

COMMENTS, COMPLAINTS & CRITICISM:
Dealing with Pashur, Diotrephes, and Alexander the Coppersmith
Alumni Days @ Heritage Christian University (March 6, 2015)
Lesson by Ray Reynolds

Introduction: One of the pitfalls in ministry is facing criticism. Some of the most hurtful people you will encounter are those who claim to be children of God. We often have to encounter men like Pashur, Diotrephes, and Alexander the Coppersmith. Let's study together...

Discussion:

I. Getting To Know Pashur, Diotrephes, and Alexander the Coppersmith

- A. Who was Pashur? What did he do? (Jeremiah 20-21, Jeremiah 38:1-6)
- B. Who was Diotrephes? What did he do? (II John 9-11)
- C. Who was Alexander the Coppersmith? What did he do? (I Timothy 1:20, II Timothy 2:17-18, 4:14)

II. Dealing With Pashur, Diotrephes, and Alexander the Coppersmith

- A. Take it to God in prayer (Psalm 5:3, Ephesians 4:26, James 1:5)
- B. Try to stay level headed (Ecclesiastes 3:1-8, Matthew 5:9, II Thessalonians 3:16)
- C. Transform your mind (Romans 12:1-2, Philippians 2:5-7, Philippians 4:8-9)
- D. Think of it as a learning experience (Matthew 18:15-17, Romans 3:23, Romans 5:8)
- E. Turn it over to God (Psalm 46:10, Matthew 11:28-30, I Peter 5:7)

III. Growing Through Pashur, Diotrephes, and Alexander the Coppersmith

- A. Proverbs 12:15 = *The way of fools seems right to them, but the wise listen to advice.*
- B. Proverbs 14:12 = *There is a way that appears to be right, but in the end it leads to death.*
- C. Proverbs 16:2 = *All a person's ways seem pure to them, but motives are weighed by the LORD.*
- D. Proverbs 16:25 = *There is a way that appears to be right, but in the end it leads to death.*
- E. Proverbs 19:20 = *Listen to advice, accept discipline & at the end you will be counted among the wise.*
- F. Proverbs 21:2 = *A person may think their own ways are right, but the LORD weighs the heart.*

Conclusion: I don't know what you are struggling with in ministry. I hope you don't have to deal with Pashur, Diotrephes, and Alexander the Coppersmith but chances are if you haven't met them... you will. When you do you'll have to decide how to handle it. I hope you can benefit from these things we've talked about in this lecture. However, above all remember that Satan is your enemy! Don't let him discourage you. We have the victory in Christ Jesus!