

The Necessity of Sending Forth a Certain Sound

“...greater is he that prophesieth than he that speaketh, with tongues, except he interpret, that the church may receive edifying” (1 Corinthians 14:5-9)

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Introduction

Sounds are important! A person loses their eye sight and they begin to understand the importance of each sound, how that each sound is significant. Then on the other hand a person loses their hearing and they begin to understand just how important it was to be able to hear in order to tell the difference between one sound and another.

When your child is learning to play an instrument is it important to you what kind of sound they make? Why of course it is. I can tell the difference between the sound of a drum and the sound of a piano, or the sound of a horn and that of a harp.

In the military there are sounds for marching, sounds for pressing on in the battle and sounds for retreat. Can you image the confusion that would be created if the General wanted his army to fall back, but give the order to press on in the battle? Yes, sounds do matter.

Even by eye sight, we understand that what we see makes a difference. Someone comes to a red light on the highway and he/she understands that by the color of the light they are to stop. Green light means go and the yellow light means to exercise caution. We all understand these things. Why then is it so difficult for many to bring this concept over into religious matters? We need to understand that every thing we do sets forth a certain sound. Whether right or wrong, it sounds off. We need to exercise caution and make sure that we are putting forth the right sounds in all that we both say and do.

We must Be Trained to Understand the Sounds That We Hear

No matter what area you wish to speak about, training is necessary in order to be able to understand what you are doing. If you wish to be a mechanic, you need to be trained to hear the different sounds that an automobile makes and to be able to hear when something is not right. When I used to do body work, I could take my hand and run down the side of a car and tell you where every dent was at and even if the car had been worked on before, etc. Each area had a certain feel. In order to do this, it took lots of training.

The same is true with the truth. In order for me to send forth a certain sound, I have to be trained to know what sound it is that I need to send forth. Why is it that many in local congregations do not know why we believe and practice the things that we do? Paul stated,

If ye have heard of the dispensation of the grace of God which is given me to youward: How that by revelation he made known unto me the mystery; (as I wrote afore in few words, Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ) Which

in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit (Ephesians 3:2-5).

There is no reason for mankind today to be ignorant of the word of God. It has been revealed so that all can clearly understand the will of God. Why do many not understand the need for Bible authority in all that we say and do? As Paul said, "And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him" (Colossians 3:17). Many today do not even stop to think, "does the Lord approve of what we are doing?" Brethren we must have a thus saith the Lord for all that we do and say. Peter wrote, "If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen" (1 Peter 4:11). Why is it that many today do not understand how we are to worship? Jesus said, "God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth" (John 4:24).

The truth is we are not studying today as our brethren of the past did and we are suffering the consequences of our lack of knowledge of God's word. Many today do not even understand that there must be a distinctive sound. The Bible still commands us to study. "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (2 Timothy 2:15). Notice: we are to study. Why? To show ourselves approved unto God. This is done so that we are not ashamed as we handle aright the word of God.

So in order for me or anyone else to know what sounds need to be heard we are going to need to be trained properly. This calls upon elders, preachers, Bible class teachers, parents, etc., to understand what a tremendous responsibility that we have.

Use Language That Is Familiar

Notice the context from which Paul is writing,

I would that ye all spake with tongues, but rather that ye prophesied: for greater is he that prophesieth than he that speaketh with tongues, except he interpret, that the church may receive edifying. Now, brethren, if I come unto you speaking with tongues, what shall I profit you, except I shall speak to you either by revelation, or by knowledge, or by prophesying, or by doctrine? (1 Corinthians 14:5-6).

What good is it if you speak with tongues if no one can understand what you are saying? NONE! Brother Roy Lanier, Jr., once said to me as a student, "Learn all the Greek that you can learn, but don't ever use it in the pulpit." Why is that? No one understands it, so what good are you doing? You're just speaking to hear yourself speak; much learning has made you mad.

It seems the more educated the pulpit has become the less educated the pew is! Why is it that many preachers want to use big words in their sermons and in the writings? Is it that they want to impress their listeners and readers? I think in many cases that is exactly the reason. They have earned their degrees and they want everyone to know how smart they think that they are. Leroy

Brownlow said, "The use of uncommon expressions and 'big words' is neither an evidence of superior thought nor higher education. Sometimes it is evidence of egotism and vanity and a serious lack of common sense." This is not to say that one should never use "big" words, but use some common sense when you do. One writer wrote these words, "The ability to speak so that no one can understand us is a gift which should be earnestly desired by fools only."

I remember years ago when I first began to preach, I went to a congregation to fill-in for a preacher and preached on "why many will not make it to heaven." One of my points was because of procrastination. While driving home my wife who is very knowledgeable asked me, "Just what does procrastination mean?" Well I told her that it meant "putting things off" (I thought, man I have got one up on her). She then said, "Why don't you just say that then?" As she begin to explain to me that many of the folks who were listening may not have understood what I meant and if they didn't then what good had I accomplished? None, right?

Jesus who was the master teacher used simple words that even a child could understand most of what He said. Surely, if He was able to teach these great truths that are still with us today and use simple language in doing so, so can we today.

Paul was an educated man, but yet listen to his words of wisdom,

And I, brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God. For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified. And I was with you in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling. And my speech and my preaching was not with enticing words of man's wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power (1 Corinthians 2:1-4).

Must Have a Certain Sound in What We Preach

It is my job as a preacher of the gospel to preach the whole counsel of God's word. Paul said, "Wherefore I take you to record this day, that I am pure from the blood of all men. For I have not shunned to declare unto you all the counsel of God" (Acts 20:26-27). The only way that a person can be sure that he is pure of the blood of all men is to know that he has declared all that God has required of him. Paul said,

I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing and his kingdom; Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. 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; And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables (2 Timothy 4:1-4).

Notice, it is the word of God that we are to preach, not fables. It is not my job to entertain you in my preaching. It is not my job to tickle your ears. It is my job however to preach the word of God, to be instant in season and out of season. It is my job to reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. Why? Because there will come a time when folks will not want to hear

sound doctrine. The sound that they will desire is an uncertain sound. There will come a time when some folks will want to find teachers who will tell them what they want to hear instead of what they need to hear. Brethren the time was at hand during the days of the early church and it is still with us today.

We are hearing uncertain sounds coming from many of our so-called Christian schools. They no longer stand firm as their founding fathers desired, but rather they are teaching things which are not sound doctrine, and dare anyone to say anything against them. It seems too many that these so-called Christian schools are more important than the church. That is, it is okay by some of these folks to speak words against church and not be too concerned, but if anyone says anything at all in a negative sense against the school they attended or support, they are ready to fight.

These schools have helped to fill the pulpits where sound doctrine is no longer taught. The sounds that come from these congregations are not the same sounds which once came from them. The sounds of compromise are loud and clear in many places. The sound of don't get involved, it is none of your business what is happening in other places, etc. Brethren any time that error is taught or where truth is not held up, it is my business and it is your business and it is time that we started taking care of business. We need to send forth a clear sound that we will not compromise, that we will not give in to the pressures of this world and even by those pressures which come from our own brethren.

We must send forth a clear sound and tell others about the gospel of Christ. Tell them about salvation that is offered through Jesus Christ. We need to warn those who are following after unsound words to turn away before it is too late. Do the words of the prophet of old have any meaning for us today?

Son of man, I have made thee a watchman unto the house of Israel: therefore hear the word at my mouth, and give them warning from me. When I say unto the wicked, Thou shalt surely die; and thou givest him not warning, nor speakest to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life; the same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand. Yet if thou warn the wicked, and he turn not from his wickedness, nor from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; but thou hast delivered thy soul. Again, When a righteous man doth turn from his righteousness, and commit iniquity, and I lay a stumblingblock before him, he shall die: because thou hast not given him warning, he shall die in his sin, and his righteousness which he hath done shall not be remembered; but his blood will I require at thine hand. Nevertheless if thou warn the righteous man, that the righteous sin not, and he doth not sin, he shall surely live, because he is warned; also thou hast delivered thy soul (Ezekiel 3:17-21).

If we do not sound forth sound doctrine, the Lord will require our souls in the day of judgment.

Many no longer sound forth the right sound about inspiration. We must remember that we need to continue to teach others about the inspiration of the Bible. As Paul said, "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works" (2

Timothy 3:16-17). The Bible is from God, and we need to handle it properly with a clear understanding that this is the mind of God revealed to mankind. It is God speaking to man to help him understand His will. It is God exhorting man to live faithfully in order to make heaven his home.

Many no longer sound forth the right sound on authority. Authority still belongs to Jesus Christ. We need to teach others that they need to ask the question, "Is this authorized by the word of the Lord?" Remember these words, "And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth" (Matthew 28:18). If Jesus has all authority or power, then no one else has any authority unless it is given to them by the Lord. We are commanded to "preach the word" that is the word of the Lord. I am not authorized to preach anything other than the word of God. Remember Jesus said, "And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him" (Colossians 3:17). "In the name of the Lord Jesus" means by His authority. Hence, whatever we do whether in "word or deed" it must be done by the authority of our Lord.

Many no longer sound forth the right sound on Marriage/Divorce/Remarriage. If we do not sound forth the right sound as it relates to the M/D/R we will destroy the home and help destroy the nation. Furthermore, we help send precious souls to eternal damnation. My Bible, your Bible still says what they have always said related to M/D/R. God's desire is that man and woman come together and form a marriage that is to last a lifetime, (Genesis 2:21-25). Romans 7:1: ff teaches that because of death one is free to marry again with God's approval. The only exception to God's law on marriage is found in Matthew 19. Jesus said, "And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery" (Matthew 19:9). It is **NOT** God's desire that two men or two women marry. God condemns homosexuality throughout the Bible. It was a woman who was created for man and not a man. If God had wanted a man, to be a helpmeet for man He would have given man one or at least given man the choice. God gave the woman to man that they might live together in peace and harmony with each other according to the Laws of God. It is man who has perverted the Laws of God and now wants to allow men and men, women and women to be married and be a helpmeet for each other. This is not what God ordained. The Bible is clear that man is forbidden to have sex with man.

Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it is abomination. Neither shalt thou lie with any beast to defile thyself therewith: neither shall any woman stand before a beast to lie down thereto: it is confusion. Defile not ye yourselves in any of these things: for in all these the nations are defiled which I cast out before you (Leviticus 18:22-24).

If a man also lie with mankind, as he lieth with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination: they shall surely be put to death; their blood shall be upon them" (Leviticus 20:13).

Many are not sounding forth the right sound on Baptism. Today many are saying that if you are baptized to obey Jesus then your baptism is okay. Thus, they believe that no matter what religious group you were baptized into, we are supposed to accept that baptism. However, what they fail

to understand is that baptism into some denomination is not scriptural baptism. Never has been and never will be. When one is baptized scripturally, the Lord adds that person to the church (Acts 2:47). What church is this? It is His church, the one we read about in Matthew 16:18.

Baptism is still for the remission of sins, “Then Peter said unto them, 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). One could be baptized and the words “for the remission of sins” could be stated, and still not be baptized scripturally. Look at Acts 19:1-7, here were twelve men who had been baptized, knowing only the baptism of John. John’s baptism was for the remission of sins according to Mark 1:4, but due to the fact that the Lord had died on the cross and was raised from the dead, thus bringing in the new law; John’s baptism was no longer valid. Those who would have been baptized after the cross knowing only John’s baptism would have to be baptized scripturally. Paul took those twelve and baptized them for the remission of sins according to the law of Christ. And so it is today, all persons who are baptized must be baptized according to the law of Christ or else it is not scripturally and thus not valid.

Many are not sounding forth the right sound on the Church. Many are now saying that it doesn’t matter what church you attend, because we are all going to the same place, we are just taking different roads. But the Bible still says that there is no one church. Eph. 4:4 speaks of the one body which Paul refers to as the church (Colossians 1:18). The one church which we are to be a member of is the very same one that the Lord promised to built (Matthew 16:18) and in fact did built, for the saved were added to it on the day of Pentecost Acts 2:47.

Conclusion

Yes, we need today to make a certain sound. A sound that will declare in no uncertain terms that we are members of the Lord’s body and that we will stand firm even to the point of giving our blood if need be for the cause of Jesus Christ.

It is my pray that all members of the Lord’s body take their responsibility serious and fulfil that which the Lord has commanded of us and that is to speak plainly about the word of truth.