
THE SOWER
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“GOD HAS SPOKEN”

“God, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, has in these last days spoken to us by His Son” (Hebrews 1:1).

“**Authority**” has become a dirty word to many in our permissive pluralistic society. Authority, by its very nature, restricts one’s belief-system. It likewise restricts one’s behavior, which is especially distasteful to many. The truth of the matter, however, is that “**God has spoken.**” By reason of who God is, His word has the weight of absolute authority.

Prior to the coming of Christ, God’s message was through inspired prophets. Regarding chiefly the writings of Old Testament scripture, Paul wrote, “All scripture is given by inspiration of God and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works” (2 Timothy 3:16-17). Peter, in like manner, wrote concerning prophetic scripture, “We have also a more sure word of prophecy: whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts...for the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost” (2 Peter 1:19, 21). God now speaks to man also through His Son. This message, however, is not confined to the red letters in your Bible. Jesus told His chosen apostles, “He who hears you, hears Me: he who rejects you rejects Me, and he who rejects Me rejects Him who sent Me” (Luke 10:16). While Jesus’ apostles are no longer among us personally, their message is. That message is found in your New Testament. The apostle Paul wrote, “When you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ...as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets” (Ephesians 3:4-5).

While multitudes have a smorgasbord-faith, where they think they can pick-and-choose what to believe and what to reject, the true disciple of Jesus Christ will appreciate the fact that the totality of God's word is truth(John 17:17), and will earnestly endeavor to conform his/her belief-system and conduct to that truth. -----Ron

"If people cannot write well, they cannot think well; and if they cannot think well, others will do their thinking for them." (George Orwell)

"Government is not reason: it's not eloquence: it is force. Like fire, it's a dangerous servant and a fearful master." (George Washington)

In the 1700s, author and philosopher Thomas Paine made a classic statement: *"Those who expect to grasp the blessings of freedom must, like men, undergo the fatigue of supporting it."*

THE LORD'S DWELLING

The Lord does not dwell in houses made with hands (Acts 7:48). Why is it those of us in western society feel the need to build lavish buildings? One reason only: I suggest it is because the building is for people, and the people want bigger and better (many of the people do). The building is not for the Lord, though many people convince themselves that it is. Is the Lord going to dwell there? No. If He is not going to dwell there, then why build such a lavish edifice?

As people build, are they replacing the Lord's dwelling place with something people desire? No one will so admit, and perhaps this genuine "no" is to be granted. Nevertheless, people can engage in a way of thinking that is actually self-deceiving.

Building a place for the saints to gather is not the issue to which I give attention in these remarks. The issue is where the Lord dwells. "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly: in all wisdom teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts unto God" (Colossians 3:16). When the Word of God dwells richly within, is not the Lord dwelling in any and all locations in which we place ourselves? He dwells in the lavish structures man builds and He dwells in the poorest and smelliest places saints reside. If the Lord does not dwell in a saint's

heart, then He is neither “in” the most lavish building nor in the poorest downtrodden place one can find.

Does the Lord dwell in your heart? He can't if you don't know Him. –Ron Thomas, Chillicothe, OH

“**VALOR** lies just halfway between rashness and cowardice.” (Cervantes)

A VOICE FROM THE PAST—

“It is not the critic that counts: not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles or the doer of deeds could have done better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the Arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly, who errs and comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcomings: but he who does actually strive to do the deed; who knows the great devotion; who spends himself in a worthy cause, who at the best, knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails while daring greatly, knows that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls, who know neither victory nor defeat.”
--Teddy Roosevelt

THINK ABOUT IT—

- * What you do not start you will not have to stop.
- * If you don't strike the match, you won't have to put out the fire. If you don't commit the sin, you won't have to suffer the consequences.
- * “All of the flowers of all of the tomorrows are in the seeds of today.”
- * “If I am killed, I can die but once: but to live in constant dread of it is to die over and over again.” (Abraham Lincoln)

A STUDY by S. Robert Lichter and Stanley Rothman shows who's behind TV's anti-Christian bias. Out of writers, producers and network executives, in charge of programming, 93% said they never attend church or seldom do, and only 14% believe that adultery is wrong.

PRAY FOR: Ron McConkey (respiratory problems); Wayne Polk (Shelbyville minister; cataract surgery postponed); David Ferguson's (Mattoon minister) mother is out of hospice and at Mason Point); Gavin Harlin (in Iraq); and the many affected by the

coronavirus pandemic. Pray for a quick easing up of outbreaks and the nation's economic recovery. Pray especially that more will be awakened to our needed dependence upon God.