

The Correspondent



SUNDAY

Bible Study 9:30 AM
Worship 10:30 AM & 1:30 PM

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study (Adult) 1:30 PM
Bible Study (All Ages) 7:00 PM
www.collinsville-troycoc.org
(618) 667-6708

For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth... in every place. (1 Thessalonians 1:8)

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Be Ready in Season and Out of Season

-Renn Ferguson

This little Christian light of mine, I'm gonna let it shine." This is such a wonderful children's song that is often sung at VBS, and in Wednesday night Bible classes. Of course, the point of the song is to encourage young children to show their faith in Christ. However, it serves as a reminder for adults as well. As Christ says, by so doing we will help others glorify God (Matthew 5:13-16). We are to do this in how we act, talk, think, and in what we teach. We live in a PC world, and I'm not talking about computers. People are quick to get offended and slow to forgive. This has caused many to be timid when discussing the truth of God's word. Yet, as Christians we must let our light shine and teach the truth no matter how it may be received. Let's look at some examples of this to help give us the courage to teach the truth.

The first example and the greatest example we have is Jesus. Was He so concerned with what people thought of Him that he refrained from speaking the truth? Certainly not. A prime example of this is Matthew 23:13-36. Throughout His ministry we can find numerous examples to this extent. Christ taught what was right, even if it offended, or angered the hearer. Another example of Christ doing this is in Matthew 21:12-13, "And Jesus went into the temple of God, and cast out all them that sold and bought in the temple, and overthrew the tables of the moneychangers, and the seats of them that sold doves, And said unto them, It is written, My house shall be called the house of prayer; but ye have made it a den of thieves." Christ was never ashamed of the truth. We should follow His example and always uphold truth.

Another example that I always think about are the apostles. I am reminded of what Peter and John said in Acts 4:20, "for we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard." The priests, elders and scribes wanted to punish Peter and John for teaching about Christ. Yet, Peter and John remained true. After they were released we see in verses 23-31 that Peter and John returned to the brethren to report what happened. What did the brethren do? Did they flee and abandon their faith? Absolutely not. They prayed that God would give them the boldness to continue teaching, and He did. The end of verse 31 records, "...they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness." The apostles and early Christians were not bashful and ashamed to preach the truth regardless of the outcome. This is the attitude we must have today.

In a world that is seemingly growing more wicked by the day we as Christians must have the courage to call sin what it is - sin. While that may not win us many friends it will win souls. As Paul encouraged Timothy, we ought to encourage each other, "preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort, with complete patience and teaching" (2 Timothy 4:2).