

Week 05
026/339

Transforming Daily
“... persuasive words ...”
Colossians 2:4

This was Paul’s greatest concern. He was concerned that false teachers with persuasive words would come to the church and undermine their faith and confidence in the gospel and the teachings of the apostles. The implication of “persuasive words” is understood to be the words of the flesh. In other words, false teachers would come to them and with words that appealed to their flesh and tickled their ears attempting to confuse and convolute the church in their individual spiritual development and general discipleship training.

Paul elsewhere in the New Testament, 2 Timothy 4:3, tells the young preacher boy that there will come a time when the hearers will not be able to endure sound doctrine and the preaching of the Word of God. Paul tells Timothy straightforward that the hearers will want their ears tickled by men who are willing to do that very thing. The answer he offers to Timothy is, “Preach the Word!” His point is that only the Word of God has the power to convict and convert.

I have said for years that I do not preach or teach to persuade anyone. If I can persuade you into something, someone else can come along and dissuade you. However, I am committed to preaching and teaching the Word of God, because if the Word of God persuades you, then you will be and remain persuaded. If you are persuaded, truly persuaded, by God’s Word, who is more powerful than He? Paul asked in one of his epistles, “Who shall separate us from the love of God?”

Conversion comes not from mere logic. Spiritual growth does not come exclusively through physical devotion and commitment. There is first and foremost the spiritual dynamic. God gave us the power of reason, but reason without faith will leave one spiritually frustrated in the end. Commitment and devotion are truly virtuous, and many lack these disciplines. Apart from the power of the Holy Spirit, Commitment and devotion are merely physical exercises of the heart and will. Both heart and mind are to be dominated by faith.

How about your heart and mind? Do you believe God’s Word only if it seems reasonable? Does your will and commitment have boundaries for exercising God’s word even if it doesn’t seem reasonable? Do your decisions rest exclusively on human logic? Does faith dominate you reason and will? Is the Bible your grid work through which you analyze man’s persuasive words?