

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

Volume 11

November 27, 2022

Number 48

BE CAREFUL WHAT YOU SEE

John Edwards

“Oh, be careful little eyes what you see” is the refrain of a favorite children’s hymn. There are many in the Bible who tell us, “Be Careful What You See”!

EVE SAW A TREE. The Lord said, *“Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it...”* (Gen. 2:16-17). Genesis 3:6 records, *“And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food...she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat...”*

ACHAN SAW A GARMENT. The city of Jericho, and all therein, was devoted to the Lord (Josh. 6:17-19). A reading of Joshua 7:1 will show that Achan *“took of the accursed thing...”* Achan, why did you take of the accursed thing? I *“saw among the spoils a goodly Babylonish garment, and two hundred shekels of silver, and a wedge of gold of fifty shekels weight, then I coveted them, and took them...”* (Josh. 7:21).

DAVID SAW A WOMAN. 2 Samuel 11:2-3 finds David upon the housetop where he *“saw a woman washing herself; and the woman was very beautiful to look upon...And David sent messengers, and took her; and she came in unto him, and he*

lay with her...”

A very powerful avenue of temptation the Devil uses in enticing us to sin is, *“the lust of the eyes”* (1 Jn. 2:16). So, be careful what you see!

RULERS OVER GOD’S PEOPLE

John Edwards

God has always had rulers over His people. Exodus 18:21 finds Jethro, Moses’ father-in-law, advising, *“Moreover thou shalt provide out of all the people able men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness; and place such over them, to be rulers of thousands, and rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens.”* Elders have been given the rule over the local church (Heb. 13:17). Just what kind of ruling elders are needed over God’s people?

ABLE MEN. The work of elders requires able men. *“Able”* suggests, *“Having sufficient ability or resources. Especially capable or talented”* (The American Heritage Dictionary). 1 Timothy 3 qualifications call for men in the eldership who are *“apt to teach”* (v. 3). This ability will fully enable elders to *“feed the flock of God which is among you”* (1 Pet. 5:2). Another

qualification of elders, according to Titus 1:9, is, *“Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince the gainsayers.”* A group of people will rise no higher than the ability of its rulers!

MEN WHO FEAR GOD.

God said, *“He that ruleth over men must be just, ruling in the fear of God”* (2 Sam. 23:3). Fear of God is extreme reverence or awe for God. When a man fears God, he will be more interested in pleasing God than men. Paul said, *“For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ”* (Gal. 1:10).

MEN OF TRUTH. There is nothing more important than truth! Men of truth are men who, first of all, know the truth. Jesus said, *“And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free”* (Jn. 8:32). Men of truth are also unafraid to speak the truth. *“But speaking the truth in love...”* (Eph. 4:15). Men of truth will take courage and stand for the truth. *“Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth”* (Eph. 6:14). And men of truth will always tell the truth, never uttering anything to deceive. *“Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his*

neighbour” (Eph. 4:25).

MEN WHO HATE COVETOUSNESS. A qualification of elders is, “*not greedy of filthy lucre*” (1 Tim. 3:8). As everyone else, ruling elders must, “*Take heed, and beware of covetousness...*” (Lk. 12:15). Covetous men will be tightfisted with the Lord’s money, hoard up large sums of money, refuse to pay the preacher a decent wage, and not sacrifice in relieving needy saints. Such tightfistedness stifles the church by holding it back from its full potential.

BINDING OPINIONS ON OTHERS

John Edwards

There is a realm of personal faith where brethren may disagree agreeably (Rom. 14). A cause of much disturbance among brethren is when Christians try to bind their personal opinions on others. This writing takes a look at binding opinions on others.

USE OF A PITCH PIPE. A

pitch pipe is an expedient included in the command to sing, like a song book (Eph. 5:19). Whether or not a song leader uses a pitch pipe in leading the congregation in song is a matter of individual determination. If you don’t think a pitch pipe should be used, then don’t use one when you lead the singing. But, don’t get upset and cause a ruckus when another brother chooses to use one.

OBSERVANCE OF CHRISTMAS. The observance of Christmas in a non-religious way as a national holiday is a judgmental decision. If you are of the persuasion that you can’t send cards, give gifts, put up a tree, or string lights around your house, that’s perfectly fine. But, at the same time, you have no more right to enforce this personal opinion on others than they do to bind the observance of Christmas on you.

WOMEN WEARING SLACKS. I’ve known of situations where some brethren have made a sister wearing slacks feel so uncomfortable that she never came back to the services of the church. Such is a

shame and disgrace! If you don’t think a woman should wear slacks, don’t wear them. But, don’t bind your opinion on others.

GOING TO A PLACE THAT SELLS ALCOHOL. This too is a matter of personal conscience. True, the Bible condemns all forms of drinking, even social drinking (1 Pet. 4:3). But, if a Christian goes to a place to eat, buy groceries, put gas in his automobile, or the pharmacy where alcohol is sold and doesn’t buy or drink intoxicating beverages, that’s his prerogative. If your conscience won’t allow you to go, don’t go. At the same time, you have no right to tell a brother or sister not to go and they have no right to make you feel bad for not going.

Some bicker over matters of opinion that don’t mount to a hill of beans and wonder why the church doesn’t grow. There’s a real need for brethren to be forbearing, and not be so dogmatic about these things to the point that they don’t get along. Let’s learn to work together in spite of differences of opinion.

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

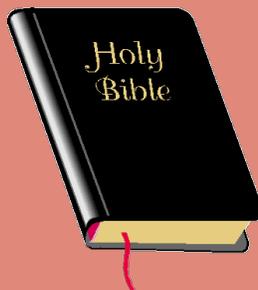
Assembling At:

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