

Calling Bible Things By Bible Names

by David Eldridge

“Call Bible things by Bible names!” This restoration plea is rooted in Scripture: “If anyone speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God...” (1 Pet. 4:11). “But as for you, speak the things which are proper for sound doctrine” (Titus 2:1). Thus, if we speak, we are to speak as the Bible speaks. It is vital for us to understand that the words we use are important. Jesus said, “by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned” (Mt. 12:37). Why do we find some not calling Bible things by Bible names?

1) **Ignorance.** One reason some fail to call Bible things by Bible names is due to a lack of understanding or disregard for the proper use of Bible names. Consider some examples of when one may ignorantly use Bible names improperly.

Church: The way that some speak of the church make it sound as if it is a place or an assembly. You have probably heard someone say something similar to “the church is just down the road.” However, the church has ears, can fear, and speak — no man-made structure has those qualities (Mt. 18:17; Acts 5:11; 11:22). The church is

not a physical building, rather it is a spiritual building made up of Christians (1 Tim. 3:15; 1 Pet. 2:4-5). Be careful that your speech does not send the wrong message of the true nature of the church.

Christian: We often hear people talk about “Christian” bookstores, music, movies, etc. What is a Christian? A Christian is not a thing; a Christian is a person — a disciple (Acts 11:26). Christians are called by a noble name — the name of Christ (James 2:7). Bookstores, music and movies are not “Christian,” even though they may be made or used by Christians. Let us not apply this God-given, proper name to anything or anyone other than the true people of God.

2) **Fear.** Another reason some fail to call Bible things by Bible names is rooted in fear. What kind of fear would keep one from calling Bible things by Bible names?

The fear of sounding too traditional or old-fashioned: Some are so fearful of being considered traditional or out-of-date that they feel compelled to change the way they speak of Scriptural things

in order to sound more contemporary. There are God-given “traditions” that must not be changed (2 Th. 2:15). Let us not shy away from Biblical terms because of such fear — it is better to call Bible things by Bible names than it is to be considered contemporary in your speech.

The fear of hurting someone else’s feelings: Some fear hurting someone’s feelings if they were to call Bible things by Bible names. Thus, they will not call error, error; will not call sin, sin; will not speak of Judgment; and will not speak of Hell. Of course, we should always “speak the truth in love.” However, it should always be remembered that to do so we **must** “speak the truth” (Eph. 4:15). Many simply refuse to call Bible things by Bible names because they love “the praise of men more than the praise of God” (Jn. 12:43). Be a concerned, humble, gentle, patient and loving servant of the Lord, but do so while calling Bible things by Bible names (2 Tim. 2:24-26).

3) **Imitation.** Another reason some fail to call Bible things by Bible names is because of their desire to imitate the denominations.

Sadly, there are some who are so awe-struck by the denominational world and infatuated with their leaders that they would rather employ their language than Biblical language. There are even some so-called “gospel preachers” who would rather quote Max Lucado, Rick Warren, and Charles Stanley than to speak the inspired words of the apostles Paul, Peter, and John. May we ever remember the admonition, “Beloved, do not

imitate what is evil, but what is good. He who does good is of God, but he who does evil has not seen God” (3 Jn. 11). Let your speech be influenced by God’s revelation, not by error of the denominational world.

In conclusion, remember the words Nehemiah spoke so long ago: “In those days I also saw Jews who had married women of Ashdod, Ammon, and Moab. And half of their children spoke the

language of Ashdod, and could not speak the language of Judah, but spoke according to the language of one or the other people” (Neh. 13:23-24). Nehemiah mourned the fact some who were supposed to be among the people of God could not speak the language of God’s people. I have often wondered if Nehemiah would mourn for the people of God today who cannot, or simply will not speak the language of God’s people.

Come Study The Bible With Us!

by John Isaac Edwards

This week (April 10-15) has been set aside for a series of Bible lessons to be presented at the church of Christ at Terre Haute.

1) **The Speaker.** We have invited David Eldridge to be the speaker this week. David and his family live in Cookeville, Tennessee. He works with the Samaria church of Christ. David is committed to speaking “...as the oracles of God...” (1 Pet. 4:11). His lessons will be Bible lessons.

2) **You Are Invited!** We are extending to you a personal invitation to come study the Bible with us. We will be meeting today at 10:00 a.m., 11:00 a.m., and 2:30 p.m. and Monday - Friday at 7:00 p.m.

3) **Why Come Study The Bible With Us?**

The Bible is the only book that is inspired of God: “All scripture is given by inspiration of God...” (2 Tim. 3:16).

The Bible is the only book that answers our most pressing questions: Where did we come from? Why are we here? Where are we going when it’s all over?

The Bible is the only book that is able to save our souls. “...receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls” (Jas. 1:21).

We look forward to a great week of Bible study!

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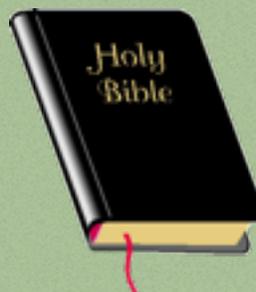
Assembling At:

4017 E Margaret DR
Terre Haute, IN 47803
[Exit 11 (I-70) W on HWY 46,
W on Margaret DR approx. 1 mile]

Assembling Times:

Sunday @ 10:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m.
Wednesday @ 7:00 p.m.

Come be with us!



We Speak Where the Bible Speaks.

We Are Silent Where the Bible Is Silent.

We Do Bible Things in Bible Ways.

www.churchofchristatterrehaute.com