

## Tuesday's Touch ...#41

...from Pastor Ed ...November 3, 2009

### Christian Activism

You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven. Matthew 5:13-16

You will be brought before rulers and kings for My sake, for a testimony to them. Mark 13:9

Behold, I send you out as sheep in the midst of wolves. Therefore be wise as serpents and harmless as doves. Matthew 10:16

**T**he Bible speaks truth into every aspect of human life. It is the word of the Living God, who alone has the authority to establish the ground rules for his own creation. All revealed truth emanates from the God who is Himself Truth. As every Christian is called to be a purveyor of truth, he/she must also realize that no human being has the authority to limit the scope of that truth. The Church must never allow the world to dictate which portions of truth are acceptable, or when and where it may or may not be expressed. The light of truth is to shine upon all of the socio-political landscape wherever the Church manifests itself. More often than not, the price paid for the Church's speaking truth to unjust governments, false churches, or godless societies, has been the blood of her saints. Such sacrifice is held in the highest esteem before the throne of Majesty (Heb 11:37). We dishonor God and the bloody trail of martyred saints when we cower at the strictures of the world and place a basket over our candlestick. Freedom to speak truth privately is no freedom at all. The salt has no effect while in the salt shaker.

At the same time it is imperative that the saints are *wise as serpents and harmless as doves* (Mat 10:16). Our expressions of truth must be formulated and regulated by the wisdom and priorities of the scriptures, or they may well precipitate unneeded polarization, rejection and persecution, and bring reproach on the name of Christ.

1. Only the Gospel of Jesus Christ can change hearts and thereby, at times, according to the Lord's purpose, truly transform societies. The proclamation of the Gospel of saving grace for the glory of God is the Church's first and great commission. We must be careful not to subvert it by becoming excessively law-focused in our efforts for socio-political reform. If the very Law of God could not restrain and reform the nation of Israel, no human law is going to restrain and reform a godless America. If we could immediately legislate and reform all of our laws to conform to biblical truth, we would only precipitate either rebellion and anarchy or a totalitarian police-state. As many of our founding fathers expressed, our system of government was designed for a God-fearing people.

2. Therefore, as the church is called to shine the light of truth upon all aspects of the world, its manner must be to inform and demonstrate, not to coerce and dictate. Truth must be cradled in the demonstration of love and mercy. *Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt (Colos 4:6); And the servant of the Lord must not strive, but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, in meekness instructing those that oppose... (2Tim 2:24-25); as much as lies in you, live peaceably with all men...(Rom 12:18); If when you do well, and suffer for it, you take it patiently, this is acceptable with God...(1 Peter 2:20); So they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His name...(Acts 5:41). Bless those who persecute you, bless and do not curse (Rom 12:14).*

3. We must carefully examine our own motives and continually guard ourselves from being, or becoming, worldly in our pursuits and goals. The glory of God and the love of truth must not be

subverted by the quest for earthly security and blessing. Even the lofty goal of “liberty and justice for all” must be kept in check by the truth that every true believer is free in Christ, be he master or slave (1Corinth 7:22). We must be careful not to communicate to the world that our ultimate security, liberty, and well-being rest in the state of worldly kingdoms or institutions.

4. The effects of truth on individuals, societies, or governments are in the hands of our sovereign God. Sometimes we will be a savor of life unto life, and at other times of death unto death (2Corinth 2:16). We must not be deceived into thinking that by proclaiming the proper truths and by implementing the ‘right’ methods we can guarantee revival or the transformation of a nation. The same truth that saves and becomes dear to the convert may enrage and bring persecution from others. We must never gauge our faithfulness by the outward results.

5. We must be wary of being yoked together with unbelievers in supporting a cause (2Corinth 6:14). There are common areas of interest for citizens of a nation, and to work together for change is not in itself wrong. However, the Christian must carefully guard his/her demeanor and methods to reflect the Spirit of Christ. We must not be drawn into what may be the carnal or worldly methods of a movement because our goals are the same. The end does not justify the means. The weapons of our warfare are not carnal (2Corinth 10:14).

In summary, let us never be ashamed of Christ or the truth that emanates from Him (Lk 9:26). May God grant us the wisdom and courage to speak boldly as we ought to speak (Eph 6:19-20). And in all things, let us adorn the meekness and gentleness of Christ, speaking the truth in love (2 Corinth 10:1; Eph 4:15).

Am I a soldier of the cross,  
A follower of the Lamb,  
And shall I fear to own His cause,  
Or blush to speak His Name?  
  
Must I be carried to the skies  
On flowery beds of ease,  
While others fought to win the prize,  
And sailed through bloody seas?  
  
Are there no foes for me to face?  
Must I not stem the flood?  
Is this vile world a friend to grace,  
To help me on to God?  
  
Sure I must fight if I would reign;  
Increase my courage, Lord.  
I'll bear the toil, endure the pain,  
Supported by Thy Word.     -Isaac Watts

*Lord of Hosts,  
Gird your sword upon your thigh, O most mighty one, with your glory and your majesty.  
And in your majesty ride prosperously because of truth and meekness... Psalm 45:3-4  
Amen*

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