

## Women Preachers & “The Church’s Universities”

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by Wayne Goff

A recent blog by Jack Wilkie of Focus Press entitled “Preventing the Next 4th Avenue” carried a solemn warning to those churches who support universities out of the treasury of the Lord’s church. Following is the fourth warning given in an article that was quite interesting:

“Finally, we need to take a long, hard look at the church’s universities in America. The whole issue started with Lipscomb University trying to find a congregation that would take on a female preaching student as an intern. 4th Avenue is heavily responsible for providing that opportunity, but Lipscomb and the other universities that have given in to the modern clamoring for feminism and ‘equality’ are guilty as well. Dr. Harrub has been talking for years about the stories parents tell him about their children either denying God or leaving for some church with false teaching because of what they were taught in a Christian university. Of course, this is almost always met with someone saying, ‘It’s not that bad,’ or, ‘At least we still can count on \_\_\_\_\_ University!’ We need to stop deceiving ourselves. Christian universities have long been the breeding ground for liberalism in the church and though some have been more ‘progressive’ than others, each can offer plenty of witnesses as to what they teach falsely or how they’ve driven students from the faith. Sadly, many parents simply follow their children into their new, enlightened opinions and infect their own congregations as well. Young Christians need to either go in with the same mentality they would take into a denominational school, evaluating everything they are taught, or alternative options for education need to be considered.”

In plain English, *liberal* “Christian” universities are the **avenue** for introducing false doctrine to young Christians, who then bring it back into their local church, often with parents defending them! The results can be disastrous, and we need to understand the danger. Brethren, my warning to us is that just because Florida College is supported **solely** by individual Christians and not the church does not guarantee them immunity from the same thing. So when we send our children to FC, we need to be sure they are grounded *spiritually* before they go. Regardless of the school of higher learning that one attends, young Christians must evaluate everything they are taught . . . **period!** Often it is not what is *taught*, but what is *omitted* from these schools that is the danger. Brethren back home are sometimes the last to find out exactly what is being promoted at any university.

An example of what I am talking about is an incident at Harding University that occurred more than thirty years ago. When I was preaching for the Central Church of Christ in Searcy, some of our college students came to me reporting that one of the new, young professors was making fun of the plan of salvation by calling it “Five Finger Salvation.” My response to such nonsense was to ask him *how many fingers* he had in his salvation! I never heard back from him. Perhaps some of these schools are beginning to wake up and see the danger from some of these teachers.

Finally, Jack Wilkie pointed out that when a church turns aside from biblical truth, you have to look at the preacher(s), the elders, and the members. These things should be self-evident. I have repeated for years the truth I heard growing up: “A congregation is only as strong as its teaching program.” If you have weak preaching, and weak Bible class teachers, then you will have a weak congregation. **“Sound doctrine”** (1 Tim. 1:10; 2 Tim. 4:3; Titus 1:9; 2:1) is what Paul instructed gospel preachers to preach! **“For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables”** (2 Tim. 4:3-4). Today we see what Paul meant!

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