

We Are Not Catching Flies

I. Introduction:

A. When many talk about teaching the Gospel, they say: “one can catch more flies with honey than vinegar” (<https://www.mtairychurchofchrist.org/words-of-the-week-2016/catch-more-flies-with-honey>).

1. The quote from above was supported with these Scriptures which say nothing of the sort: 2 Timothy 2:23-26; Proverbs 14:7; Colossians 4:5-6
2. The truth is, a desiring student of the truth will consider the word of God sweet as honey (**Psalms 19:7-10** and **Psalms 119:103**) at least momentarily (**Ecclesiastes 1:18**, **Ezekiel 2:8-3:7**, and **Revelation 10:8-11**).

B. The more flies with honey concept comes from the wisdom of the world. How should we view such wisdom (**I Corinthians 3:18-19**)?

1. Man was not designed to direct himself (**Proverbs 20:24** and **Jeremiah 10:23**).
2. When it comes to pleasing God, we have to adhere to what has been revealed in His word (**I Thessalonians 4:1-2**).
3. This includes how to teach (**Jonah 3:1-2**).

II. Body: To Those That Perish, Real Preaching Is Foolish Because Of The Wisdom They Incorrectly Consider (**I Corinthians 1:18-2:16**).

A. What many will consider foolish is the preaching that saves (**Acts 17:32**; cf. **I Corinthians 15:1-4**).

1. Even if the truth causes some to stumble (**John 8:31-59**).
2. Even if the truth appears foolish (**Acts 26:12-29**).
3. It is not a numbers game wherein successful teaching is measured by how many obey it (**Matthew 7:13-14** and **John 6:1-71**).
4. Teaching is not measured by whether or not someone wants to hear it, it is measured by whether or not it was taught (**Acts 20:26-27**).

B. It cannot be watered down, sweetened, or diluted to make it easier to swallow (**I Thessalonians 2:1-13**).

1. The preaching that was done in Thessalonica caused such an uproar that Paul had to escape the city (**Acts 17:1-10**).
2. The faithful word is where salvation is found (**Romans 1:16-17**).

C. When you are measuring teachers and teaching, beyond the first measure of their fruit (**Matthew 7:15-20**), measure how the Lord wants His word preached rather than how palatable [*pleasant to the taste*] the delivery is (**II Timothy 3:14-4:5**).

1. Faithful men will use bold, plain speech (**Acts 9:27-29** and **II Corinthians 3:12**).
2. Sound words with all authority (**Titus 2:1; 2:15**).

3. Not being crafty in getting the message across (**II Corinthians 4:1-4**).
4. Rather than a professional delivery, and understandable delivery (**Nehemiah 8:8**).
5. Think about how the church in Corinth erred in how the examined teachers (**II Corinthians 11:1-33**).
6. A faithful teacher will want you to esteem the word of God higher than the messenger (**Isaiah 2:22, Jeremiah 17:5-6, and I Corinthians 4:1-6**).

III. Conclusion: Whether in teaching or anything else, let's trust the Lord's way of doing things (**Proverbs 3:5-7**).