

# The Terre Haute

# SPEAKER

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

Volume 9

August 30, 2020

Number 35

## ABOUNDING THEREIN

John Edwards

Paul wrote the Colossian Christians, *“Rooted and built up in him, and stablished in the faith, as ye have been taught, **abounding therein** with thanksgiving”* (Col. 2:7). To abound is “to be abundantly furnished...to excel” (Vine’s Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words, p. 20). Let me call to attention some areas in which we need to be abounding therein:

**HOPE.** Romans 15:13 records, *“Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may **abound in hope**, through the power of the Holy Ghost.”* We are “*saved by hope*” (Rom. 8:24). Without Christ, there is “*no hope*” (Eph. 2:12). *“There is...one hope”* (Eph. 4:4). It is *“the hope which is laid up for you in heaven”* (Col. 1:5), *“the hope of the gospel”* (Col. 1:23), *“the hope of eternal life”* (Titus 3:7). It serves *“as an anchor of the soul, both sure and stedfast”* (Heb. 6:19). John said, *“And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure”* (1 Jn. 3:3).

**GIVING.** The Corinthians were exhorted, *“Therefore, as ye abound in every thing, in faith, and utterance, and knowledge, and in all diligence, and in your love to us, see that*

*ye **abound in this grace also**”* (2 Cor. 8:7). *“This grace”* is the grace of giving; the kind of giving exemplified by the churches of Macedonia, who in great affliction and deep poverty, *“were willing of themselves”* (2 Cor. 8:1-6). Jesus instructed, *“Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again”* (Lk. 6:38).

**EVERY GOOD WORK.** It is written, *“And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may **abound to every good work**”* (2 Cor. 9:8). Good works is the responsibility of each individual Christian. *“For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them”* (Eph. 2:10). The Lord preached in the Sermon on the Mount, *“Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven”* (Mt. 5:16).

**LOVE.** Paul’s care for the Thessalonians was expressed in these words: *“And the Lord make you to increase and **abound in love** toward one*

*another, and toward all men, even as we do toward you”* (1 Th. 3:12). Jesus declared, *“A new commandment I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another”* (Jn. 13:34-35).

**THE WORK OF THE LORD.** The resurrection chapter concludes this way: *“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always **abounding in the work of the Lord**, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord”* (1 Cor. 15:58). There is no greater work than the work of the Lord! The Romans were encouraged, *“Salute the beloved, Persis, which laboured much in the Lord”* (Rom. 16:12).

**WALKING SO AS TO PLEASE GOD.** 1 Thessalonians 4:1 teaches, *“Furthermore then we beseech you, brethren, and exhort you by the Lord Jesus, that as ye have received of us how ye ought to **walk and to please God**, so you would **abound more and more.**”* The life of a Christian is a walk (Rom. 6:4). This walk must be a God-pleasing walk! *“That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing...”* (Col. 1:10).

Are we abounding therein?

## THYSELF

Robert Jackson

Let us give attention to the words of Paul as he writes to Timothy, and he brings out some things about THYSELF.

### STUDY TO SHEW

**THYSELF.** 2 Timothy 2:15, *“Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”* One is to be a student of the Word. However, observe that he did not just say to show THYSELF...but to show thyself approved in the eyes of God. Many show themselves, but not in the right manner. No one can be approved until they study the Word.

### BEHAVE THYSELF. 1

Timothy 3:15, *“But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.”* We are to behave thyself by being organized in the way of the Lord. Elders to oversee (1 Pet. 5:1-3). Deacons to serve (Phil. 1:1-2). This is the

way the Lord would have us to behave in the house of God.

### EXERCISE THYSELF.

Again he mentions thyself in 1 Timothy 4:7, *“But refuse profane and old wives’ fables, and exercise thyself rather unto godliness.”* Many today are very much up on physical exercise and this is good for the body. Yet, we are told to exercise thyself unto godliness. I fear there are very few that are doing much exercise along this manner. If so, then much good will be done.

### TAKE HEED UNTO

**THYSELF.** Paul told Timothy that the first person to take heed unto is thyself. 1 Timothy 4:16, *“Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them: for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee.”* It is true that Timothy was able to teach others, but he first had to take heed unto his own life or he would not do the other. It is not difficult at times to get some to take heed unto others, but very difficult to take heed unto thyself.

**SAVE THYSELF.** Notice

also that Paul said in so doing that you will *“save thyself”* (1 Tim. 4:16). Some would say it is impossible for you to do anything for your salvation. Paul said there are some things you can do in order to save thyself.

WHAT ABOUT THYSELF?

**NEVER, SELDOM, OFTEN?**

Which term best describes your practice of the following good works? Never, seldom, often?

1. Do you send a card or visit those who are ill, shut-in, or widows?
2. Do you seek out those to greet who are little noticed by others?
3. Do you make newcomers feel welcome to the congregation?
4. Do you prepare a dish of food for those bereaved or ill?
5. Do you encourage the song leaders, teachers, elders, deacons, and preacher?
6. Do you visit with elderly members of the congregation?
7. Do you speak to “strangers” at the assembly?

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

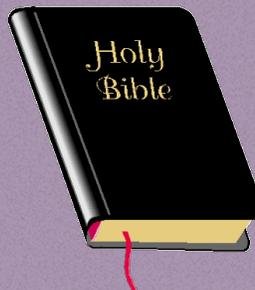
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**Come be with us!**



**We Speak Where the Bible Speaks.**

**We Are Silent Where the Bible Is Silent.**

**We Do Bible Things in Bible Ways.**

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