

Thank You!

What a “Last-Saturday-in-February” meeting we’ve had! What an opportunity! What a motivational experience! We thank everyone who helped make this such a wonderful and successful meeting! Special thanks to brothers John Buttrey, Caleb Speer and Scott Young for great lessons!

Thanks to brothers David Hall and Mark Cocione for leading our wonderful song service.

Thanks to the Brown family for their hospitality and providing a great place for our Saturday afternoon potluck! And, thanks to all who provided all the delicious food!

And thanks for all those who came from other congregations to support our annual effort! We pray they were all edified by the lessons and have a safe trip back to their homes. Lord willing, we look forward to our 34th Annual Last-Saturday-in-February meeting next year! Hope to see all again!

February Birthdays

5 Lyle Graddon

Regular Meeting Times

Sunday.....9:45 a.m.

Sunday.....10:45 a.m.

Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.

Website:
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Indio Informer

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***“Trust in the Lord with all
your heart and do not lean on
your own understanding.”***

Proverb 3:5

- ***“Fight the good fight”***
- ***“Keep the faith”***
- ***“Finish the course”***

The Foolishness of Preaching

By Bill Brandstatter

The apostle Paul wrote: *“For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe”* (1 Corinthians 1:21—NKJV). Why did Paul refer to preaching as foolishness? From the viewpoint of many in the world and perhaps some in the church the following may be part of the reason.

Preaching is not entertaining enough. Many today want to be entertained. The Bible tells of a certain reverence and awe that occurred during the Word being proclaimed. One of the Old Testament Minor Prophets, Habakkuk describes the attitude during worship: *“But the LORD is in his holy temple: let all the earth keep silence before him”* (Habakkuk 2:20). A worshipper today might declare: “How boring!” Yet we cannot equate preaching with entertainment. They are two entirely different areas.

The purpose of preaching is not to entertain. The job of the preacher is to proclaim the Word of God. David wrote: *“I have preached righteousness in the great congregation: lo, I have not refrained my lips, O LORD, thou knowest”* (Psalms 40:9). The first words Jesus preached were: *“Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand”* (Matthew 4:17). Peter stated, *“If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God”* (1 Peter 4:11). John

F. McArthur Jr., in his book *Ashamed of the Gospel* states “Nothing in Scripture indicates the church should lure people to Christ by presenting Christianity as an attractive option. Nothing about the gospel is optional”. He further declares: “There seems almost no limit to what modern church leaders will do to entice people who aren’t interested in worship and preaching. Too many have bought the notion that the church must win people by offering an alternative form of entertainment”.

Preaching causes me to make a change. Throughout the Bible many were changed by preaching. On the Day of Pentecost in Acts 2 thousand were pricked to their hearts and gladly received the message and were baptized. The jailer in Acts 16 heard the spoken Word and was baptized (Acts 16:30-31). Felix however did not want to change and when Paul preached to him, he stated, “*Go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee*” (Acts 24:25). There is no doubt about it, preaching can change a person. Many unfortunately simply do not want to make a change. If a person hears preaching long enough, there is a likelihood something in that person’s life will change. The Gospel may not be obeyed, but change might come. It is easier for some to stay where they are than to make a change.

Preaching gives a message that means responsibility. In a day and time when everyone seems to be a victim taking responsibility for actions is not a popular message. Whenever evil occurs, excuses are made for the person’s actions. Perhaps they were mistreated as a child. Maybe they simply did not get enough attention. There may have been discrimination of some kind in life, and that person reacted in a negative way. Sin today is condoned because many do not want to take responsibility.

When Jesus said “*except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish*” (Luke 13:3), He was preaching a message that was hard for some to obey. If a person repents, that person must admit wrong in life. There must be an acknowledgment of sin and wrongdoing. In our day where negativism, truth, and responsibility are wrong, that is something few want to do.

For the above reasons, we can understand why preaching seems foolish to some. To the child of God however it is “*the power of God unto salvation*” (Romans 1:16). If a person tells me “I enjoyed your sermon” it usually means, I said something they found of benefit. Whenever the Word of God is preached, great benefit can come. If the heart of the listener is right, faith and obedience can result (Acts 2:41). Thanks be to God for the foolishness of preaching!

Love Rejoices in the Truth

By Joe Slater

Immediately after saying that love doesn’t rejoice in unrighteousness, Paul wrote that it does rejoice in the truth (1 Corinthians 13:6). This shouldn’t surprise us since our God is “*a God of truth and without injustice; righteous and upright is He*” (Deuteronomy 32:4).

Paul himself exemplified the love that rejoices in the truth. Though under house arrest in Rome, he continued proclaiming the gospel even to his captors, and he knew other brethren were evangelizing also. Some had corrupt motives, but “*whether in pretense or in truth, Christ is preached; and in this I rejoice, yes, and will rejoice*” (Philippians 1:18). Christ’s gospel is truth, and Paul rejoiced in it being preached.

John the apostle also rejoiced in the truth. He told the “elect lady,” “*I rejoiced greatly that I have found some of your children walking in truth, as we received commandment from the Father*” (2 John 4). Along the same line he wrote to Gaius, “*I rejoiced greatly when brethren came and testified of the truth that is in you, just as you walk in the truth. I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in the truth*” (3 John 3-4). Christian parents rejoice when children in their earthly families walk in the truth (i.e. obey the gospel and serve God faithfully). Let’s rejoice when others we’ve led to Christ are walking in the truth or, for that matter, any time we see anyone walking in the truth.

The ungodly “*suppress the truth in unrighteousness*” (Romans 1:18). That is, they hold it back, hindering it from advancing. We must promote the truth vigorously and constantly, rejoicing in its progress.