

# **“But Speak Thou the Things Which Become Sound Doctrine”**

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But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine.

Let's bow our heads for prayer. God Almighty, I ask that You would bless our understandings; bless my understanding. Lord, let me speak those things which become sound doctrine, speak those things which would be Your truth. We thank You, and praise You in Jesus' name. Amen.

But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine. Sound doctrine. When we hear those words, what does that mean to us? Sound doctrine. Simply, 'doctrine' is what we teach; it's what we learn. It's what we put forth. 'Sound' it's pure and undefiled. It's not about me. It's sound; it's not something that's been corrupted.

**Proverbs 16:25** *There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.*

So, "sound doctrine;" why do we make a big deal out of this? Why even worry about it? The scripture talks about that we all speak the same thing. Second Timothy is the scripture that we read; I want to read around it a little bit. I'm going to start at verse fifteen.

**2 Timothy 3:15-17** *And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. 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.*

And we talk about doctrine, and we talk about the Word, and knowing, which is important. We need to be studying on that. Also, that scripture says, "through faith which is in Christ Jesus." We talk about this Gospel, and the Gospel is important because we have to... The Word of God, by itself—divinely inspired, yes—but, by itself, is still words. Without faith in God, in my life, it does nothing. If I don't put it in action, if I don't have faith in the Scriptures, if I don't have faith in Jesus, if I don't put my faith in the One that came... And we talked about this Gospel, what is that? What is this Gospel? Simply, that Jesus came to earth, God Almighty robed in flesh, to show us God. He came to be a sacrifice. He came to be that perfect lamb, without spot, without blemish. That's what we have faith in. We have faith that God's returning for us. We have faith that we have taken on His name. We have faith that we have been baptized in the likeness of His death, and raised in the likeness of His resurrection.

I'm going to read a little bit here. It's a little lengthy, but, I'm going to go to Titus chapter two. We can't speak sound doctrine if we don't know it. We can't speak it if we haven't understood.

**Titus 2:1-15** *But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine: That the aged men be sober, grave, temperate, sound in faith, in charity, in patience. The aged women likewise, that they be in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things; That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed. Young men likewise exhort to be sober minded. In all things shewing thyself a pattern of good works: in doctrine shewing uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity, Sound speech, that cannot be condemned; that he that is of the contrary part may be ashamed, having no evil thing to say of you. Exhort servants to be obedient unto their own masters, and to please them well in all things; not answering again; Not purloining, but*

*shewing all good fidelity; that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things. For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works. These things speak, and exhort, and rebuke with all authority. Let no man despise thee.*

This word of God that we have... I want to say that I'm proud to be part of a Ministry that's not afraid to speak. Not afraid to—in this ungodliness that's all around us, we take the things of—we use whatever media we need, whatever way, whether it's getting together for fellowship, some of us use social media... What the world uses for evil, I see some of you—it's not necessarily something that I use all the time, but when I do, I see that, I see Bob, I see Joe, I see many of you using Facebook a lot. I see a Scripture, I see something encouraging; I don't see a bunch of nonsense. You can spot it; you look through the whole string of things on there, and you see junk, junk, junk, junk, Hey, there's Bob! junk, junk, junk, junk, Hey, there's Joe! And many other, you know, putting a Scripture out. Something that's godliness, not just nonsense. Even on my phone, I get Scriptures, you know? And I know that people are into the Word; they're reading this Word that's important to us, and we share a lot.

So, why is this important? It's important to have an answer.

**1 Peter 3:15** *But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:*

If you haven't been challenged by a friend, a coworker, a family member, or even an acquaintance on the street that you run into, you will. You talk about godliness at all, you even mention it, there's going to be someone who wants to stand against you and say, "That's not right." Parrish got this—I think it was more of a comic-strip than an article, but, "God's in trouble." I call it a comic-strip—come on—it's funny; God's in trouble? They just don't know what God we serve. But, if you haven't been challenged, you will. And, especially in a day and age where a lot of cultural lines, the way a lot of us were brought up, a lot of lines are starting to get blurred. A lot of things are starting to change in a way that doesn't even make any sense, sometimes.

There's many doctrines out there. There's many ways of doing things. The reason that I bring this to light is that—let me give you an example. I grew up in a town in Southern Illinois with a different culture than a lot of other people in this room. Some of the cultures, you could call them godly, and some of them were just way out there. I grew up in a town where, if you weren't the color that I am, you didn't belong there. I mean, that's the culture I grew up in. I was blessed to have a family and parents that taught me different. They taught me that that's not right; they taught me to love everybody. You can't sugar-coat it; it's out there. We know it's there. So, my point is, I was taught that, and I had to find out; I was taught by my parents that that wasn't right. I was taught by the scriptures that that wasn't right. By the same token, there's a lot of things in different cultures where we're raised that tell us how we should live, and, sometimes they'll use Scripture to back it up, when it's still just a cultural thing that they want to do. I'm not going to go there. I'm going to back off of this for a second, but I'm going to come back to it.

**Hebrews 13:9** *Be not carried about with divers and strange doctrines. For it is a good thing that the heart be established with grace; not with meats, which have not profited them that have been occupied therein.*

The world wants to say a little of this is okay, and a little of that is okay. We've got this doctrine, close, let's stick to it.

**Matthew 15:9** *But in vain they do worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.*

Teaching that the ways of the man is more important than godliness.

Sometimes we get caught in teaching it, and just wanting to know it. It's more than just knowing it. There are people that have read this, cover to cover, their whole life, but it hasn't brought them any closer to God. I'm going to read a parable in Luke chapter six:

**Luke 6:46-49** *And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say? Whosoever cometh to me, and heareth my sayings, and doeth them, I will shew you to whom he is like: He is like a man which built an house, and digged deep, and laid the foundation on a rock: and when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently upon that house, and could not shake it: for it was founded upon a rock. But he that heareth, and doeth not, is like a man that without a foundation built an house upon the earth; against which the stream did beat vehemently, and immediately it fell; and the ruin of that house was great.*

It's not about knowing; it's about doing. Every day. That's a weighty thing to stand up here and say. I don't claim to be perfect, but I have to say what's here in the Scriptures. That's what it is. It affects me as much as it does anyone. I've got to live this daily.

I'm going back to where I was at earlier.

**Romans 1 16** *For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.*

It's the power unto salvation.

**Romans 1:17-22** *For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith. For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness; Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse: Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools,*

We've heard that word once already this morning. ...They became fools. We'll stop right there for a second. As I talked earlier, you know, traditions, cultures, what's right, what's wrong. We look at different sins and say, "This is above this, and this is above that." The one that's dominating our news right now is same-sex marriage, homosexuality. The Bible is clear on what it says is right and wrong. The question is, how do we deal with it? The question is, what frame of mind are we in? I was raised with that same frame of mind that people were in where I grew up, against different cultures and ethnicities; if you were a homosexual, there was a stigma. In some regards it was morality and religion, and in some, it was just culture. I've never seen it, or participated in it, but I've heard tell that if you were of that persuasion, you might have gotten a beat-down, you might have found yourself in a bad way. I'm not glorifying that, I'm not promoting that; I'm just saying that's part of that culture that I was raised in, over twenty-five years ago. A lot of things have changed since then.

My point is, we're going to have to look at the Scriptures to determine what we tell people is right or wrong. I can't go by my feelings, I can't look at my cultural upbringing; I can't let that dictate how I treat someone, because sin is sin. It doesn't matter if it's adultery, fornication; it doesn't matter if it's

drunkenness, or homosexuality. It doesn't matter. The Bible talks about them all as sin. And, culturally, over the years, we have learned to walk side-by-side with someone who was cheating on their wife; don't think much of it. Or, who goes out and gets drunk every night; may or may not think much of it. I had to really retool how I thought when it came to that, because, homosexuality, that's—when I first joined the Navy, it was something that wasn't culturally accepted. And, in my mind, it was just like, "I don't want to be anywhere near that." That was the way I thought. God had to turn me around. God had to show me that they're human like me. We don't have to accept the sin; we don't have to accept what the world says is right and wrong, but they're human beings, just like the rest of us. I know what I'm talking about's not popular in all circles, but this is Bible; this is what has to be said. We have to have a culture here, an environment here that it doesn't matter where people are at. They need to feel comfortable sitting in these chairs. If anything's going to make them feel uncomfortable, it's got to be the Word of God.

**Romans 1:21-32** *Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools, And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things. Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen. For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature: And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompence of their error which was meet. And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient; Being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness, covetousness, maliciousness; full of envy, murder, debate, deceit, malignity; whisperers, Backbiters, haters of God, despiteful, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things, disobedient to parents, Without understanding, covenantbreakers, without natural affection, implacable, unmerciful: Who knowing the judgment of God, that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same, but have pleasure in them that do them.*

I put this in the light of, we can look at the sins, but, what was the root? The root was, they did not like to retain God in their knowledge. Very simple; they didn't retain God. They took the Truth, and disregarded it. And I speak on this in all humility and all fear, because, lest I be of that. It's easy to sit in this room and say, "Oh, those people," but, it's not those people; it's people in general. I know I'm just as susceptible as any man. I'm human; I'm made in corruptible flesh, but that's why it's important to give the thanks to God, to give Him the glory, to have this sound doctrine, to know it, to teach it, to speak it one to another. To speak those things exactly, and live it.

There's Scriptures that talk about the fruit of the Spirit: Love, joy, longsuffering, peace (Galatians 5:22). Those are all the fruit of God's spirit. If we're living in God, living in Christ Jesus, we bear those fruits; if we're holding the Truth in corruptness, we bear some other fruit.

**1 John 2:** *15 Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.*

The last scripture I want to read is

**John 3:** *16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*

The Scripture right after that says:

**John 3:17**      *For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.*

We have this Gospel, and this doctrine is important. It's not a club to hit people on the head with. But, it's an awesome Truth, it's an awesome blessing to have that in my heart, because I had something to share.

I know this wasn't long, and it wasn't evangelistic, but let me recap some things here:

Sound Doctrine—uncorruptible; knowing God's Word.

God's ways, not my way. And, it's more than just having book knowledge, it's faith. It's acting, in faith, on what God calls us to do. God can show us things. How many of you have read a Scripture, and come back to it, and got something a year later that you didn't see the other time you read that Scripture. God is good like that. It's a spiritual thing. It's something that scholars can't get out of their other books. I won't go condemning other books, but, you don't need them. There's history; history's good to have, it brings a lot to things, but the Gospel's here. God doesn't need somebody else to explain what He meant.

And, as the man who built on the stone, or on the sand; the difference is being a doer, or just a hearer

It is the power of God unto salvation

Amen.

