

## The Sin Of Silence

God's real servants must never close their mouths when Satan parades before the world spouting error of every sordid form. Here are eight great examples of men who did not seal their lips.

1. *Nathan*, the bold prophet, who plainly said unto King David: "Thou art the man." (II Samuel 12:7).

2. *Micaiah*, the prophet who withstood Ahab and his 400 wise men, used these words of emulation: "As the Lord liveth and speaketh unto me, that will I say." (I Kings 22:14).

3. *John*, the Immerser, severely warned the corrupt Pharisees who would have made mockery of divine truths. Matthew, chapter 3 is a tribute to fearless preaching.

4. *Jesus* was uncompromising with a prospective follower when He told the rich young ruler the challenge of kingdom service. Some of us try to ease prospects in and then teach them duty. Not so with the Master Teacher. (Luke 18:18-30).

5. *Peter*, in Acts 5:29, before an aroused Jewish council frankly informed them that the apostles would "obey God rather than men." This is a refreshing change from our halting speech. (I Kings 18:21).

6. *Stephen*, nearer to death with each sentence, nonetheless spoke clearly of the debauchery and shame of the Jewish leaders. His courage has served us all with the spark we need in opposing error. Read Acts 7 carefully.

7. *Philip*, after running to his mission of importance, seized his opportune moment, opened his mouth and preached Jesus to the Ethiopian. (Acts 8:26-39).

8. *Paul*, before Felix, chose the three most unpopular themes in his repertoire in preaching to his captor; *righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come*. Plain preaching is powerful; even Felix trembled and considered the plea. (Acts 24:25).

Brethren, heaven will be too sweet to miss. Yet, we shall miss its glory if we seal our lips when God's truth is burning within our souls. Sinners need it, the world will die and go to hell without it and our own soul will perish unless we open our mouths and speak forth the message of God's resplendent glory.

- Johnny Ramsey (deceased), *Bulletin Digest* -

He who has no fire in himself cannot warm others.

## News & Notes

**MEN'S BREAKFAST:** Next Saturday, Feb. 1st, 8:00 a.m. at EJ's in Chester.  
**NURSING HOME DEVOTIONAL:** Next Saturday, Feb. 1st, 2:30 p.m. at Fox.  
**FELLOWSHIP DINNER & EARLY AFTERNOON SERVICE:** Canceled for February.

**2nd SECRET SISTER PROGRAM:** Information and questionnaires are available on the table for those ladies interested in being a part of this program. **Questionnaires must be returned no later than Wednesday, Feb. 5th. Sister selection/choice will be Sunday, Feb. 9th.** The big reveal will be in August.

**PANTRY:** Noodles & crackers.

**REQUEST FOR PRAYERS:** Solomon Chambers (father-in-law of Tim Martin).

**SICK & SHUT-IN: AT HOME:** Ruth Hartzell, Docie Moore, Emma Rine, Russell Martin, Blondenia Orr, Joann Webb, Doris Dunham, Mary Jane Bowers, Alex Harless, Chris Lamb (David Roach's sister). **FOX:** Tom Postlethwait. **Rick Beck** (minister at Weston, WV), 807 Camden Ave., Weston, WV 26452. Rick's cancer has returned. **CROSSROADS:** Sarah Miller. **VALLEY OAKS CARE CENTER:** Fred Larrimore, (Room 210). **BRIGHTWOOD CENTER:** Rich Robinson, 840 Lee Rd., Room 242, Follansbee, WV 26037. **IN FLORIDA:** Ilene Rayl.

## "Stand In Awe"

"Wherefore, receiving a kingdom that cannot be shaken, let us have grace, whereby we may offer service well pleasing to God with reverence and awe." (Heb. 12:28 ASV).

The right side of the doorpost to many Jewish homes bears a little case with the word *shaddai*, "Almighty," inscribed there upon. The case houses two paragraphs from Deuteronomy: Deut. 6:4-9 and Deut. 11:13-21. Such serves to remind the occupants and guests of the house of their responsibility to love and obey God as well as teach their children to do the same. The Jews have a reverence (though not according to knowledge — cf. Romans 10:1-3) for God. It is said that the name translated Jehovah is so sacred to the Jew that they refer to God as "the one whose name cannot be pronounced."

It is the responsibility of all men today to possess and manifest a reverence for the Almighty. In the words of the Psalmist, "God is greatly to be feared in the assembly of the saints, and to be held in reverence of all them that are about Him." (Psalm 89:7).

Three times the word *awe* can be found in the book of Psalms. A casual scrutiny of these verses will provide three reasons why man should revere God. There is (1) Compassion of God - Psalm 4:4; (2) Creative power of God - Psalm 33:8; (3) Communication, the word of God - Psalm 119:161.

Webster defines reverence as "a feeling or attitude of deep respect, love, and awe ..." Such should flow from the heart of every man toward the august Almighty. "This is the end of the matter; all hath been heard: fear God, and keep his commands; for this is the whole duty of man." (Eccl. 12:13 ASV).

- Dan Winkler, *Bulletin Digest* -