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WHAT THE PREACHER DID

“Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness,” (Jm. 3:1). For any who would willingly put themselves in the sobering position of teaching and proclaiming the good news that God sent His Son to bring salvation to lost sinners willing to repent from their sins and walk in the footsteps of Christ, there must be a willingness to accept the responsibility that their life must be constantly guarded against potential attacks from those ready to attack not only the truth of the message but the truth that anyone, including the messengers themselves, actually seek to live pure disciplined lives of integrity. “Show yourself in all respects to be a model of good works, and

in your teaching show integrity, dignity, and sound speech that cannot be condemned, so that an opponent may be put to shame, having nothing evil to say about us,” (Titus 2:7-8). Preachers must be ready to publicly condemn sin and those who commit them with the level of honest integrity which refuses to leave any immune to being subject to potential rebuke. “As for those who persist in sin, rebuke them in the presence of all, so that the rest may stand in fear. In the presence of God and of Christ Jesus and of the elect angels I charge you to keep these rules without prejudging, doing nothing from partiality,” (1 Tim. 5:20-21).

Naturally, when one is in the position of unapologetically exhorting everyone “to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age,” (Titus 2:12) they are inevitably setting themselves up as a living target for criticism and judgment in regards to their own personal lives. Obviously, any minister who believes they are above fair examination and scrutiny as others seek to weigh their effectiveness as “an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity,” (1 Tim. 4:12) they simply do not belong in the pulpit. Those who preach the gospel are exhorted and admonished to “flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart,” (2 Tim. 2:22). The Apostle Paul made it perfectly clear the reasonable expectations placed upon Timothy as an evangelist and explained that failing to live faithfully up to those standards would result in

being handed over to Satan. “This charge I entrust to you, Timothy, my child, in accordance with the prophecies previously made about you, that by them you may wage the good warfare, holding faith and a good conscience. By rejecting this, some have made shipwreck of their faith, among whom are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I have handed over to Satan that they may learn not to blaspheme,” (1 Tim. 1:18-20). That being said, let us also be willing to be understanding of the fact that a preacher, just like any other disciple of Jesus seeking to grow in their effectiveness and usefulness in the Kingdom, is a work in progress. While the standard for effective useful ministry is clearly set, Paul admonished Timothy to be obsessed with growth and progress. “...being **trained** in the words of the faith...**train yourself** for godliness...for to this end we **toil and strive...practice** these things, **devote yourself** to them...**persist in this**, for by

FIFTH SUNDAY PHOTOS

Every fifth Sunday of the month, we try to highlight some of great things happening around our congregation that were captured through photography. If you happen to get a good picture of one of those great things, please feel free to post it on our Facebook page, tag us on Instagram (@wellsburgchurch), tweet us at @wellsburgchurch, or e-mail us at minister@wellsburgchurchofchrist.com with a little description of what is happening in the picture.



Peggy was a great help getting the classrooms ready for VBS!

She even helped the kids remember to "be careful little eyes what you see" during the last night of singing!



Several members and friends had an informative and eye-opening experience at the Creation Museum in Kentucky. With so much to take in, these studious onlookers barely noticed the hungry dinosaurs creeping up behind them!



Classrooms were full of eager students excited to learn about God each night of our VBS! What a great reminder these little children are for us to be like them in the Kingdom of God!

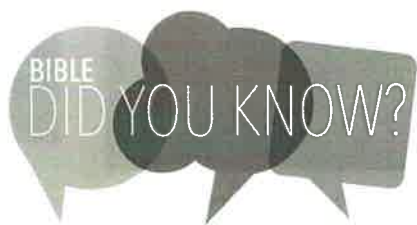


Lydia was a natural acting in her first commercial! Look for her excellent convincing performance in the upcoming Fun Fore All ad online!

so doing you will save both yourself and your hearers,” (1 Tim. 4:6, 7, 10, 15, 16).

While there may be some preachers who refuse to guard their lives and as a result are careless and faithless and ungodly as Hymenaeus and Alexander had become, they are rightly deserving of sharp rebuke and publicly exposing by pointing out “Did you see what that preacher did?” At the same time let us also be patient and helpful when it becomes obvious that conscientious preachers who live by the admonition “keep a close watch on yourself and on the teaching” (1 Tim. 4:16) have more training to do in some area of their life. Rather than seeking to destroy and disregard any potential for good a conscientious preacher growing in the faith may have, let us seek to help, encourage, admonish, counsel, console, and pray for ministers who display failings in their lives that they may be stronger and more equipped to help further the cause of the gospel of Christ. If they

are truly keeping as close a watch on their lives as Paul admonishes them to, most likely they are more aware and more deeply hurt and saddened by the failures you have witnessed than you are, and would be more than willing to hear a welcome word of help and encouragement in how to correct and overcome their sin. – Daniel Ruegg



***Jesus' family was so poor they could not afford a lamb for sacrifice (Lk. 2:22-24).
“But if she cannot afford a lamb, then she shall take two turtledoves or two young pigeons, the one for a burnt offering and the other for a sin offering,” Lev. 12:8***