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News from Our Anglican World

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“As a champion of God’s revealed truth, a Christian heeds Christ’s warning to be watchful for false teachers who would pervert his Word and so ravage Christ’s flock. ~ John R.W. Stott

“Whenever we see in a teacher the meekness and gentleness of Christ, his love, patience, kindness, goodness and self-control, we have reason to believe him to be true not false.” ~ ibid

“All doctrines must be brought to the Word of God as standard, for in judging of false prophets the rule of faith (i.e. Scripture) hold the chief place.” ~ John Calvin

“There is a longing today in the world that we become unified. There is one way to do that and that is to tune ourselves to the One who was, who is, and who will be forever.” ~ George B. Flint

“To be a Christian without prayer is no more possible than to be alive without breathing.” ~ The Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr.

How Can You Recognize A Faithful Pastor?

In this article we quote liberally from a piece bearing this title by The Rev Canon Phil Ashley in this week’s American Anglican Council’s Weekly Update. Therein he makes the point that from time-to-time faithful pastors and church leaders must offend for the sake of the Gospel. As he says, “it is not to seek controversy, but to preserve and rightly apply Biblical truth to the challenges we face in proclaiming Jesus Christ.”

Canon Ashley, who is CEO of the American Anglican Council, cites two letters recently issued by the Primates Council of GAFCON. The first letter was directed to the Chairman of the Council of Anglican Provinces in Africa, asking him why he had signed a communiqué of friendship with The Episcopal Church (USA) – and by extension, friendship with its unbiblical teaching, specifically involving sexuality and holy orders. The letter contained hard words, “but never was Biblical truth spoken so clearly and specifically to the crisis of Gospel truth within and, throughout, the Anglican Communion.”

In the second letter, the GAFCON Chairman’s January Pastoral Letter, he makes the plea that the greatest needs of Anglicans today are to have leaders that become “mature disciples of Jesus Christ.” In that context, he agrees with Pope Francis that faithful Christians must reject “ideological colonization”, the practice of tying aid to the promotion of non-biblical understandings of gender, the family and sexual behavior.

Again, here, “we have the example of a faithful pastor and church leader, speaking of the great reformed and reforming movement within Anglicanism (GAFCON), speaking and applying Biblical truth to refute the incursions of Western, secular, and false gospels within the Anglican Communion. AND, he is doing so in such a way that promotes the kind of ecumenical unity with Roman Catholics in a matter of Biblical truth that we share.

Canon Ashley ends his article with these words, “Thank God for faithful pastors and church leaders... who are willing to face controversy by promoting Biblical truth as the basis of genuine human flourishing in every dimension. Thank God for these faithful pastors and church leaders who remind us continually that our identity as Anglican is not found in the way we think..., “blown here and there by every wind of teaching and by the cunning craftiness of men in their deceitful scheming” (Ephesians 4:14). Thank God for these faithful pastors and church leaders who constantly point us back to a content based identity as Anglicans, rooted in the faith of the apostles “once delivered.” For us at CHC, thank God for the GAFCON Primates, ACNA Archbishop Foley Beach, REC Presiding Bishop Royal Grote, ACNA Dean and REC Bishop Ray Sutton, Canon Charlie Camlin, Father Kasey Gage and Deaconess Mary Jane Mathieu.

Blessings,

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To read Canon Ashley's complete article, go to www.americananglican.org