

The Vincennes Voice

"...The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight..." (Matt. 3:3)

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HE ROSE UP

Larry R. Ping II

Luke records "having stoned Paul, drew him out of the city, supposing he had been dead. Howbeit, as the disciples stood round about him, he rose up" (Acts 14:19-20). The reader should be impressed with the fact Paul "rose up," though he was thought to be dead. Did you know there are some things over which we will have to "rise up?" Consider these few.

1. Rise Up Over Temptation.

The Bible records several facts about temptation. It is "common to man" (I Cor. 10:13). Temptation begins with the devil (Lk. 4:13) and ends with a falling away (Lk. 8:13). Man plays a part in temptation, as James writes "But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed" (James 1:14). With this all being true, we must constantly rise up over temptation. The Lord encouraged His followers to "Pray that ye enter not into temptation" (Lk. 22:40). Paul's pen promises God "will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it" (I Cor. 10:13). Rise up over temptation, before "it bringeth forth sin" (James 1:15).

2. Rise Up Over

Discouragement. The idea of discouragement is "being disheartened or dismayed." These types of feelings can lead to an unwillingness to live, work or obey. Discouragement is the result of various troubles. The children of Israel were "much discouraged because of the way" (Num. 21:4). Similarly, the way in which our life is traveling can yield feelings of discouragement. Recall, ten of the Promised Land spies "discouraged the heart of the children of Israel, that they should not go into the land which the LORD had given them" (Num. 32:9). Even words can be a source of discouragement. We need to rise up over discouraging ways and words, and echo the call of the apostle "I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me" (Php. 4:13).

3. Rise Up Over Self. Paul cautions individuals "not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think" (Rom. 12:3). The praying, proud Pharisee was certainly in his own way (Lk. 18:11). He, as many are, was guilty of seeking his "own glory" (Prov. 25:27). We must rise above ourselves, and not be "high-minded" or "wise in your own conceits" (Rom. 11:20, 25). We must adopt the Lord's mind and "Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others" (Php. 2:4).

4. Rise Up Over Criticism.

It is hard to be criticized. Destructive criticism, that which is meant to tear one down should be immediately tossed out. It is of no use, and should not be dwelt upon. Constructive criticism, that which is meant to help one become better and more knowledgeable should be accepted and used accordingly. Paul criticized Peter as "he withdrew and separated himself, fearing them which were of the circumcision. And the other Jews dissembled likewise with him" (Gal. 2:12-13). From time to time, we may face constructive criticism of this sort, and we must accept it humbly (James 4:10). From time to time, we may meet destructive criticism. Rise above it, knowing this life is about pleasing God, not man (Gal. 1:10).

5. Rise Up Over

Persecution. Timothy was told "Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution" (II Tim. 3:12). Heed the Savior's words and "rejoice" (Matt. 5:12). Rise up over it, knowing a great and eternal reward awaits.

THE KIND OF PREACHING NEEDED TODAY

Larry R. Ping II

Some today suggest since we no longer live in the Bible age, and we no longer converse as those in the Bible did, and people today are much different than those of the Bible, we must not teach and preach as they did. In other words, the teaching and preaching done in the Bible was effective then, but it cannot be so now! This is an attitude which must be removed. To achieve the same results of Bible teaching and preaching, we must engage in the same kind of teaching and preaching today. Be in a place where this kind of preaching is occurring.

1. Preaching Which Is From The Word Of God. The people of Nehemiah's day said "bring the book of the law of Moses, which the LORD had commanded to Israel" (Neh. 8:1). They did not ask for Ezra's opinions, nor for the prevailing teaching of the day. Cornelius gathered his family and friends and said "we all here present before God, to hear all things that are commanded thee of God" (Acts 10:33). We need buildings full of folks like Cornelius, desiring to hear a "what saith the scripture" (Rom. 4:3). This requires men to "Preach the word" (II Tim. 4:2).

2. Preaching Which Is Understandable. Some preaching goes right over the head of the listener, and is of no value. Again, in Neh. 8:8, "they read in the book in the law of God distinctly, and gave the sense, and caused them to understand the reading." Paul was concerned some would be "corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ" (II Cor. 11:3). Souls are far too valuable (Matt. 16:26) to squander away time with preaching which cannot be understood.

3. Preaching Which Exalts Christ. As the Lord's people scattered, Philip went to Samaria and "preached Christ unto them" (Acts 8:5). As a result, "they were baptized, both men and women" (Acts 8:12). Later, Philip "preached...Jesus" to the traveling eunuch (Acts 8:35). This resulted in the eunuch's confession and baptism (Acts 8:37-39). We need to acquire the same attitude of Paul who humbly said "For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified" (I Cor. 2:2). Jesus said "And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me" (Jn. 12:32).

4. Preaching Which Is Bold. Upon his conversion, Paul "preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus" (Acts 9:27). Some topics require boldness on the part of the preacher. Subjects like marriage, divorce and remarriage (Matt. 19:3-9), and issues such as Hell, accountability and duty to God and His Word (Eccl. 12:11-12) require courage to teach. Preachers need to be "bold in our God to speak unto you the gospel of God with much contention" (I Thess. 2:2).

5. Preaching Which Makes A Call To Action. Recently, I listened to a sermon which ended this way: "If there is any way we can help you today, please come forward and let us know as we stand and sing." This stands in stark contrast to the preaching found in God's Word. Peter commanded "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost" (Acts 2:38). The Gospel has not been "fully preached" (Rom. 15:19) until those who are lost in sin are told how to be saved from their sin in obedience (Heb. 5:8-9).

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MEETING TIMES (EST)

SUNDAY

Bible Study – 10:00 am

Worship – 11:00 am & 3:00 pm

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study – 7:00 pm