

# 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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## WHAT ARE YOU DOING WITH THE TRUTH?

*Larry R. Ping II*

The truth must be taught. And we must always remember that truth is not, in any way, relative. It is not determined by my thoughts or opinions, nor yours. It is absolute. It is identified by Christ as the "word" (Jn. 17:17). We must also be aware there will be different reactions to the spoken truth. Sometimes they will be drastic responses. Consider these reactions and contemplate what you are doing with truth.

**1) Some Accept The Truth.** They respond to it positively. Such was the case for the Jews on Pentecost. After having heard a short sermon culminating with the death of Jesus, they asked "What shall we do" (Acts 2:37)? Peter commanded that they "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). About 3000 responded (Acts 2:38-41). Even today there are some who will still accept the truth, thanks be to God. Do not grow

disheartened thinking there is no interest in the truth on the part of others. Elijah thought this once, but was clearly wrong (I Kings 19:10,18). Find the "7000" and teach them the truth.

**2) Some Deny The Truth.** They even reacted violently to it, at times. This can be seen in the Jewish mob of Acts 7. Stephen wonderfully preached a lesson based mostly on the Old Testament. He then spoke about the betrayal and murder of Jesus to which the crowd responded brutally, stoning Stephen to death, though he taught the truth. In some ways and in some parts of the world today, there are those who still deal with such. Pray for them (II Thess. 3:1).

**3) Some Refuse The Truth.** They classify you as their enemy for bringing it to their attention. Paul asked the Galatians a simple question, "Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth" (Gal. 4:16)? Some, mainly due to pride, will get

their "feathers ruffled," march off huffily and declare you to be their adversary for having the nerve to speak the truth. Because Elijah spoke the truth, Ahab considered him a "troubler" and "enemy" (I Kings 18:17; I Kings 21:20). You may be next. Regardless, speak the truth, and do so with love (Eph. 4:15).

Once we have spoken the truth, all we can do is pray and hope the truth finds lodging in honest and open hearts. The bottom-line is this, the truth must be taught for it to have an effect.

What will you do with the truth today? Will you accept it, and obey it (Gal. 3:1)? Will you deny it, and bring about spiritual destruction (II Thess. 1:8)? Will you refuse it, and belittle those who spread it?

Ask the Lord to, as did the Psalmist, "Lead me in thy truth, and teach me: for thou art the God of my salvation; on thee do I wait all the day" (Psa. 25:5). May it be so!

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# GREAT BIBLE MEMORIALS

Larry R. Ping II

Several holidays in the United States are designed to act as memorials. Strewn across the landscape of this country are statues and plaques acting as memorials to great heroes of the past and momentous moments. These memorials are intended to remind someone of some type of significant event in history, and to recall the lessons learned. The memorials in the Bible are no different. Consider these.

## 1) The Twelve Rocks

**Memorial.** Upon crossing the Jordan River to possess the Promised Land, Joshua instructed a memorial of stones be erected, “That the waters of Jordan were cut off before the ark of the covenant of the LORD; when it passed over Jordan, the waters of Jordan were cut off: and these stones shall be for a memorial unto the children of Israel for ever” (Josh. 4:7). Any time children asked about these rocks, they were reminded of God’s deliverance of the Promised Land.

## 2) The Passover

**Memorial.** The last of the Ten Plagues was the death of the first-born. Yet, God protected His people, and the Passover became a memorial, “And this day shall be unto you for a memorial; and ye shall keep it a feast to the LORD throughout your generations; ye shall keep it a feast by an ordinance for ever” (Exo. 12:14). It reminded God’s people of His love.

## 3) The Rainbow

**Memorial.** God had tired of the people on earth. Their thoughts were evil “continually” (Gen. 6:5). God devised a plan to eradicate the earth of the sinful people through a flood. He saved mankind through Noah and his family. Following the flood, God made a promise, “I do set my bow in the cloud, and it shall be for a token of a covenant between me and the earth” (Gen. 9:13). Every time we see a rainbow today, it is a memorial to us that God will never do such a thing with water again.

## 4) The Lord’s Supper

**Memorial.** Jesus endured a cruel, painful, and pitiless death. His blood “purchased the

church” (Acts 20:28). His death made it possible that we might live. Paul said it well, “in him we live, and move, and have our being” (Acts 17:28). He deserves us remembering Him for what He did on the cross. Paul wrote “Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me” and “This cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me” (I Cor. 11:24-25). This is the greatest memorial of all time. It commemorates the single greatest act of love and devotion of all time. Paul penned, “But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us” (Rom. 5:8). This is why we, every first day of the week, partake of the Lord’s Supper (Acts 20:7).

Let us always be mindful of how God makes ways for us in difficult times, how He provides deliverance, how He keeps His promises and how immensely He loved us as manifested by the gift of His only Begotten Son!

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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