BALANCE

Some time ago I was going through materials I had saved over the years and found myself trying to evaluate the kind of preacher I have been. After a few days of reading this material again, I realized that I had been fairly balanced in my preaching.

Years ago we began to hear from some in the church that we had preached too many “fire and brimstone” sermons. I found that I had preached my share, but on the whole, I had preached on a lot of other things as well, so maybe I wasn’t as unbalanced as I thought.

Far too often, when things go one way to extreme, they tend to go the other in the same extreme. Those folks, preachers and members of the body alike, in order to counteract what they “perceived” as too much negative preaching, decided we needed to be more positive. Consequently, in their desire to correct what they perceived as a problem, they went to the extreme the other way.

Unfortunately I’ve seen it in friends of mine. It appears that nothing negative can come out of their thoughts. Now it would be nice if we lived in a world that never had problems, but even when they see problems they seem to think pointing to the reason for them is not helpful. So the problems never get solved.

Our purpose on earth is to help our fellow man find a way to heaven. Unfortunately that way seems more and more to some to be having no unpleasant thoughts on earth. This simply cannot be.

There are problems in this world and those problems are caused by sin. I know sin is not a word we like to use, but it is certainly pointed out in scripture that it is the basis for the problems people have. In order to help people, we have to point out sin and its destructiveness.

The statement of Ezekiel is still true today, “The soul that sinneth, it shall die:” (Ezek. 18:20) The cure is still the same, the gospel of Christ. And
the preaching of Paul is also true, “For I shrank not from declaring unto you the whole counsel of God.” (Acts 20:27 Emphasis mine. ES)

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