

The Old Paths

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“God Hath Spoken”

Jarrod Jacobs

We as humans ought to be impressed with the fact that God our Creator has spoken to men. The Bible tells us that God spoke to such heroes as Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, and Joshua. God spoke to the prophets as well in the course of time (Acts 3:21; Amos 3:8). God has spoken through various ones, but certainly the greatest of all was His Son, Jesus Christ (Jn. 12:49-50; Heb. 1:2). How we ought to stand in awe when we consider that God the Creator has spoken to us, the creation!

Not only has God spoken, but we find that when God speaks, there is a response by men. For instance, David said on two occasions, “*God hath spoken in his holiness; I will rejoice ...*” (Ps. 60:6, 108:7). Amos asked the question, “*GOD hath spoken, who can but prophesy?*” (Amos 3:8). Paul stated it this way: “*...we also believe, and therefore speak*” (II Cor. 4:13). What did Paul believe? He believed the words of God! How do we know this? It is because faith comes only through hearing God’s word (Rom. 10:17). When he believed, he then spoke! So must we!

May we ever be impressed with the word of God. It is powerful (Heb. 4:12)! God’s word is like a hammer and like fire (Jer. 23:29). God’s word can “*prick*” (stick, cut or pierce) the heart that has been hardened by sin (Acts 2:37). It is a sword (Eph. 6:17). Seeing that this is true, it is not a small thing, nor a

minor thing when we learn that “God hath spoken” to men! What has God said to us?

“Love Me With All Your Being.”

In both Old and New Testaments, we see God demanding first place with His creation. Deuteronomy 6:5 and Matthew 22:37 read identically, telling us, “*Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind.*” With all our being, we need to love the God of Heaven. In truth, how can we do anything but love Him, seeing that He first loved us by: creating us, sustaining our lives on this earth, sending us a Savior, as well as providing us with spiritual and physical blessings in this life. (I Jn. 4:19) How can we do anything but love Him? It has always puzzled me how one can be so self-centered as to deny the existence of our Creator when “God hath spoken!”

“Love Your Neighbor.”

This is another command of God that is found no less than eight times in the Scriptures. In fact, Jesus said this command was second only to the command to love God with all your being (Matt. 22:39). Are we loving others like we ought? If we do not love men, how can we say that we love God (I Jn. 4:20)? Yet, this is more than saying “I love you” to someone. This love must be demonstrated. Certainly the greatest love was demonstrated by Christ in His dying for a sinful world. Our Lord even said, “*Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends*” (Jn. 15:13).

Our Lord is the embodiment of

love. Being His disciples, do we love men enough to tell them the truth about their soul? Do we love people enough to ignore what ridicule might be suffered, and simply tell them what to do to be saved? If we love our own souls enough that we want to be saved, we ought to love our neighbors enough to tell them what to do to be saved! Let us live what “God hath spoken” and love our neighbors as ourselves.

“Man Is Made In My Image.”

I point this fact out because our society believes men are here by accident, having descended from a monkey or other primate. This is simply not true. God, who spoke this world into existence in six days (Gen. 1:31-2:1; Ex. 20:11, 31:17), said, “*Let us make man in our image, after our likeness...*” (Gen. 1:26). God later told Noah, “*Whoso sheddeth man’s blood, by man shall his blood be shed: for in the image of God made he man*” (Gen. 9:6). Yes, we are made in the image of God, and let us never forget it; “God hath spoken!”

“Worship Me As I Direct.”

God has never allowed men to worship Him in just any way, but has demanded that men worship Him His way. In both Old and New Testaments, we find God demanding that men worship Him “*in spirit/sincerity and in truth*” (Josh. 24:14; Jn. 4:24). While we understand that God has enacted a New Covenant, and with it, certain acts of worship have changed, the need for worshipping “*in spirit and in truth*” has never changed. “God hath spoken” concerning worship, and we have no right to change it!

Conclusion

These are just a few things God has said, and many more things are found within the pages of Inspiration. Spend time in God’s book starting today, and see what “God hath spoken”!

“Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk

A Big Thank You And Some Thoughts...

Jarrood Jacobs

Thank you
for

- ◆ Showing interest in the souls of friends, loved ones, and neighbors and inviting them to the gospel meeting.
- ◆ Showing interest in the gospel by coming and supporting this meeting last week.
- ◆ The hospitality shown to brother Sallee, as well as to me and my family this last week. How kind you are!
- ◆ In connection with the above, thank you for filling out the "meal list" in less than ONE WEEK!! There was NO begging, NO reminders offered, or anything of the sort. Thank you for your thoughtfulness and kindness. This is the way it ought to be.
- ◆ Thank you for being zealous in getting the word out, as some have told me of their efforts to give people gospel meeting flyers, and encourage those of the community to come each evening and hear the gospel.
- ◆ Our gratitude is extended to those who led our songs all week. (This was another "list" which didn't take long to fill.) Thank you!

Brethren, I hope this week has made it clear that a gospel meeting requires everyone's participation if it is to be successful. This meeting was a success because YOU worked at it! Brother Sallee did his part in preaching the gospel (II Tim. 4:2), but we had to live up to our responsibilities as well. How wonderful it is to see what can happen when we set our minds to spreading the gospel in this area.

Let's not stop working simply because our gospel meeting ended.

We have opportunities daily to tell others the truth and lead them to Christ. Let us take the lessons we have learned from brother Sallee and apply them to our daily lives! What is stopping us from inviting a friend or neighbor to services? Nothing is stopping us but our own fear and/or neglect. Let us get rid of this and resolve today to let others know of the gospel. Let us be like Andrew and Philip, and bring people in contact with the message of Christ while there is still time and opportunity (Jn. 1:40-45).

When we sing, "I want to be a soul-winner for Jesus every day..." do we mean it? Do we mean the words we speak when we sing to do "all in the name of the Lord"? If so, then let us be busy in fulfilling what we promised the Lord that we would do! Solomon said, *"Be not rash with thy mouth, and let not thine heart be hasty to utter any thing before God: for God is in heaven, and thou upon earth: therefore let thy words be few... When thou vowest a vow unto God, defer not to pay it; for he hath no pleasure in fools: pay that which thou hast vowed. Better is it that thou shouldest not vow, than that thou shouldest vow and not pay. Suffer not thy mouth to cause thy flesh to sin ..."* (Ecc. 5:2, 4-6). Let us heed these wise words!

The results of this gospel meeting will be felt for some time. Will this meeting give us renewed strength and

zeal to live by the gospel and spread it to others, or will we simply turn a deaf ear to what was said? The choice is yours!

"POINTED PARAGRAPHS"

R.L. Whiteside

"For ye were going astray like sheep." The idea expressed in the original Greek is not that they were going astray, but they were astray. When a living thing is astray, it is lost; at least it is not in its proper place, not where it belongs. Sin is not the proper element for people; they do not rightly belong there; it is not their natural habitat. Righteousness is man's natural habitat; that is where God originally placed him. When he wanders off into sin, he is on foreign soil."

"Here is one lesson that Israel never did learn, nor has the world yet learned it" *'O Jehovah I know that the way of man is not in himself; it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps.'* (Jer. 10:23)"

"Christ loved the church, bought it with his own blood, and prayed for its oneness. So far as we can, we should love the church as he loved it."

From: The Kingdom of Promise And Prophecy, p. 118, 176, 22

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