

The Terre Haute

SPEAKER

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

Volume 13

January 14, 2024

Number 2

NOT A HOOF SHALL BE LEFT BEHIND

John Edwards

The Lord commissioned Moses to say unto the king of Egypt, *“The Lord God of the Hebrews hath met with us: and now let us go, we beseech thee, three days’ journey into the wilderness, that we may sacrifice to the Lord our God”* (Ex. 3:18; 5:3). The book of Exodus records four compromise proposals offered by Pharaoh to Moses during the plagues. None of these compromises were accepted; all were rejected.

1. Go sacrifice; but stay in the land. *“And Pharaoh called for Moses and for Aaron, and said, Go ye, sacrifice to your God **in the land**”* (Ex. 8:25). Moses answered, *“It is not meet so to do; for we shall sacrifice the abomination of the Egyptians to the Lord our God: lo, shall we sacrifice the abomination of the Egyptians before their eyes, and will they not stone us? We will go three days’ journey into the wilderness, and sacrifice to the Lord our God, as he shall command us”* (Ex. 8:26-27). Would you have stayed in the land?

2. Go, but do not go far. *“And Pharaoh said, I will let you go, that ye may sacrifice to*

*the Lord your God in the wilderness; only ye shall **not go very far away**: intreat for me”* (Ex. 10:28). Moses said, *“Behold, I go out from thee, and I will intreat the Lord that the swarms of flies may depart from Pharaoh, from his servants, and from his people, to morrow: but let not Pharaoh deal deceitfully any more in not letting the people go to sacrifice to the Lord”* (Ex. 8:29). Would you have compromised with Pharaoh?

3. The men alone may go sacrifice. Pharaoh said, *“...go now **ye that are men**, and serve the Lord....And they were driven out from Pharaoh’s presence”* (Ex. 10:11). Again Moses did not concede to the Egyptian ruler.

4. Everyone may go, but do not take your cattle. *“And Pharaoh called unto Moses, and said, only **let your flocks and your herds be stayed**: let your little ones also go with you”* (Ex. 10:24). Moses replied, *“Thou must give us also sacrifices and burnt offerings, that we may sacrifice unto the Lord our God. Our cattle also shall go with us; **there shall not an hoof be left behind**; for thereof must we take to serve the Lord our God; and we know not with what we must serve the Lord, until we come thither”* (Ex. 10:25-26). Would you have left the livestock behind?

Moses’ response, *“Not a hoof shall be left behind”* is a great statement showing how uncompromising Moses was with Pharaoh. “When we go, we all go” was his attitude. To do any less than what the Lord says is to not do what the Lord says. Too many today want to make concessions with the truth. The Lord’s house is not a halfway house, like an inn midway between two towns. It’s either truth or error; obedience or disobedience. *“And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free”* (Jn. 8:32). *“Ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God”* (Mt. 22:29). *“We ought to obey God rather than men”* (Acts 5:29). When it comes to everything the Lord says, may our attitude be: *“Not a hoof shall be left behind”!*

SHEW ME THY WAY

Moses said unto the Lord, *“Now therefore, I pray thee, if I have found grace in thy sight, **shew me now thy way**, that I may know thee, that I may find grace in thy sight: and consider that this nation is thy people”* (Ex. 33:13).

What a great attitude — *“Shew me now thy way, that I may know thee, and that I may find grace in thy sight”!* May this be our desire!

THE STATE OF NEUTRALITY

J.B Nelson

Neutrality is the state of being neutral. And neutral is defined by Webster as: "Taking neither side; having no decided character or action; neuter." In secular affairs one has a perfect right to be neutral because he is the sole dictator of his mind and acts. But in matters Divine he has no mind of his own. His mind must become the mind of Jehovah (Is. 55:8-9). We must think and act as God directs and not as we may desire. Neutrality has no place in the teaching and practice of the Word of God.

Old wicked Ahab who was dominated by his idolatrous and wicked wife put much fear in the minds of the Israelites. Many of them were too cowardly to take a stand for Jehovah when put to the test. Elijah said: "*How long go ye limping between the two sides? If Jehovah be God, follow Him; but if Baal then follow him*" (1 Ki. 18:21). What did the neutrals say when Elijah made the demand? "*The people answered him not a word.*"

This question was asked a preacher during a protracted meeting: "are there Christians in all the churches?" After

stammering over the question the answer in substance went about like this: "I do not know who asked this question or why it was asked but before answering it I wish to say to you, kindly, I am not here to abuse or give offense to any one. If there are Christians in other churches they are there as a result of obeying the gospel and not because of the acceptance of the doctrines of men." The answer gave consolation to members of sectarian bodies and encouraged them to abide in a denomination. The same question was asked me and here is my answer. Christ established only one church (Mt. 16:18). We become members of that church by being "*born of water and the Spirit*" (Jn. 3:5). That means to believe, repent, and be buried by baptism and that into Christ (Rom. 6:3-4; Mk. 16:15-16). When one obeys the gospel, Christ adds him to the church (Acts 2:47; 1 Cor. 12:18). No one can scripturally join a denomination or become any kind of an ite but a Christ-ite- a Christian. As a result of this answer a Presbyterian obeyed the gospel. Honest people prefer frankness though it may go contrary to their inherited religion.

Jehovah told Jonah, "*Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry against it for their wickedness is come up before me*" (Jonah 1:2).

Jonah was afraid to go against the "*great city*" so he tried to slip away to neutral territory but he was arrested by Jehovah aboard a ship and brought back. When the commission came to Jonah the second time it was just like the first. "*Arise, go unto Nineveh, that great city, and preach unto it the preaching that I bid thee*" (Jonah 3:2).

Several years ago, I was in the act of stepping in front of an interurban car when one who was with me almost knocked me to the ground to save me. I have never been able to thank him enough for the rough handling of me to save me. He did not say, please don't be offended if I tell you that a car is about to run over you. "*Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and declare unto my people their transgression, and to the house of Jacob their sins*" (Is. 58:1).

There has not been a time in all of my years of ministry when the church needed indoctrinating as now. A pious neutrality is finding fertile soil in the minds of uninformed, over-pious church members. Neutrals do not sit on the fence long; they will soon fall into the drift of sectarianism. The unanchored boat drifts. Truth anchors the soul to God.
Gospel Guardian
Vol. 2, p. 21, Feb. 1936

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