



THE VOICE OF EVANGELISM INTERNATIONAL MINISTRIES

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Alexander, A Confirmed Enemy!

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We want to take our scripture text today from **2nd Timothy 4:14-15**, **“Alexander the coppersmith did me much evil: the Lord reward him according to his works: Of whom be thou ware also; for he hath greatly withstood our words.”** Wherever the gospel enjoys untold success, as a believer you will soon find someone determined to oppose it. In fact, it seems the greater the impact that the message of Christ has, the more strident and determined will be those in opposition against the gospel of Christ. This man, known as Alexander the coppersmith, became a confirmed enemy of the apostle Paul at the church at Ephesus. Admittedly, men of that nature often have others who run with them in the same circle seeking to hinder the gospel of Christ and the work of God. Notice the words of the apostle Paul to his young son in the faith Timothy found here in **1st Timothy 1:19-20**, **“Holding faith, and a good conscience; which some having put away concerning faith have made shipwreck: Of whom is Hymenaeus and Alexander; whom I have delivered unto Satan, that they may learn not to blaspheme.”** In this passage of scripture, the apostle Paul is admonishing Timothy to thrust these men out because they have not the true faith of God and in the end they will ultimately make shipwreck: therefore Paul delivered them into the hands of Satan so that they may learn not to blaspheme the Word of God and the Holy Ghost! Without a doubt, Paul was admonishing Timothy that Alexander was a personal enemy and also an enemy of Christ our Lord. This

was nothing new to the early church because the apostle Paul declared in **Philippians 3:18-19**, **“(For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ; Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.)”** Even though the apostle Paul does not mention Alexander’s name in this particular passage of scripture to the church at Philippi, he is addressing those who are similar in their malice and remain charlatans, to say the least. They are enemies of the cross because they subvert the souls of men who would follow the Lord Jesus Christ according to the gospel of Christ. When Paul used the phrase destruction here in Philippians, he is actually saying to Timothy that these men are the same as sons of perdition or as sons of destruction. Some even identify Alexander as a Jew who lived in the city during the riots instigated by Demetrius and the silversmiths who opposed Paul’s preaching according to **(Acts 19:21-41)**. The Jews tried to use Alexander to convince the Gentiles at Ephesus that they should have nothing to do with Paul and the growing Christian movement found here in **Acts 19:33-34**, **“And they drew Alexander out of the multitude, the Jews putting him forward. And Alexander beckoned with the hand, and would have made his defense unto the people. But when they knew that he was A Jew, all with one voice about the space of two hours cried out, Great is Diana of the**

Ephesians.” The Jews were seeking to use Alexander to create an uproar in the midst of these Greeks and cast all the blame upon Paul and the Christians. It’s understandable that the un-regenerated sometimes cannot distinguish between good and evil, however, the Jews also opposed the worship of Diana as much as the Christians. The Greeks would not permit his speaking so they cried out in a continual uproar for two hours. Satan is a master at creating chaos and confusion to distort the gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. This is why we must be careful and preach a pure unadulterated word so that there will be Holy Ghost conviction to check the hearts of those who do not understand and comprehend what they may be hearing from strangers. Knowing that Alexander was associated with Hymenaeus allowed Paul to understand he was dealing with men who Satan was using to oppose the gospel of Christ our Lord. We understand this to be accurate because of what Paul declared in **2nd Timothy 2:14-18**, **“Of these things put them in remembrance, charging them before the Lord that they strive not about words to no profit, but to the subverting of the hearers. Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. But shun profane and vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness. As their word will eat as doth a canker: of whom is Hymenaeus and Philetus; Who concerning the truth have erred, saying that the resurrection**

is past already; and overthrow the faith of some.” Regretfully, like Alexander the coppersmith, there are those who are purveyors of words that do not profit anyone or anything but rather subvert those who are hearing their mendacious lies. As a child of God, we are commanded by Paul to study the scriptures that we might recognize the error when someone speaks erroneously, the reason being is because these purveyors of lies are like a canker, which the Greek describes as gangrene. Paul identified two men, Hymenaeus and Philetus, who did not possess the truth but rather lied about the resurrection of the sainted dead and declared the resurrection was already past, which cause many to lose their faith and make shipwreck. There are a lot of people in Christian media who are just as detrimental as Alexander, Hymenaeus, and Philetus when it comes to the work of Christ. What is very disturbing is when Paul uses the phrase “suffered shipwreck” he is indicating these men once possessed the true faith of the living God. Otherwise, it would be impossible to make shipwreck if you were not once in Christ and in fellowship with him. Paul apparently used his apostolic authority and delivered Alexander into the hands of Satan. We may not possess the same apostolic authority as the apostle Paul, but we can pray that the enemies of the cross be turned over to Satan that their spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord. We understand this to be doctrinally correct according to **1st Corinthians 5:3-5, “For I verily, as absent in body, but present in spirit, have judged already, as though I were present, concerning him that hath so done this deed. In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when ye gathered together, and, my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ, To**

deliver such a one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus.” The church was gathered together in the name of Christ, therefore Paul sought to deliver the evil person into the hands of Satan for the purpose of inflicting bodily suffering so their flesh might be destroyed so that their spirit might be able to return into their dead body in the day of the resurrection, along with the other sainted dead. Paul was working arduously to keep sin and corruption out of the body of Christ so the church would not become corrupted through these vile and wicked men who Paul deemed and judged as blasphemous. Satan is continually attempting to fill the church with sin, error, and false doctrine. Whoever Alexander was, Paul counted him as a confirmed enemy and warned Timothy to watch out for him. However, rather than attacking him, Paul left his fate in the Lord’s hands, to repay him *“according to his works.”* Who are the confirmed enemies of the cross and of the gospel where you live and work? Are you on guard against their attempts to discredit Christ, and the difference of those who labor faithfully in the vineyard of Christ? Every day you and I are making records and those records are being recorded in books. Each believer will be judged from a record book according to their works at the bema seat of Christ where the believer stands in judgment. However, there is a very terrible and horrible day coming for the sinner wherein the books concerning their lives will be opened along with the book of life and they too will be judged according to their works, but their works will have been sinful works. We know this to be doctrinally correct according to **Revelation 20:12-15, “And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead which**

were in it; and death and hell delivered of the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.” What a horrible scene as we witness those who are judged according to their ungodly and evil works found in those record books. After reviewing the record books, Jehovah will then look into the book of life and their names will not be found. They will then be sentenced to eternal death and separation from God Almighty, which is the second death. What that means is they previously died in their sins and went directly to hell after their natural death. They will then be raised accordingly to stand before Jehovah at the great White Throne Judgment. Without a doubt, they will be found guilty of their sins and wickedness and they will then be resented to a second death and then cast into the lake of fire. As a minister of the gospel of Christ, I humbly plead with you to never become an enemy of the cross or become a purveyor of discord and lies. When Paul said these men made shipwreck, it simply means they were eternally stranded without God. No one ever has to be stranded without God for Jesus Christ came as a life preserver to save each of us from our sins. Though the storm of life may be tempestuous at times, Jesus remains the anchor of our soul. Thank you for your prayers and support for the ministry here. We keep you covered in our prayer and we covet your prayers for our sakes. May the gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ continue to go forth unimpeded in these last days.

Serving With You All,

Pastor / Evangelist David W. Lankford