

The Terre Haute

SPEAKER

“If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God...” (1 Peter 4:11).

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BELIEVE IT NOT

John Edwards

Jesus said, *“Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not”* (Mt. 24:23). Although faith is essential to a proper relationship with God (Heb. 11:6), there are some things we must not believe. We take a look at some:

SALVATION IS BY FAITH ONLY. Some would have us believe that all a person has to do to be saved is just believe. The Bible teaches that faith saves (Rom. 5:1), but no where does the Bible say we are saved by faith only! The only time the words *“faith only”* appear in the Bible is in James 2:24 which says we are not saved by faith only. Faith must be put to work (Jas. 2:26).

ONCE YOU’RE SAVED, YOU’RE ALWAYS SAVED. There are those who say that one saved from past sins at baptism cannot sin so as to be eternally lost. Simon sinned and was told that he would *“perish”* (Acts 8:20-24). The Hebrew writer warned folks about *“departing from the living God”* in Hebrews 3:12. Paul spoke of those *“fallen from grace”* in Galatians 5:4.

GOD APPROVES OF MECHANICAL INSTRUMENTS IN WORSHIP. Many claim that playing mechanical instruments

in worship unto God is acceptable to God. The church of the first century just sang (Acts 16:5; 1 Cor. 14:15; Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16). The Bible is silent concerning the use of mechanical instruments in New Testament worship. We must respect God’s silence and just do what God said do — SING.

YOU CANNOT UNDERSTAND THE BIBLE. Has anyone ever told you that there is no use reading the Bible, that you cannot possibly understand it? God commands us to understand His will: *“Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is”* (Eph. 5:17). The apostle Paul said, *“Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ”* (Eph. 3:4). You can understand what God expects of you.

ONE CHURCH IS AS GOOD AS ANOTHER. A lot of people say that one church is just as good as another. The Bible refers to only one church — the Lord’s (Mt. 16:18; Acts 20:28). There is one body (Eph. 4:4), and the body is the church (Col. 1:18, 24). Why would you want to be a member of a human church, when you can be a member of the Lord’s church?

We need to learn to not believe everything we hear. *“Beloved, believe not every*

spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world” (1 Jn. 4:1).

THE SERVANT OF THE LORD

John Edwards

Please take your Bible and read 2 Timothy 2:24-26. The apostle Paul lists some outstanding duties and responsibilities of the Lord’s servant. Notice:

MUST NOT STRIVE. The word *“strive”* simply means fight or quarrel. The Scriptures reveal some things which cause men to strive: talebearing (Prov. 26:20), whispering (Prov. 16:28), meddling (Prov. 20:3), pride (Prov. 28:25), wrath and anger (Prov. 15:18), and foolish questions (2 Tim. 2:23). The servant of the Lord must do nothing through strife (Phil. 2:3).

MUST BE GENTLE. To be *“gentle”* is to be mild. The word *“gentle”* was often used by Greek writers as characterizing a nurse with trying children. Paul is a great example of gentleness (1 Th. 2:7; 2 Cor. 10:1). The fruit of the Spirit is gentleness (Gal. 5:22). The servant of the Lord must be gentle to all (Titus 3:2).

MUST BE APT TO TEACH.

“Apt to teach” suggests the Lord’s servant is to be skilled in teaching; ready and able to teach. The qualifications of elders include *“apt to teach”* (1 Tim. 3:2). Every servant of the Lord is expected to teach. Paul told Timothy, *“And the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also”* (2 Tim. 2:2). If servants did their duty, there would be more men qualified to be elders in the house of God.

MUST BE PATIENT.

Patience requires that we be forbearing and hold up under evil. The servant of the Lord must be enduring, even when wrongfully treated. *“For this is thankworthy, if a man for conscience toward God endure grief, suffering wrongfully. For what glory is it, if, when ye be buffeted for your faults, ye shall take it patiently? but if, when ye do well, and suffer for it, ye take it patiently, this is acceptable with God”* (1 Pet. 2:19-20). We need a good dose of patience!

MUST INSTRUCT SINNERS.

There are those who have been taken captive by the devil and

are in his snare. The Lord’s servant is obligated to instruct sinners that they might be saved. This must be done in a spirit of meekness. Our whole life should be characterized by meekness (Eph. 4:2; Mt. 5:5). Paul impressed this upon the hearts of the Galatians: *“Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted”* (Gal. 6:1).

This is a description of the Lord’s servant. We encourage you to become the servant of the Lord by being baptized in obedience to the Lord (Rom. 6:16-18).

AS FOR GOD

John Edwards

The Psalmist penned, *“As for God, his way is perfect: the word of the Lord is tried: he is a buckler to all those that trust in him”* (Ps. 18:30). The phrase *“As for God”* makes for a good study.

HIS WAY IS PERFECT. The

ways of God are right and complete. It is written in Deuteronomy 32:4, *“He is the Rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he.”* There is nothing lacking in the ways of God.

HE IS BOTH GOOD AND SEVERE. If you have been thinking that God is too good to punish sin, you need to re-examine what the Bible teaches. *“Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God...”* (Rom. 11:22).

HE IS OUR REFUGE AND STRENGTH. We have nothing to fear because *“God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble”* (Ps. 46:1). Ruth, the Moabitess, came to recognize God as her hiding place (Ruth 2:12).

HIS MERCY IS GREAT. David uttered, *“I am in a great strait: let me fall now into the hand of the Lord; for very great are his mercies: but let me not fall into the hand of man”* (1 Chr. 21:13). God is of great mercy (Num. 14:18)!

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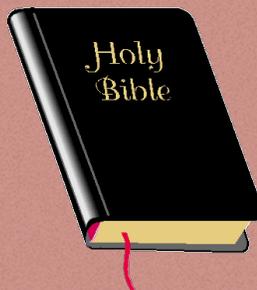
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We Speak Where the Bible Speaks.

We Are Silent Where the Bible Is Silent.

We Do Bible Things in Bible Ways.

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