

PARABLE OF THE PLUMBERS

Frank and June had a lovely home. They were happy and everything was going along just fine. Then one morning they awoke to a strange and disgusting smell that permeated the entire house. Inspection revealed the problem, their sewer line was blocked and backing up on them. Quickly they grabbed the phone book and began their search for a plumber.

* Plumber A insisted they were over reacting and if ignored, the problem would soon go away.

* Plumber B informed them he did not deal with such problems. He specialized in the more pleasant tasks of plumbing, such as replacing handles of faucets.

* Plumber C surveyed the situation and frankly told them if they weren't happy with the situation in their home, they should go somewhere else.

* Plumber D responded to their call. After inspecting the problem he explained the need for some serious repair work and necessary clean up. The job wasn't pleasant. It took time and involved hard work some expense, but the end result was salutary. The problem was resolved, the house was habitable again.

The home is a congregation of the church. The family are its members. The problem is corrupting error that casts its foulness over the church. The plumbers are preachers, some of whom evidently do not understand what their job entails. Plumber D who solved the problem for the family is the faithful man of God who rolls up his sleeves and is not afraid to tackle the unpleasant task of dealing with false teaching in a church..

Lord, give us faithful men who are willing to take on the difficult and unpleasant jobs that help your congregations to survive and prosper when false teachers would capture them. JHW