

The Terre Haute

SPEAKER

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

WHAT GOOD IS THERE UNDER HEAVEN?

John Edwards

The question that concerns the Preacher in the book of Ecclesiastes is this: What good is there for the sons of men to do under heaven? (1:3, 13; 2:3). Having given his heart to “...see what was that good for the sons of men, which they should do under the heaven all the days of their life” (2:3), Solomon reveals his discovery:

“There is nothing better for a man, than that he should eat and drink, and that he should make his soul enjoy good in his labour. This also I saw, that it was from the hand of God” (2:24).

“I know that there is no good in them, but for a man to rejoice, and to do good in his life. And also that every man should eat and drink, and enjoy the good of all his labour, it is the gift of God” (3:12-13).

“Behold that which I have seen: it is good and comely for one to eat and to drink, and to enjoy the good of all his labour that he taketh under the sun all the days of his life, which God giveth him: for it is his portion. Every man also to whom God hath given riches and wealth, and hath given him power to eat thereof, and to take his portion,

and to rejoice in his labour; this is the gift of God” (5:18-19).

“Then I commended mirth, because a man hath no better thing under the sun, than to eat, and to drink, and to be merry: for that shall abide with him of his labour the days of his life, which God giveth him under the sun” (8:15).

“Go thy way, eat thy bread with joy, and drink thy wine with a merry heart; for God now accepteth thy works. Let thy garments be always white; and let thy head lack no ointment” (9:7-8).

“Live joyfully with the wife whom thou lovest all the days of the life of thy vanity: which he hath given thee under the sun, all the days of thy vanity: for that is thy portion in this life, and in thy labour which thou takest under the sun” (9:9).

“Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest” (9:10).

“Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil”

(12:13-14).

“WORSHIPFUL MANNERS”

Connie Adams

The author of this article does not claim to be an expert on etiquette but there are certain amenities which ought to be evident to all who will stop and think a little. It is nothing short of amazing to observe some things which one cannot help seeing while standing in a pulpit. Some of the action not only is disconcerting to the one trying to preach, but to other worshippers as well. All such poor manners are not limited to the time when preaching is being done but occurs throughout the services. In the hope that some will be helped I describe the following:

THE MANICURIST. This is the one who files finger nails during the service, and sometimes even clips them with a nail clipper. The person doing this is invariably a poor listener and seldom looks at the speaker. It is a diversionary tactic to help pass the time. Why not give the speaker your undivided attention — you just might learn something.

THE SLEEPER. If I had my way about it (and I don't

usually), I'd not call upon any brother to take any public part in worship of the congregation who shows so little respect for the Lord as to habitually sleep while God is being worshipped and His word being taught. What must be the impression made upon visitors to see a man serve at the Lord's table or lead public prayer, and then return to his seat and go sound asleep? What must be the attitude of God in beholding such irreverence. This is a curable ailment if one is willing to try.

THE ISLE ROAMER. This might be a young child, a teenager or a grown person who wanders in and out during the service. We quickly excuse mothers with small children who must be taken out at times. I do not believe that the children and young people who wander in and out must always do so. Do they go in and out at will at school? This becomes a habit and requires self discipline. It is distracting to all present. It could divert one's attention from a part of a lesson which he needs the most.

THE GUM CHEWER. This person seldom does so

discreetly. It is usually accompanied by popping and smacking with all the elegance of a cow pulling her foot out of the mud.

THE HOME WORK

GETTER. This is the child or young person old enough to pay attention and to derive profit from the lesson. Some do this during song service. Such youngsters are not being taught proper respect for God and His worship. Firm parental attention will cure it.

THE INVITATION

UPSETTERS. These are the people who have come to look on the invitation, not as a solemn moment when every heart strains and yearns for the salvation of those who need to come to the Lord, but the signal for the end of the service. One is daresome to mention the word "faith" until he is right sure he plans to extend the invitation, for he will start a clatter of the early song book reachers. Then there are the gigglers and whisperers during this time. It is enough to make one decide not to obey the gospel if it breeds such poor manners.

Let us come before God with due reverence.

WHY OBEY THE GOSPEL?

SALVATION UNTO THEM THAT OBEY. Christ is "...the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him" (Heb. 5:9).

PUNISHMENT UNTO THEM THAT OBEY NOT. The Lord will come, "*In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power*" (2 Th. 1:8-9).

Will we obey and be saved or obey not and be punished?

GOSPEL MEETINGS:

APRIL 16-21
CONNIE ADAMS & JOHNIE EDWARDS

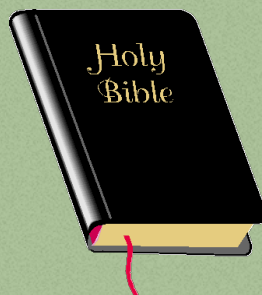
OCTOBER 23-29
RON HALBROOK

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.**

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