of our message for God will not accept that which is not by his authority (Col. 3:17), and we have an obligation to the lost in the world and the rebellious in the church to tell them that (2 Tim. 2:2; 1 Cor. 4:17; 11:1,2.).

The man then informed the audience that in the congregation where he regularly preached, he and members were involved in a compiling a list of questions they would like to ask God. One evening he decided to put his one question before them. He asked: “Does God make mistakes.” He then said, “Before you answer that, He made me, and I am full of flaws.” To this writer’s amazement, he never said one more word about the question or his preamble leading up to it. He just went on with his sermon (if it could be called that). Why he brought this blasphemous question up at all is anyone’s guess. The only conclusion one could come to was that he was implying, Yes, God does indeed make mistakes.

There was a time when men who accepted the responsibility to preach had absolute respect for God, and the infallible revelation He has given us to guide our lives and pattern our relationship with Him. The word of God and man’s obligation to obey it was preached. As a result the church was growing numerically. Congregations were standing firm for the truth, and by heeding the writings of the inspired penmen of the New Testament, were obedient in all things (2 Cor. 2:9). Brethren everywhere understood that the word of God explicitly and in great detail set forth the pattern for the church in teaching, worship, work, morality, and practice.

Now it is different. In many pulpits, there is a different kind of man. He knows more about human philosophies, and Zig Ziglar performance enhancement than he does about the Bible. When he uses scripture at all he misinterprets it or denies its import. He rails against past brethren who engaged in proof-text preaching, and according to him, passed judgment on those who differ with him. As a result of his “preaching,” there is a different kind of church today. It is one that recognizes no pattern and embraces *the everything goes in religious so long as one is sincere* concept. The efficacy of baptism is brought into question and the invitation of Christ is replaced with a denominational altar call. Let us strive to rescue those who have been deceived by this different kind of preacher before it is too late for their souls, and too late for generations that follow us that are headed down the road to accepting the falsehood that the church is just another denomination.

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