

Valley Bible Church – Sermon Notes

Sermon Notes for May 31-June 1, 1997

"Do Not Despise Prophetic Utterances"

Dale Whitehead

1 Thessalonians 5:20-22

A prophetic utterance is simply a communication directly from God to a person or persons through the medium of a prophet (Exodus 4:10-16; 7:1).

A prophet receives God's message directly from God and a teacher receives God's message indirectly from Him as he prayerfully studies the writings of the apostles and the prophets as contained in our Bible.

Paul is concerned that "prophetic utterances" might be "despised". "Despised" (EXOUTHENEON) means to "treat with contempt."

They would be guilty of treating prophetic utterances with contempt when they would not examine the so-called communications from God carefully (1 Thessalonians 5:21).

People who would listen to people who were speaking in the name of the Lord and reject what they had to say without examining everything carefully would be guilty of "despising prophetic utterances."

Conversely, people who would listen to people who claim to be speaking in the name of the Lord and embrace what they had to say without examining everything carefully would be guilty of "despising prophetic utterances."

Tests of a true prophet

A true prophet must speak with confidence when he speaks in the Name of the Lord (Deuteronomy 18:20).

A true prophet must represent his prophecy as coming from the God of the Bible (Deuteronomy 18:20).

A prediction given by a true prophet must be fulfilled (Deuteronomy 18:21-22)

A true prophet will very likely have miracles associated with their ministry (Hebrews 2:3-4)

Miracles confirmed Moses message (Exodus 4:1-7)

Miracles confirmed Elijah's message

(1 Kings 17:24)

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Miracles confirmed Christ's message

(John 10:24-25)

Miracles confirmed the Apostles message

(Hebrews 2:1-5)

The prophecy must agree with previous biblical revelations (Deuteronomy 13:1-5).

What happens after this careful examination?

If it is determined that the prophetic utterance is true then it should be embraced. The word "hold fast" (KATECHETE) means "to actively hold onto it".

If it is determined that the prophetic utterance is false then it should be rejected. The word "abstain" (APECHTHETHE) means "to actively hold off from it".