

Spake I a Word?

by John Isaac Edwards

When it came into David’s heart to build a house for God, the Lord quickly replied, “In all the places wherein I have walked with all the children of Israel **spake I a word** with any of the tribes of Israel, whom I have commanded to feed my people Israel, saying, Why build ye not me an house of cedar?” (2 Sam. 7:7). The implication is: had God wanted a house built, He would have said something about it! There are some good lessons to be learned from, “spake I a word...?” Spake I a word:

1) **About Same-Sex Marriage?** It has come into the hearts of some today to take a spouse of the same-sex! God might just ask, “Spake I a word?” God did say, “Therefore shall a man leave father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh” (Gen. 2:24; Mt. 19:5). A reading of Romans 1 will reveal how God feels about such behavior.

2) **About Mechanical/Instrumental Music in the Church?** It has come into the hearts of many today to play on a mechanical instrument of some kind in worship unto God. Where, in the New Testament, did the Lord say anything about playing on a mechanical instrument in worship unto Him? To the contrary, the Lord did speak, a total of ten (10) times about singing, vocal music (Mt. 26:30; Mk. 14:26; Acts 16:25; Rom. 15:9; 1 Cor. 14:15; Eph. 5:19; Col. 3:16; Heb. 2:12; 13:15; Jas. 5:13). The Hebrew writer recorded, “...in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto thee” (Heb. 2:12). The only kind of music mentioned in the New Testament as being in the church and connected with the praise of God is singing! If the Lord wanted us to play on a mechanical instrument of some kind, looks like He would have said something about it!

3) **About Once**

Saved, Always Saved?

Some have got the impression that once a person has been saved from his past sins, he cannot be lost. Where does the Bible teach such a thing? This certainly was not true of God’s people, Israel. Many were saved from Egypt, but lost in the wilderness (1 Cor. 10:1-11). In light of that Paul warned, “...let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall” (1 Cor. 10:11). That’s very strange language, if it’s not possible for a child of God to fall away and be eternally lost!

4) **About the Lord Coming Back to Earth to Establish His Kingdom; to Rule and to Reign?** The thought has come into many hearts that at Christ’s coming the kingdom will be established and Christ will sit on David’s throne in Jerusalem to reign on earth for 1,000 years. This is called premillennialism and just about every church teaches it. Where did the Lord speak

a word about it? The Lord's work here on earth is finished (Jn. 17:4). There will be no earth for Him to come back to as Peter affirmed, "...the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up" (2 Pet. 3:10). Paul said we will "...meet the Lord in the air..." (1 Th. 4:17). The kingdom is the church (Mt. 16:18-19; Heb. 12:23, 28) and has been setup! (Mk. 9:1; Col. 1:13; Rev. 1:9). When Christ comes, the kingdom will not be set up, but "delivered up" and Christ will not pick up His reign, but "...put down all rule and all authority and power" (1 Cor. 15:24)!

5) About Many Faiths and One Church As Good As Another? It is common for folks today to talk about different "faiths" and many "churches". Someone might ask, "What faith are you?" or suggest, "Just join the church of your choice!" Where did God ever

speak a word about such things? The Bible says, "...one faith..." and "...one body..." (Eph. 4:4-5). The body is the church (Col. 1:24). There is only one church revealed in the New Testament planned by God (Eph. 3:10-11), built by Christ (Mt. 16:18), purchased with the blood of Christ (Acts 20:28), headed by Christ (Eph. 1:22-23), and of which Christ is the saviour (Eph. 5:23)!

6) About Food, Fun and Frolic as the Work of the Church? It has come into the hearts of many to plan and provide meals, entertainment and recreation as the work of the church. Had the Lord wanted the church to be involved in such activities, looks like He would have said so. Where did the Lord speak a word about such as the work of the church? The church is "...the pillar and ground of the truth" (1 Tim. 3:15). It is "...a

spiritual house..." (1 Pet. 2:5), and has a spiritual purpose!

7) About Faith Only or Sinner's Prayer Salvation? It is widely taught and accepted that all one has to do to be saved today is just believe or say a prayer like this: Lord Jesus, I confess to you my sins and ask you to come into my heart as my personal Lord and savior. Isn't it strange that when folks in New Testament days asked what to do to be saved, not a word was said about such? When Jews on Pentecost asked, "...what shall we do?", they were told, "Repent, and be baptized..." (Acts 2:37-38). That would have been a good time to tell them, only believe or pray for salvation!

The Lord's silence never has permitted anything! Our mind or the word of the Lord, which will it be?

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:
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