

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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DEATH IN THE POT

Larry R. Ping II

As Elisha began his work as a prophet in the place of Elijah, he performed several miracles. Among those was the healing of men who had consumed a toxic stew made with wild gourds and vines (II Kings 4:39). When the men realized they had eaten this, they cried out, "there is death in the pot" (II Kings 4:40). Elisha proceeded to heal the soup so it would bring no harm.

Did you realize there is "death in the pot" spiritually speaking? Absolutely! The Lord said, "Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled" (Matt. 5:6). However, not everyone is hungering for the right spiritual food, nor is every preacher offering the right spiritual food. When God's Word is not preached, and folks accept corrupted teaching, there is "death in the pot." Consider, there is "death in the pot" when...

1) When Men Preach What They Seem Is Right. Solomon warned long ago,

"There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death" (Prov. 14:12, 16:25). When men begin to preach "what seems" to be right, there is "death in the pot!"

2) When Men Preach Their Own Opinions. Paul reminded his readers, "That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God" (I Cor. 2:5). Later, he warned, "Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ" (Col. 2:8). When men begin to preach something like, "I know the Bible does not say this, but," there is "death in the pot!"

3) When Men Preach Without Book, Chapter And Verse. Peter ordered, "If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God" (I Pet. 4:11). We need to adopt the attitude of Micaiah the prophet, who, when asked to say something "good" (I Kings 22:13), immediately

replied, "As the LORD liveth, what the LORD saith unto me, that will I speak" (I Kings 22:14). When sermons begin to be void of Scripture, and precious few pleas are made to the Word of God, there is "death in the pot!"

4) When Men Preach In An Effort To Please Men. Paul made it clear, "For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ" (Gal. 1:10). The apostle also wrote, "Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men" (II Cor. 5:11). This attempt to please men through preaching is manifested by story-telling, joke-telling and generic preaching which calls for no action. Paul cautioned Timothy about this when he penned, "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears" (II Tim. 4:3). When enticing words of men take the place of God's Word, there is "death in the pot!"

GOD GIVE US CHRISTIAN HOMES

Larry R. Ping II

Reasons for singing are many. First, it is ordered by God (Eph. 5:19). As well, it is a channel through which we praise and magnify God (Acts 16:25). Moreover, when we sing together, we “teach” and “admonish” one another (Col. 3:16). This is why we need to pay particular attention to the words we sing.

A song written by B.B. McKinney entitled “God Give Us Christian Homes” is full of good material about the home. When homes crumble and collapse, the nation does too. As well, it begins to affect the Lord’s Church. Consider some of the lyrics of this good song.

1) Homes Where The Bible Is Loved And Taught.
Oh, for more homes where God’s Word is champion. May our homes be filled with Cornelius-like folks, who desire to “hear all things that are commanded...of God” (Acts 10:33).

2) Homes Where The Master’s Will Is Sought.
Fathers are charged to “bring them (children) up in the nurture and admonition of the

Lord” (Eph. 6:4). Solomon said, “The rod and reproof give wisdom: but a child left to himself bringeth his mother to shame” (Prov. 29:15). May our homes be filled with parents who seek the Lord and His way.

3) Homes Where The Father Is True And Strong.
Fathers have an enormous effect on their children. Paul authored, “Fathers, provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged” (Col. 3:21). Fathering is not always easy, nor is it always in an effort to please your children. At times, some mode of discipline needs to be enacted (Heb. 12:9-11). May our homes be filled with fathers who hold to God’s Word, and who are steadfast and sturdy as they carry out their important jobs.

4) Home That Are Joyous With Love And Song.
So many homes are filled with sadness and depression. May our homes be purposefully filled with happiness (Jam. 5:13) and joy (Php. 4:4). This takes work and patience on the part of each member of the family, especially the mother and father.

5) Homes Where The Lord Is An Honored Guest.
The Lord should be welcome in our homes all of the time, not just when the elders or preacher might be visiting. May our homes be filled with folks like Zacchaeus who wanted to see the Lord so badly he “climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him” (Lk. 19:4). Later, he immediately, readily, and joyfully welcomed Jesus into his home (Lk. 19:5-6). Would Jesus be welcome in your home?

6) Homes Where The Altar Fires Burn And Glow.
This is an allusion to worship and assembling. May our homes be filled with parents who teach their children the importance of truthful and spirited worship (Jn. 4:24). May our homes be filled with children who never ask if they are going to worship services or Bible study, because they know they are (Heb. 10:25). May our homes be filled with families who are “hot” for the Lord, not “lukewarm” and tepid (Rev. 3:15-16). What sort of home are you part of, and how are you contributing?

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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