

WHEN JEREMIAH WANTED TO QUIT PREACHING

Terry Wane Benton

It wasn't just mental fatigue and having to deal with obnoxious attitudes, but having to constantly deal with brethren undermining him and working against him, some even looking for ways to get rid of him for good! It got to where he dreaded preaching the needed message of repentance. It was a negative message God called him to preach because the nation had drifted so far that doom was their future. They laughed him off, saying, "*Violence and plunder*" is all he ever says (Jeremiah 20:8). Jeremiah wanted to just quit. He said, "*I will not make mention of Him nor speak anymore in His name.*" I've been there a few times. Sometimes it seems useless because people don't seem to listen and appreciate your efforts to save their souls. You feel pretty lonely when you ought to feel appreciated and loved. Jeremiah was feeling very unloved, except for God!

When a man truly understands the significance, truth, wonder, and power of the word, he can't always just suppress it. Jeremiah tried, but the word was in his heart, and when it is in the heart it is "*like a burning fire shut up in the bones,*" and you get tired of holding it in (9). Jeremiah tried to quit, but his message was too important, too needed, too powerful to suppress. He could no longer watch the light go out when such a message was desperately needed. We need more Jeremiahs who can't hold back from preaching the most needed message that still lives and abides for the saving of souls. We don't need people who can preach or not, but people who can't keep themselves from it. Do you understand what Jeremiah was feeling? Do you feel that same way?

CHOOSE YOUR HARD

Author Unknown

Marriage is hard. Divorce is hard. Choose your hard.

Fitness is hard. Obesity is hard. Choose your hard.

Frugality is hard. Debt is hard. Choose your hard.

Communication is hard. Silence is hard. Choose your hard.

Life will never be easy. It will always be hard. But we can choose our hard.

THE ROOF WILL COLLAPSE

Larry Schneider

Growing up, my grandfather always told me that he could not come to church with us because, if he did, "The roof would collapse" on everybody.

He told me that he had done many things that made God mad. As a young child, I accepted that and wondered what he had done that was so bad. As I grew older and obeyed the Gospel, I began to study more of God's Word and the people in the Bible. I wondered!

Had my grandfather committed adultery with a married woman, and then killed her husband in an attempt to cover it up? David did that, but he is remembered as "*a man after God's own heart*" (2nd Samuel 11-12).

Did my grandfather imprison Christians and have them killed? Saul of Tarsus did that but later became the Apostle Paul (Acts 22:3-4).

Did he forsake Paul and Barnabas as John Mark did on the first journey? Paul later wrote, "*Mark is profitable to me for ministry*" (2nd Timothy 4:11).

Did my grandfather burn babies to idols and worship idols like King Manasseh did? Yet near the end of his life, he humbled himself and repented. God had mercy on him and delayed judgment (2nd Chronicles 33:1-13).

Was he like the "Prodigal Son" who squandered his money with sinful living and ended up eating slop with the pigs? Yet, it says that he "*came to himself*" and repented. His father welcomed him home (Luke 15).

It is not what you have done. It is, "Will you repent?" When you repent and come back to God and obey his commandments, He will always be there. His goodness and His mercy endures forever (Psalm 100:5; Psalm 103: 17; Ephesians 2:4-5).

The roof will not collapse on you. It did not on David, Paul, John Mark, King Manasseh, or the prodigal son. God welcomes His children home when they repent, obey His commandments, and return to Him. Never think that you are so bad that God will not welcome you home.

**"WHAT MUST I DO
TO BE SAVED?"**

ACTS 16:30

LEARN THE GOSPEL

John 6:45; Romans 10:17

BELIEVE IN CHRIST

Hebrews 11:6; John 3:16

CONFESS CHRIST

Matthew 10:32-33; Romans 10:9-10

REPENT OF SIN

Acts 3:19; 17:30

BE BAPTIZED INTO CHRIST

Mark 16:16; Romans 6:3-6

REMAIN STEADFAST

1st Corinthians 15:58; Revelation 2:10

**"THE ASSEMBLING OF
OURSELVES TOGETHER"**

HEBREWS 10:24-25

SUNDAY

Worship @ 10:00 a.m.

Studies @ 11:45 a.m.

WEDNESDAY

Studies & Worship @ 7:00 p.m.

75 Sherrod Boulevard
Belén, New Mexico

**Seekers Welcome.
Members Expected.**

**"IF A MAN IS OVERTAKEN IN
ANY TRESPASS...
RESTORE SUCH A ONE"**

GALATIANS 6:1

CONFESS TRESPASSES

James 5:16; 1st John 1:9

REPENT OF SIN

Acts 8:22

PRAY FOR FORGIVENESS

Acts 8:22

REMAIN STEADFAST

1st Corinthians 15:58; Revelation 2:10

**"A WORD FITLY SPOKEN IS
LIKE APPLES OF GOLD IN
SETTINGS OF SILVER"**

PROVERBS 25:11

"Human history is the long, terrible story of man trying to find something other than God which will make him happy."

– C.S. Lewis

"WHOLE COUNSEL"

ACTS 20:27

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DON'T BE A COWARD; BE A CHRISTIAN

Brian Sauv , adapted

One of the silent plagues destroying churches today is simple cowardice.

Cowardice prevents Christians from having hard conversations with others with whom they find fault.

Cowardice therefore creates gossips who love to whisper their brother's faults to everyone except their brother.

Cowardice keeps preachers, teachers, and elders from confronting the most pressing sins in the congregation, knowing the cost will be high to do so.

Cowardice extinguishes evangelistic fervor; a Christian who fears his neighbor won't share the gospel with his neighbor.

Cowardice keeps men from leading in their homes.

Cowardice comforts the theological theoretician who loves to play games with his favorite doctrines while neglecting to defend those doctrines which are most under attack in the present age.

Cowardice will keep you from having that hard conversation, from facing your own sin, and from ten-thousand other needful things. Don't be a coward; be a Christian.

"Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand" (Isaiah 41:10).

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