

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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WHY SOME WILL NOT ENDURE SOUND DOCTRINE

Larry R. Ping II

Paul penned “*For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine*” (II Tim. 4:3). Sound doctrine is that which is “healthy, wholesome and pure.” Sadly, some will not endure sound doctrine because...

1. THEY SUBMIT TO THEIR OWN LUSTS.

Such was alleged in II Tim. 4:3. Instead of wanting to hear what they need, they clamor to hear what they want. They yearn for preaching which makes them feel good, rather than for preaching which alerts them as to what they “*must do*” (Acts 9:6).

2. THEY HAVE ITCHING EARS.

Paul mentioned this in II Tim. 4:3. Those with these kinds of ears are those who only want to hear sermons about certain topics. They do not understand preaching needs to be balanced, witnessed by Paul’s words “*Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine*” (II Tim. 4:2). People of God need to be as Cornelius who wanted to “*hear all things that are commanded thee of God*” (Acts 10:33). As said David, so say we, “*I have*

respect unto all thy commandments” (Psa. 119:6).

3. THEY HAVE SELECTIVE HEARING. Paul said some “*shall turn away their ears from the truth*” (II Tim. 4:4). The wise man warned “*He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer shall be abomination*” (Prov. 28:9). Many today like to hear the “positive” things of God’s Word, subjects like grace, mercy, hope and Heaven. The same individual, though, will show disdain to topics like obedience, accountability, and Hell. This cannot be so! What we want to declared is “*all the counsel of God*” (Acts 20:27).

4. THEY HAVE A FONDNESS FOR FABLES.

Paul cautioned some will “*be turned unto fables*” (II Tim. 4:4). The word “fable” here carries with it the suggestion of making something false true. This happens when listeners are turned away by the “*wisdom of men*” (I Cor. 2:5). The Apostle informed his readers “*the world by wisdom knew not God*” (I Cor. 1:21). Let us yearn for Bible facts alone!

5. THEY HAVE NO HUNGER FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS. This is so even though the Lord said,

“*Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled*” (Matt. 5:6). Some just have a very low appetite for truth and solid Gospel preaching. They would prefer to hear the stories, jokes, and anecdotes. Some today are like Naaman of old who preferred to dip in his own rivers rather than the Jordan (II Kings 5:12). Yet others are as the rich, young man who “*went away sorrowful*” (Matt. 19:22) after hearing the truth. We should be as the Psalmist and say, “*Thy testimonies also are my delight and my counselors*” (Psa. 119:24).

6. THEY HAVE NO DESIRE TO WALK IN THE TRUTH.

They have adopted the indifferent and apathetic attitude of the Laodiceans of whom it was said “*So then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth*” (Rev. 3:16). Some have become as those of old who were “*not at all ashamed*” (Jer. 6:16) of sin. God’s people always show concern and interest in the Divine Word! Offer the same plea of the Psalmist who said, “*Teach me thy way, O LORD; I will walk in thy truth: unite my heart to fear thy name*” (Psa. 86:11). What say ye?

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 in Nehemiah 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 Hell 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.”* 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