

# PLAIN SPEECH

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**“Seeing then that we have such hope, we use great plainness of speech” (2 Cor. 3:12)**

By Scott Parker

## IS GREEN YOUR FAVORITE COLOR?

David Lipscomb was just a man. David Lipscomb taught error on several issues. I do not place David Lipscomb on the level of some sort of “superman” – I will leave this for the liberals to do (and they do it a lot). I stand wholly opposed to all the institutional nonsense that is connected with the name David Lipscomb.

However, sometimes even the enemies of God get some things right (**Titus 1:10-12**). The quote below demonstrates this in that Lipscomb stated the plain fact that most people simply do not give bountifully to the work of God, but instead live fat, selfish lives of excess; poorly managing the money God has prospered them with (**1 Corinthians 16:2**). He wrote:

*"There is nothing more corrupting than the desire to adorn the person with vain trinkets, garish ribbons, jewelry and glittering gewgaws, merely for vain show and to conform to a meretricious fashion. As poor as our people are, and while some true Christians, of our knowledge, have determined to dress as God said his children should dress; yet we venture the assertion that in Tennessee enough money has been spent for ribbons, lace, jewelry and frail, glittering glass trimmings, by Christian men and women, during the present year, to sustain every preacher South of the Cumberland River in the constant, earnest proclamation of the gospel to anxious but dying sinners. Yet these preachers are actually now being driven from the field for lack of support. Here is a soul going down to hell. It is in your power to send the gospel to him through which he may be saved. But you, in order to do it, must deny yourself the gewgaws and trappings of fashion. You ponder the matter, and let a soul or souls for whom Jesus died, go down to hell for the sake of a little worldly display. How can you hope to meet God in peace with such a record? Brethren and sisters, the Christian religion is real, stern in its demands, and we cannot shirk them. Think solemnly of your duty and be true servants of the Most High, and may God help us all." - July 1867.*

Amen! How much spiritual work has been left undone in the Detroit suburbs because of folks much like those depicted above? How many opportunities have been squandered? How many souls have been ignored? Has the work of the church in this community been crippled all because those who are supposed to have their minds set on things above (**Colossians 3:1-2**), spend most of the money God has entrusted them with acquiring earthly possessions?

Shortly after first becoming a Christian I found myself failing to give properly. Why? It was because I had the wrong focus. Where is your focus? Is it on accumulating the treasures of this world, or is it storing up treasures in heaven? Better be sure (**Matthew 6:20-21**). Are you supporting the work at Palmer Road like you ought to be? Does your contribution demonstrate faithfulness or faithlessness (**Matthew 6:31-34**)? Please, for the sake of your soul, really think about it (cf. **Psalm 52:5-7**). I leave you with some plain passages from God's Word:

- ▮ No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon (**Matthew 6:24**).
- ▮ But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition (**1 Timothy 6:9**).
- ▮ He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful (**Matthew 13:22**).
- ▮ He that loveth silver shall not be satisfied with silver... (**Ecclesiastes 5:10**).
- ▮ There is a sore evil which I have seen under the sun, namely, riches kept for the owners thereof to their hurt (**Ecclesiastes 5:13**).