

PLAIN SPEECH

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

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SEEING THE TRUTH BUT IGNORING APPLICATION

“And they come unto thee as the people cometh, and they sit before thee as my people, and they hear thy words, but they will not do them: for with their mouth they shew much love, but their heart goeth after their covetousness. And, lo, thou art unto them as a very lovely song of one that hath a pleasant voice, and can play well on an instrument: for they hear thy words, but they do them not” (Ez. 33:31-32).

“Thou camest down also upon mount Sinai, and spakest with them from heaven, and gavest them right judgments, and true laws, good statutes and commandments: And madest known unto them thy holy sabbath, and commandedst them precepts, statutes, and laws, by the hand of Moses thy servant... But they and our fathers dealt proudly, and hardened their necks, and hearkened not to thy commandments” (Neh. 9:13-14, 16).

“Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk therein” (Jer. 6:16).

The verses above underscore a common theme that is read about in scripture; i.e. people knowing/learning of God’s will and then ignoring the application of that truth to their own lives. Still today it’s not uncommon for so-called “Christians” to see the truth on any number of matters and then fail to act upon it. This article will note a few of the reasons why some people ignore application.

SOME PEOPLE IGNORE APPLICATION BECAUSE THEY DESIRE THE PRAISE OF MEN. Remember the Pharisees? They knew that Jesus was “come from God” (Jn. 3:1-2), but by and large they would not apply Jesus’ teaching. Why? They were more worried about the praise of men than they were the praise of God (Mt. 6:1-2; Jn. 12:42-43). They were more interested in popularity than righteousness (Mt. 23:5-7). The desire for popularity can keep one from honestly applying God’s will still today. I wonder how much truth has been compromised on the altar of “I so badly want to be part of the in-crowds of Florida College and Truth Magazine” – I just wonder! Folks let’s not be concerned with winning a popularity contest.

SOME PEOPLE IGNORE APPLICATION BECAUSE THEY ARE MOTIVATED BY FEAR. Recall the words of John relative to the parents of a blind man? They read: “His parents answered them and said, We know that this is our son, and that he was born blind: But by what means he now seeth, we know not; or who hath opened his eyes, we know not: he is of age; ask him: he shall speak for himself. These words spake his parents, because they feared the Jews: for the Jews had agreed already, that if any man did confess that he was Christ, he should be put out of the synagogue. Therefore said his parents, He is of age; ask him” (Jn. 9:20-23). What was King Saul’s undoing? Fear. Note: “And Saul said unto Samuel, I have sinned: for I have transgressed the commandment of the LORD, and thy words: because I feared the people, and obeyed their voice” (1 Sam. 15:24). How about the “one talent man” (Mt. 25:14-30)? What was his problem? Fear! Still today there are those who do not apply the truth because they’re afraid. No doubt some are afraid that if they would apply passages like 2 Th. 3:6, 14, people would hurl arrows at them– and they are afraid of the arrows. Some do not want the same passages applied because they fear losing large numbers on the attendance chart. Others are, no doubt, afraid that if they got in the pulpit and really preached against institutionalism (Col. 3:17) they would become the targets of the Truth Magazine group and the Florida College crowd. I’m sure other “preachers” ignore 2 Tim. 4:2 because they are afraid of losing their financial support. Let’s remember where cowards end up (Rev. 21:8). Whatever happened to 1 Cor. 16:13 and Josh. 1:7?

SOME PEOPLE IGNORE APPLICATION BECAUSE THEY HAVE A CLOSED/PREJUDICIAL MIND. This was a problem in the first century (2 Cor. 3:5-16). It’s still a problem today. I know some people who will not accept anything I say, because of what they believe me to be like based upon what they have heard second hand. They have closed, prejudicial minds. I know well a preacher in Texas who some just will not listen to because they have come to believe him to be a callous, mean individual based on second-hand news. Yes, still today some have their minds made negatively up about God’s men. Thus, no matter how much truth they teach, application goes by the wayside (Mt. 13:19). Know this: having a closed/prejudicial mind does not give one a pass on the truth (Mt. 13:15).

SOME PEOPLE IGNORE APPLICATION BECAUSE THEY WILL NOT CROSS THEIR FAMILY. Jesus knew some would sell-out the truth for family (Mt. 10:34-37). I have seen this happen often. I will give you but one example. I know a preacher named Nathan Liddell who would not, and will not, stand up against the social gospel and institutionalism because he will not cross his daddy, Bobby Liddell. Nathan, and the others like him, need to wrap Mt. 12:46-50 around their minds.