

The Terre Haute

SPEAKER

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

Volume 9

August 23, 2020

Number 34

PETER, LIFTED UP HIS VOICE

John Edwards

The second chapter of the book of Acts records the occasion when the apostles were “*all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance*” (v. 4). Verse 14 states, “*But Peter, standing up with the eleven, lifted up his voice, and said unto them...*” I’m interested in calling attention to when Peter lifted up his voice.

AGAINST THE FALSE SUPPOSITIONS OF MEN. First, this man of God lifted up his voice against the false suppositions of men. Mockers said of the Spirit-filled apostles, “*These men are full of new wine*” (v. 13). Peter made it known, “*these are not drunken, as ye suppose, seeing it is but the third hour of the day*” (v. 15). Today, many suppose or assume a lot of things that are false. In regard to the church of our Lord, there are many things men believe that are not so. Some suppose that it is a social club, just another denomination, that it was started by some man, and the list goes on. We must not be afraid to lift up our voice and say, “*not...as ye suppose*”!

ABOUT FULFILLED PROPHECY. Peter lifted up his

voice to inform the people of his day that prophecy had been fulfilled. A reading of Acts 2:16-21 will show that the prophecy of Joel 2:18-21 had come to pass. Some will read an Old Testament prophet and run in a thousand different directions speculating as to what the prophet had in mind. But, when an apostle quotes a prophet and says, “*This is that*”, as the apostle Peter did the prophet Joel, there should be no confusion about the matter. One of the best evidences that the Bible did not come from the mind of men, but God is fulfilled prophecy. Peter announced, “*Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost*” (2 Pet. 1:20-21). We ought to lift up our voice in matching prophecies of the Old Testament with their fulfillment in the New Testament so as to build faith in the inspiration and integrity of the word of God.

PREACHING JESUS. Peter preached Jesus, when he lifted up his voice. He said, “*Ye men of Israel, hear these words; Jesus of Nazareth...*” (v. 22). I urge you to read the sermon spoken so eloquently by this Galilean fisherman. It was short and can be written on a postcard

(vv. 22-36). Yet, it was powerful as those who heard it “*were pricked in their heart*” (v. 37). Christ was the central theme of New Testament preaching. Paul wrote the Corinthians, “*For I am determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified*” (1 Cor. 2:2). The need of the world is Jesus! Have we lifted up our voice to tell the world about Jesus — who He is, what He has done, and what He will do?

AGAINST SIN. Peter was not timid about lifting up his voice against sin. He did not hesitate to show the people what evil they had done. “*...ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain*” (v. 23), “*...whom ye have crucified...*” (v. 36) were his words to this great Jewish audience. God long expected His messengers to cry aloud against sin. Isaiah was commissioned, “*Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and shew my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins*” (Is. 58:1). If he did not show it, they may never know it. This is so they would turn from their sins unto God. We need to hear the cry against sin. We are in desperate need of men who will cry aloud as to what sin is (1 Jn. 3:4; 5:17; Jas. 4:17), who will spare not to point out what sin will do (Is. 59:1-2; Jas. 1:15). If we never come to see our sin,

we will never be compelled to do anything about it or to even ask, "What shall we do?"

DEMANDING REPENTANCE.

When the house of Israel cried out, "What shall we do?" (v. 37), Peter lifted up his voice and said, "Repent..." (v. 38). The message of the Bible, over and over again, is repentance. John the Baptist came preaching, "Repent ye..." (Mt. 3:1). Jesus began to preach, and to say, "Repent..." (Mt. 4:17). This is something all need to hear. God "commandeth all men every where to repent" (Acts 17:30). The Lord is "not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance" (2 Pet. 3:9). Repentance is illustrated in the story of two sons as recorded in Matthew 21:28-30, when the father "came to the first, and said, Son, go work to day in my vineyard. He answered and said, I will not: but afterward he repented, and went." What did the son do when he repented? Someone says, "He changed his mind." Obviously, he did. But, he did more than just change his mind, didn't he? The Bible says, he "went"! Repentance is an about face.

Jesus gave this ultimatum: "except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish" (Lk. 13:3, 5).

IN REGARD TO BIBLE

BAPTISM. Peter said, "...be baptized for the remission of sins..." (v. 38). About the only time baptism is mentioned in some pulpits today is when men try to tell folks they do not have to be baptized. It is rather strange, don't you think, that men today say you do not need to be baptized when we have an example of folks asking what to do about their sins, in the New Testament, and they are told to be baptized for the remission of their sins? Again, in Acts 10, when Peter was sent to the Gentiles, "...he commanded them to be baptized in the name of the Lord" (v. 48). Jesus plainly said, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned" (Mk. 16:16). Preacher, lift up your voice in regard to the subjects of Bible baptism, the necessity of baptism, the blessings of baptism, and all that the word of God teaches on the subject of baptism.

The tendency on the part of

many today is to not lift up the voice, but speak softly or to not speak at all. The fact that Peter lifted up his voice affords us many good spiritual lessons. May we not be afraid to lift up our voice when and where needed.

Mask Mandate

Our Governor signed an executive order declaring that every individual within the state of Indiana shall wear a face covering over the nose and mouth when inside a public building or indoor place open to the public. We encourage you to cooperate with this requirement out of concern for the well-being of others. Thank you for wearing a face covering in compliance with the governor's order.

The Terre Haute **SPEAKER** is published weekly by the church of Christ at Terre Haute, Indiana.

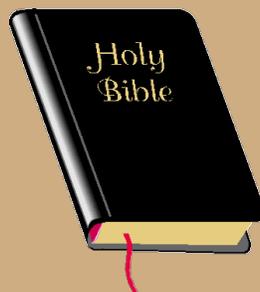
Assembling At:

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