

## Preach The Bible and Leave Everyone Alone

The title of this article is the expression that those of us who preach hear all too often. Many are asking for preaching that will not offend the listeners. The cry is for a doctrine that will allow for one to feel good in his state of being lost. The idea that some people have concerning salvation is that all men are going to be saved simply because God is so loving and kind. If that is the case, then why do we even preach at all? I would like to show you what would happen if a preacher decided to heed the above advice, "Preach the Bible and leave everyone alone."

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). Before the preacher could say two words, "For God" there would be a cry from those who do not want to accept the fact that God exists. The Psalmist declared, "The fool hath said in his heart, *There is no God.*" (Psalms 14:1). In order to comply, John 3:16 would have to look like this, "So loved the world, that..." However, when the preacher says, "so loved the world..." the prejudiced all over the globe will be offended. The racially prejudiced only wants his/her race to be saved. We also find the "Calvinist" offended (this includes practically all of the denominations) because Calvin taught that only the elect would be saved. So the racial prejudiced and the followers of predestination are offended. The text then would look like this, "That gave only begotten Son, that believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." Wouldn't you know it, those who do not believe in the Deity of Jesus are offended and the words must not be preached. The altered text looks like this. "So, that, that should not perish, but have everlasting life." You noticed that I had to delete the word, "gave", because the stingy, covetous brethren are offended anytime the subject of giving is mentioned. Remember the Calvinist? I had to remove the word "believeth" because it makes no difference whether you believe or not. If you are not one of the elect, it doesn't matter whether you believe or not. Predestination removes faith. We have another problem. Some people do not believe in a place for punishment or a place for reward, so the idea of Heaven and Hell must be removed.

When you remove the things that are offensive, there is not much left to preach. "So that, that in" just doesn't sound like much to preach. If we preachers listened to the advice of the offended we wouldn't have much to say. However, the Apostle Paul said, "Preach the Word!"

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