

# The Terre Haute

# SPEAKER

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

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## HAVE YE NOT READ?

*Nicolas Edwards*

This is one of the questions the Lord asked on several occasions (Mt. 12:3, 5; 19:4; 22:31). When individuals came questioning and tempting Him He would ask them, *“Have ye not read?”* If they had read, they would have known better. Through their questioning, it was evident they had not read. Today, it is evident that people aren't reading!

### PEOPLE ARE IN ERROR.

*“Jesus answered and said unto them, ye do err, not knowing the scriptures, nor the power of God”* (Mt. 22:29). The fact that individuals believe, teach and practice error proves people aren't *“searching the scriptures”* or *“trying the spirits”* (Acts 17:11; 1 Jn. 4:1).

### PEOPLE DO NOT

**UNDERSTAND.** Paul wrote, *“Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ”* (Eph. 3:4).

### PEOPLE DO NOT FEAR

**GOD.** Fear for God is learned by reading the word of God! *“And it shall be well with him, and he shall read therein all the days of his life: that he may learn to fear the Lord his God...”* (Dt. 17:19). Why do people not fear God? Why are there members

of the church who lack fear for God? They aren't reading!

**PEOPLE ARE NOT CONVICTED.** The Lord said when the *“Comforter”* is come *“he will reprove the world of sin...”* (Jn. 16:8). The NKJV uses the word *“convict”*. The Holy Spirit came to convict the world of sin. This takes place through the word of God (2 Tim. 3:16-17; Titus 1:9). This means the sin is brought to light and exposed producing shame in the one in sin. Why is it people are living in sin and have no shame? They aren't convicted which means people aren't reading.

**PEOPLE LACK FAITH.** *“So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God”* (Rom. 10:17). Why are people weak in faith? They aren't reading. Show me a person strong in faith and I will show you a person who reads the word of God!

**PEOPLE ARE NOT KEEPING OR DOING.** *“And it shall be well with him, and he shall read therein all the days of his life: that he may learn to fear the Lord his God, to keep all the words of this law and these statutes, to do them”* (Dt. 17:19). Keeping and doing first requires reading. You can't keep or do what you don't know!

### PEOPLE ARE NOT

**SPEAKING THE WORD.** The Lord said, *“out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh”* (Mt. 12:34). What goes in is what comes out! You can not deny the connection between the heart and the mouth. Notice the connection in Deuteronomy 6:6-7: *“And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: and thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them....”* The fact that people aren't teaching or talking of them shows people aren't reading! The word is not in their heart.

**PEOPLE ARE NOT STRONG.** *“A wise man is strong; yea, a man of knowledge increaseth strength”* (Prov. 24:5). One reason people are weak is because they are not men of knowledge due to a lack of reading.

**PEOPLE ARE NOT WALKING WORTHY BEING FRUITFUL.** Walking worthy of the Lord and being fruitful requires that we *“be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding...and increasing in the knowledge of God”* (Col. 1:9-10).

Have ye not read?

## WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT SLANDER

John Edwards

One of the ugliest sins of the tongue is slander. "Slander" is used in reference to "those who are given to finding fault with the demeanor and conduct of others, and spreading their innuendos and criticisms in the church" (*Vine's Expository Dictionary of New Testament Words*, p. 1062). Those given to slander exercise an influence most destructive to the body of Christ.

**SLANDER INCITES A SPIRIT OF DISCONTENTMENT AND INVOKES DEATH.** When the twelve spies returned from searching Canaan's land, the ten men that brought back an evil report upon the land were said to have "made all the congregation to murmur against him, by bringing up a slander upon the land" (Num. 14:36-37). The Lord was so disgusted with this that the slanderers died by plague and everyone else, from twenty years old and upward, save Caleb and Joshua, died in the wilderness (Num. 14:26-38). The Lord did not tolerate

slander among His people and neither should we!

**SLANDER IS A FORM OF PERSECUTION AGAINST THE RIGHTEOUS.** If you are ever the object of slander, you will find solace in reading Psalm 31. In many ways, the psalm foreshadows the suffering of Jesus. A net laid privily (v. 4), lying vanities (v. 6), reproach (v. 11), wicked counsel (vv. 13, 17), and strife of tongues (v. 20) are all associated with those "which speak grievous things proudly and contemptuously against the righteous" (Ps. 31:18). Yet courage and strength fill our hearts when we realize, "the Lord preserveth the faithful, and plentifully rewardeth the proud doer" (vv. 23-24).

**SLANDER IS THE HALLMARK OF FOOLS.** In the context of contrasts, Solomon interjects this wise saying: "He that uttereth a slander, is a fool" (Prov. 10:18). Wherever and whenever slander is in the church, there is the presence of a fool! This would not be describing you, would it?

**SLANDER DISQUALIFIES A**

**MAN FROM THE OFFICE OF A BISHOP.** Among the qualifications of elders' and deacons' wives is "not slanderers" (1 Tim. 3:11). Anytime fault-finding and criticism infiltrate the families of officers in the church, the church will face some serious problems. Some women just need to learn to be of a faithful spirit and be quiet.

One way to put a stop to this evil is to not be a party to such. "Whoso privily slandereth his neighbour, him will I cut off: him that hath an high look and proud heart will not I suffer" (Ps. 101:5).

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## GOSPEL MEETING

APRIL 7-12

WITH

NICOLAS EDWARDS

PUT IT ON  
YOUR CALENDAR!

**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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