Rhetoric, Slogans, or Truth?

Reading – 1 Peter 4:1-11

 “We speak where the Bible speaks and we are silent where the Bible is silent”

There is no room for us simply reciting empty slogans if we don’t have the knowledge to back them up. (2 Timothy 3:16-17) All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, {17} that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work….(2 Timothy 4:1-5) I charge you therefore before God and the Lord Jesus Christ, who will judge the living and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom: {2} Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all long-suffering and teaching. {3} For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; {4} and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables. {5} But you be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry

This is not the “job” of the preacher. We can find an established example in ***(Acts 8:4) Therefore those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word.***

***"Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.*** ***(Mark 16:15)***

 ***(Matthew 10:32-33) “Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven. {33} "But whoever denies Me before men, him I will also deny before My Father who is in heaven.***

***(2 Corinthians 5:10-11) For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad. {11} Knowing, therefore, the terror of the Lord, we persuade men…***

***(Hebrews 10:26-31) For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, {27} but a certain fearful expectation of judgment, and fiery indignation which will devour the adversaries. {28} Anyone who has rejected Moses' law dies without mercy on the testimony of two or three witnesses. {29} Of how much worse punishment, do you suppose, will he be thought worthy who has trampled the Son of God underfoot, counted the blood of the covenant by which he was sanctified a common thing, and insulted the Spirit of grace? {30} For we know Him who said, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay," says the Lord. And again, "The LORD will judge His people." {31} It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.***

 ***(Luke 13:3) "I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish.***

***(1 Peter 3:15) But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear;***

# Language to be wary of:

1. One way is as good as another, because we are all serving the same God and seeking the same heaven. (Matthew 7:13-14) "Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. {14} "Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.

* ***(John 14:6) Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.***
* ***(Proverbs 14:12) There is a way that seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death.***
* ***(2 Thessalonians 2:9-14) The coming of the lawless one is according to the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, {10} and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth, that they might be saved. {11} And for this reason God will send them strong delusion, that they should believe the lie, {12} that they all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness. {13} But we are bound to give thanks to God always for you, brethren beloved by the Lord, because God from the beginning chose you for salvation through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth, {14} to which He called you by our gospel, for the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.***

**2. One faith is as good as another as long as one is honest and sincere in his belief.** ***(Romans 10:1-3) Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved. {2} For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. {3} For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God.***

* ***(Matthew 15:9) And in vain they worship Me, Teaching as doctrines the commandments of men.'"***

3. Join the church of your choice. (Matthew 16:18) "And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it

***(Acts 2:47)…. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.***

4. We just preach the “Man” instead of the “Plan”. (Acts 8:29-36) Then the Spirit said to Philip, "Go near and overtake this chariot." {30} So Philip ran to him, and heard him reading the prophet Isaiah, and said, "Do you understand what you are reading?" {31} And he said, "How can I, unless someone guides me?" And he asked Philip to come up and sit with him… {35} Then Philip opened his mouth, and beginning at this Scripture, preached Jesus to him. {36} Now as they went down the road, they came to some water. And the eunuch said, "See, here is water. What hinders me from being baptized?

***(Matthew 28:18-20) And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. {19} "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, {20} "teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age."***

**5. Once saved always saved*, (1 Corinthians 9:27) But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.***

***(1 Corinthians 10:12) Therefore let him who thinks he stands take heed lest he fall.***