

An Uncertain Sound

by Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian Church

1 Corinthians 14:8, "For if the trumpet give an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself to the battle?"

I know that in this chapter Paul was talking about tongues, or languages, and the need to speak so that everyone could hear and understand God's word. If the gospel was preached in a language that some, or all, could not understand, then it would do the hearers no good. Today the bible may be talked about in English and all hearing it may know the words, but still not understand the message. This happens because different people take the same scripture and preach different messages from it, resulting in confusion for many people.

It is a shame that there is so much confusion today concerning the gospel. While some preach to lead people to the Lord others will spend their efforts to undo the bible truths. I have heard some "preachers" openly mock bible verses that they didn't like. No wonder that the church is divided and has so little witness in the world when there is so much strife and division in what is called the church. The sinner looks at believers and hears one speak against

something taught by another church and they don't know which one to believe.

While they may not understand and know what to believe they know that something is not right when two, or more, sides claim to know God's word, and fuss about the meaning of scripture. If God is indeed leading all of those who say that he is leading them then they would be in harmony and not be fighting among themselves. The church is supposed to be standing together against Satan and not fighting each other. It appears that there are those who get more joy in trying to prove some point against some other believer than in leading someone to Christ.

Do we dare to act as though we know everything? Is everyone else wrong and we condemn them if they don't agree with us? We need to realize that there is a lot that we all need to learn and that none of us knows it all. I certainly don't know it all and I freely admit it while wishing that I knew more. Why can't folks accept the fact that the Lord knew what he meant when he gave us the scriptures and take them as he said. Luke 6:46 hasn't changed and Jesus still wants to know why he is called Lord, but not obeyed.

Are we doing God's will when we, Christians, present such a divided front to the world? If we are serious about doing God's will, stand on the truth of God's word, and

forget what some men, or group, told us to think. There are those who take the bible like others take their politics. No matter what, they support it because that is what grandpa, or someone else, told them was right. As one church leader told me one time concerning his president who was guilty of adultery, he said, "Well, he's a man and a man will do things like that." If he had been in the other political party he would have been a terrible man, but because he was in his party he was alright, at least in his eyes.

"Them that sin rebuke before all, that others also may fear. I charge thee before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, and the elect angels, that thou observe these things without preferring one before another, doing nothing by partiality." **1 Timothy 5:20-21**. These verses are plain enough that all can understand them. We are to stand for the truth of God's word and not change it to suit those we like. If the Lord says something is sin then a sin it is, no matter who does it.

If and when all that is known as the church upholds God's word for the truth that it is, then the believers will be strengthened and will have more influence with the lost sinners. As it is now with all the different churches stressing their differences instead of walking in the unity of the Spirit, an uncertain sound is what most of the world is hearing.

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This is a dramatized version of facts taken from the Book of II Kings intending to show some of the customs of these ancient and traditional times

The Shunammite's Son

BEHOLD, IS THIS NOT ELISHA GOING INTO SHUNEM?!

YES, HE PASSES THIS WAY OFTEN!

DURING THE DAYS WHILE ELISHA IS THE LORD'S PROPHET IN ISRAEL, THERE LIVES A WOMAN OF GREAT WEALTH IN THE CITY OF SHUNEM-A CITY THROUGH WHICH ELISHA OFTEN TRAVELS....

...AND THE WOMAN OF GREAT WEALTH LOOKS UPON ELISHA WITH KINDNESS IN HER HEART...

THIS MAN TRAVELS FAR-AND HE MUST BE HUNGRY!

BID THE OLD MAN COME IN, AND EAT, AND REFRESH HIMSELF!

LITTLE DOES THIS WOMAN REALIZE THAT GREAT THINGS SHALL BE DONE FOR HER BECAUSE OF HER KINDNESS TO ELISHA!

Next Week FURTHER KINDNESS!

JOHN LEHTI

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