



Mighty in the Word

For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness;
But unto us which are saved it is the power of God" (I Cor. 1.18).

Edifying the Body of Christ (Eph. 4.10-16)

The Wise Still Seek Him

Vol. X.09

They Spake Often One to Another Part II

There are those like Simon the Magician who in Acts 8.18 thought he could purchase the power of God and become God. Hear what Peter says to him in Acts 8.18-22:

And when Simon saw that through laying on of the apostles' hands the Holy Ghost was given, he offered them money,

Saying, Give me also this power, that on whomsoever I lay hands, he may receive the Holy Ghost.

But Peter said unto him, Thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money.

Thou hast neither part nor lot in this matter: for thy heart is not right in the sight of God.

Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if [emphasis mine] perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee.

Note that we are not told that he repented. Recall the rich young ruler who never repented and obeyed the Lord – when he was told to sell all that he had and give to the poor? Some of you are living a lie unto the Lord. You may be hooting and hollering – calling it a praise service, but you are not walking in obedience to the Lord. You want to go to church and have a high; you are addicted to highs, not the Lord Jesus Christ. Some of you want to feel that you are like Simon the magician, you, like him, want more power. Hear what the Lord says to people like that. Hear what the Lord says to those who do not work to help their own family, but want to be seen of others as the center of all things – and you want all things upon which you can put your hands. I could go on, but the point in Malachi 3.16 is:

"Then they that feared the LORD spake often one to another: **and the LORD hearkened, and heard [it]...**"

Some of you may think – and even say, "Wow! The Lord has taken notice of me! Look who I am." The world has taught you to think this way. You are walking with the world, the State Church, with Satan. The world continues saying, Oh, God loves you so-o-o much. You are so-o-o wonderful. Just think positive. Just be positive. People will come to you and worship you. Just "look" good. Do "goodly" works – once in awhile.

We are not to walk with the ungodly, nor interact with those who desire to use questions that lead to wrangling, desiring to mock the Word of the Lord Jesus Christ (I Ti 1.1-7; 6.4; II Ti 2.23; Tit 3.9).

As I besought thee to abide still at Ephesus, when I went into Macedonia, that thou mightest charge some that they teach no other doctrine,
Neither give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which minister questions, rather than godly edifying which is in faith: *[so do].*
Now the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart, and *[of]* a good conscience, and *[of]* faith unfeigned:
From which some having swerved have turned aside unto vain jangling;
Desiring to be teachers of the law; understanding neither what they say, nor whereof they affirm.

We are called to speak one to another and pray one for another and for those who have a heart for the Lord Jesus Christ – if we would but pray and seek to walk in obedience to the Lord that we might lead them to the Lord Jesus Christ. Speaking one to another in the body of Christ is to edify one another, to encourage one another.

How long since you spake one with another?

How long since you have been encouraged in the Lord?

How long since you encouraged another in the Lord?

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Come apart and rest (Mark 6.31)

However, you are not walking in *The Way* of the Lord. I spoke with someone who said that he approaches people differently because they do not understand these days. My response is to respond with the Word of the Lord. If they do not understand, then you teach them and bring them to the Word of the Lord. Bring them up higher. Do not begin on their level of ignorance as you will walk in their ignorance. Beloved, the Bible not once, of which I am aware, is written down on people's level that choose to walk in ignorance and in sin – to placate them. The Bible is written straight forward, whether people will hear or forebear. It is a choice to walk in ignorance and sin – in disobedience to the Lord God of Israel, the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the Living God. You need to use an older translation that does not water down the Gospel of Jesus Christ. No, you do not want a "bible" that is translated according to the understanding of words today as people use words to mean what they want. Go back several hundred years. There is a difference! If you do not understand, then get a dictionary of several hundred years ago that you might better hear the Lord.

"The Lord hearkened, and heard." The Lord is listening to us. The Lord is listening to our hearts. The Lord is listening to our lives, what we say, where we go, what we do, as well as where we do not go on His behalf, what we do not do on His behalf as well as what we do – our lives. The Lord commands us to compel the people to come to Him, to the Marriage Supper of the Lamb, to be in the presence of His glory.

The Lord's command is to walk in obedience to Him. There is but one way, and it is His way. You cannot compromise as the Lord Jesus does not play games with you and say, well, I really would like for you to do what I have said, but I understand that you just are not interested. I understand that you do not want to do it. I understand that ... No, no, no. The Lord does not understand. He did not send His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, to die on the Cross of Calvary for you to continue walking in sin, to do things your way.

This life is not about you saying you want to preach or anything else. This life is about you speaking forth the Truth of God with your life. No, not with things outwardly, but laying your godless heart before the Lord. This is what the Lord is hearkening to and that to which He is listening. This is what He is hearing: our hearts, our lives, our thoughts.

Albert Barnes Notes on the Bible states: "**And the Lord hearkened and heard it** - God, whom these thought an idle looker-on ... was "bending the ear" from heaven "and heard." Not one pious loyal word for Him and His glory, escaped Him." This is to say that neither does the sin in our hearts and lives escape Him.

Let's go another step with this verse in Malachi 3.16.

Then they that feared the LORD spake often one to another: and the LORD hearkened, and heard *[it]*, and **a book of remembrance was written before him for them that feared the LORD...**

Look at Ezekiel 3.18-21:

When I say unto the wicked, Thou shalt surely die; and thou givest him not warning, nor speakest to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life; the same wicked *[man]* shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand. Yet if thou warn the wicked, and he turn not from his wickedness, nor from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; but thou hast delivered thy soul.

Again, When a righteous *[man]* doth turn from his righteousness, and commit iniquity, and I lay a stumblingblock before him, he shall die: because thou hast not given him warning, he shall die in his sin, and his righteousness which he hath done shall not be remembered; but his blood will I require at thine hand.

Nevertheless if thou warn the righteous *[man]*, that the righteous sin not, and he doth not sin, he shall surely live, because he is warned; also thou hast delivered thy soul.

There is a remembrance by the Lord. We are commanded to speak forth the Truth of the Lord.

And the lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel *[them]* to come in, that my house may be filled.

For I say unto you, That none of those men which were bidden shall taste of my supper.

And there went great multitudes with him: and he turned, and said unto them, If any *[man]* come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple.

And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple (Lk 14.23-27).

The last part of this verse, "**and that thought upon his name**" is thinking upon the Lord Himself as He is His Name through His ONLY BEGOTTEN SON, Jesus Christ. This is not just a thought, but rather it is fearing the Lord – knowing of His glory, His love, given to you on the Cross of Calvary, His grace and His mercy. It is knowing His love that is beyond knowing.

Have you who fear the Lord often spake one to another? What is it to which the Lord hearkened and heard as you who fear the Lord and often spake one to another? What is it that is in the book of remembrance for you who fear the Lord – **and thought upon His Name?** There is a phrase from a song in my memory of 65 plus years ago: All in the April Evening . . . I thought on the Lamb of God.

While we walk with the Lord endeavoring to speak one to another of the Lord in Truth, let us be reminded of Romans 16.17, 18.

Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them.

For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple.

It is important that we walk not with the ungodly as is taught today that the Bible says love everybody; however, love is to pray for them – not walk with them.

But the Lord is faithful, who shall stablish you, and keep *[you]* from evil.

And we have confidence in the Lord touching you, that ye both do and will do the things which we command you (II Th 3.3, 4).