

Messenger of Truth

"Holding forth the Word of Life" (Phil. 2:16)

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Confusion

"Confusion of goals and perfection of means seems, in my opinion, to characterize our age." – Albert Einstein

"When a man's knowledge is not in order, the more of it he has the greater will be his confusion." – Herbert Spencer

"There is real confusion about what it means to be right and wrong – the difference between what spiritual beliefs are and what science is." – Lisa Randall

"Truth emerges more readily from error than from confusion." – Francis Bacon

"Instead of this confusion, we need the unifying force of an official language, English, which is the language of success in America." – Ernest Istook

Webster provides an interesting definition of confusion: "A situation in which people are uncertain about what to do or are unable to understand something clearly; the feeling that you have when you do not understand what is happening, what is expected, etc.; a state or situation in which many things are happening in a way that is not controlled or orderly."

Confusion is frustrating to say the least, and certainly is no stranger to the topic of religion. Wikipedia reports some 41,000 Christian denominations in the world. When you factor in the large diversity of other religions, is it any wonder that people are so unsure as to what to believe?

Even in matters of our preaching, we need to be clear and concise. "Beating around the bush" is a sure fire way to leave people with no clear understanding. The apostle Paul wrote, "For God is not the author of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints" (1 Cor. 14:33).

There is no doubt that the source of confusion is found within man; no doubt the product of the devil himself. James warned, "For where envy and self-seeking exist, confusion and every evil thing are there" (James 3:16).

What often is missing in our pulpits and in our everyday dialog, is clarity. People may not be understanding the truth because we have made the assumption that they understand what it is that we are saying, when in reality, they may be confused as to what you mean? If, for example, the Bible says that one must be baptized for the remission of sins, then we don't want to leave the impression that it is not important (cf. Acts 2:38).

One of the grave problems in our time is that too many Christians have sought to speak to others about Christianity by couching God's truths in their own words. Remember, the power of God that can bring about salvation is found in the Word of God (Isa. 55:11; Rom. 1:16). Show them what God says. Don't try to improve upon His words!