



THE VOICE OF EVANGELISM INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES

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FLEECING THE FLOCK !

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We want address a subject matter that is pertinent to the body of Christ for today and we will begin by taking our Scripture text from **1st Peter 5:1-2, "The elders which are among you I exhort, who am also an elder, and a witness of the sufferings of Christ, and also a partaker of the glory that shall be revealed: Feed the flock of God which is among you, taking the oversight thereof, not by constraint but willingly; not for filthy lucre, but of a ready mind; Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being examples to the flock."** May I say, as an ordained minister and also having previously been ordained in a large Pentecostal denomination, I feel qualified, as well as discern the need to address this subject matter. The apostle Peter begins this passage of Scripture by exhorting the elders and admonishing them how their calling is fundamentally to feed the flock of God. I want to emphasize the word feed and not fleece. Today most ministries and ministers are more than willing to fleece the flock instead of obeying the Word of God to nourish and feed the flock of God. This is why in modern Christianity most people are spiritually emaciated from not being nourished by the Word of God. In general, mostly cotton candy along with fluff and stuff is being spewed from the pulpits today. Regretfully, several flagrant abuses by prominent ministers, involving hundreds of millions of dollars, were exposed

during the 1980's. As a result many people adapted a general distrust of Christian ministers and ministries, and giving declined profusely. Because of those situations the words of the Apostle Peter's are to be a required reading by the elders and ministers so they will not fall into the same snare and condemnation of the devil. This is the very reason *The Voice of Evangelism* will never make public appeals for finances or money. Yes, it does require money to do all that we do: but we had rather trust Jehovah than to beg for money. You hear enough begging as it is, on both television and radio. It appears to me that just about every ministry seems to be living in a perpetual state of emergencies and they need your money now! It is my personal opinion Christ never intended ministers to become professional beggars and beg for money like a dog begging for a treat. Here at home we have two Japanese Akita's and when they know I am coming with a treat they salivate to the degree slobber and drool starts flowing profusely from their jaws and spilling to the ground. Regretfully, today's charlatans beg and start drooling when they see you coming. Daily, we all witness a lack of faith on the part of these purported ministers and ministries as they declare to you such verses as, **Philippians 4:19, "But my God shall supply all your glory by need according to his**

riches in Glory by Christ Jesus." I find it absolutely amazing how many will quote Bible verses to you but fail to embrace those same scriptures for their own needs. It is demanded that ministers and clergymen maintain the utmost integrity when it comes to finances. The apostle Peter is declaring dishonest gain, as being "*filthy*" or "*shameful*" money. We find another profuse warning from the apostle Paul found here in **Colossians 3:5, "Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry."** The word "*mortify*" simply means to crucify the members of our body. The apostle Paul then describes covetousness as being a spirit of idolatry. The apostle declares money can become an idol through covetousness. This is because men have coveted the earthly riches rather than the true riches of Christ. Many today in radio, TV, and YouTube platforms put the word "*ministry*" in their name or titles. The truth is, most of them have never been called, anointed, or ordained by God. Just because someone puts the word "*ministry*" in their title does not mean God ever called them neither ordained them. They're using the word "*ministry*" for the sake of making a living from off the backs of the people of God. What a shameful

and disgraceful act: all for the love of money. When anyone pursues money in this manner they have already departed from the faith! We understand this by Paul's words found here in **1st Timothy 6:10**, "**For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred (or been seduced) from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows.**" Many today are seduced and don't even know it. The Bible is full of Scriptures warning those of us who are truly ordained as elders to never pursue filthy lucre found here in **1st Timothy 3:3**, "**Not given to wine, no striker, not greedy of filthy lucre.**" I know some will say: I'm not really a Minister; I'm just a deacon or a layman trying to have a ministry for God. If God did not call you to serve in ministry, then you are serving yourself, instead of Jehovah. Ministry is a calling first and then we are gifted to fulfill that calling. **Romans 11:29**, "**For the gifts and the calling of God are without repentance.**" God can gift anyone but never call them to minister. The ministry is to never be self-serving: it's all about serving others. Ministry is a lifetime of service to God and serving His people. Here is a Scripture verse for those who purport to be a deacon or layman found here in **1st Timothy 3:8**, "**Likewise must the deacons be grave, not double-tongued, not given to much wine, not greedy of filthy lucre.** There are those who have sought to bribe the men of God for their own personal gain as well. Whether through bribery or through a purported gift of love, no one can buy the anointing of God! Look with me please at **Acts 8:17-23**, "**Then laid they their hands on them, and they received the Holy Ghost. And when Simon saw that through laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Ghost was given, he offered them money, Saying, Give me also this power, that on whomsoever I lay hands, he may receive the Holy Ghost. But Peter said unto him, Thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money.**

Thou hast neither part nor lot in this matter: for thy heart is not right in the sight of God. Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee. For I perceive that thou art in the gall of bitterness, and in the bond of iniquity." The Holy Spirit was informing the apostle Peter of the exact sin in Simon's life and not just a mere symptom. Simon's condition was one of extreme wickedness within his heart. Simon was in bondage and he was being held captive by the spirit of greed for money, power, and the control over other people's lives. For this very reason the apostle Paul declared; "**the love of money is the root of all evil**". There are those who pursue money and could care less about the souls of men. Peter could not be bribed, for he was not interested in money because he possessed the only true riches found in Christ. All true men of God have a heart for Christ alone and never for finances or riches. Reading from **Hebrews 11:24-26**, "**By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter; Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompense of the reward.**" Simply put, the man of God looked away from the riches and treasures Egypt offered him. Moses set his affection upon the eternal rewards he would receive in the day of his resurrection. Where is your affection today? We are told in the book of Colossians where to set our affection, found here in **Colossians 3:2**, "**Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth.** To be surrendered in the ministry means you wholly preach the gospel and therefore you live by the gospel. Notice the words of the apostle Paul here in **1st Corinthians 9:16**, "**For necessity is laid upon me; yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel! For if I do this thing willingly, I have a reward.**" Every Minister is charged by

Jehovah to preach the gospel, and in preaching the gospel his needs will be supplied according to the gospel he preaches. Begging is not necessary if one is truly God called. David, the man of God tells us clearly of God's provision found here in **Psalms 37:23-25**, "**The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord: and he delighted in his way. Though he fall, he shall not be utterly cast down: for the Lord upholdeth him with his hand. I have been young, and now am old; yet have I not seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread.**" Why then are so many ministers begging for money and pursuing shenanigans by which to extract money from the flock of God? Are they truly righteous and are they the seed of Abraham? I asked the question because David said: "**I have never seen the righteous forsaken nor his seed begging bread?**" I have said it publicly many times: if we ever start begging for money turn away and do not continue to support us. We believe in giving here at The Voice of Evangelism: because we believe we will reap whatever we sow. If a farmer sows green beans then he most certainly will reap green beans and not corn: it's just that simple for this old country boy. Please continue to cover our nation and our president in prayer. The world is becoming more tempestuous by the day and our only refuge is Jesus Christ our Lord. May I encourage you and invite you to register for our first upcoming revival meeting April 16-19, 2020 at the Hickory Metro Convention Center. We also hope to slate a revival meeting in the fall of 2020 in Rome, Georgia at the City Auditorium. We are happy to confirm Steve Quayle, Russ Dizdar, Jimmy D. Smith, myself, and others will be with us in Hickory, N.C. May the Lord God of Abraham watch over you and your family in the coming days?

Serving With You All,

Pastor / Evangelist David W. Lankford