

## Don't Look Too Heavily At The Messenger

I. Introduction: This sermon is one that could easily be taken to an extreme one way or the other. So please, measure the Scriptures herein carefully (**II Peter 3:15-18**).

A. It is NOT my goal in this lesson to suggest that messengers should not be examined (**Matthew 7:15-20**).

1. A teacher must live what he teaches (**I Timothy 4:13-16**).
2. Part of teaching is living as an example (**Titus 2:1-8**).

B. Additionally, faithful fellowship require us examine (**Ephesians 5:6-11**).

1. To know whom we are in fellowship with we must know that person is in walking in such a way to be in fellowship with Christ (**I John 1:3-2:6**).
2. At least as much as is possible on our parts (**I Timothy 5:24-25**; cf. **Luke 22:21-23**).

II. Body: The Saints In Corinth Went To Both Extremes In Looking At The Messenger (**I Corinthians 1:10-13** and **II Corinthians 13:1-10**).

A. The congregation in Corinth had some members that wrongfully examined Paul (**I Corinthians 9:1:1-16** and **II Corinthians 10:1-18**).

1. With this state of mind, they would easily follow the wrong men into error (**II Corinthians 11:1-4**; **11:12-15**).
2. They failed to see how much Paul cared for them and they abused him because of that (**II Corinthians 12:11-15**).

B. When too much emphasis is upon the person teaching the message can be missed (**II Samuel 14:25**; **15:1-14** and **Ecclesiastes 9:13-16**).

1. The messenger cannot be exalted above the message (**I Corinthians 4:1-6**).
2. Think about John's wisdom in not allowing himself to stand in the way of Christ (**John 3:22-31**).

C. So what if a man is teaching the truth, but not living it? Who is judged for that (**Romans 2:1-3**; **2:17-24**)?

1. Hypocrisy doesn't nullify the truth (**Matthew 23:1-5**).
2. Do not receive the word of God as it is the words of the person delivering it (**I Thessalonians 2:13**).
3. God has used a donkey to rebuke one in error (**II Peter 2:15-16**; cf. **Numbers 22:1-34**).
4. Furthermore, even a hypocrite can correct themselves so that he or she can then correct another (**Matthew 7:1-5**).

III. Conclusion: The true treasure is the Gospel, those who faithfully teach it are just the earthen vessels that carry it (**II Corinthians 4:7**).