

HOW ERROR CAN SILENCE TRUTH

By Keith Greer

Seems to me when I was growing up I took it for granted that all Christians love truth. Local preachers, meeting preachers all spoke the same message- Bible centered on a "thus saith the Lord".

During the past year I have learned the sad lesson that many today do not desire truth. Should this surprise me? How is it happening? To my amazement it is taking place in many churches without Satan firing a "proverbial shot". Yet, this is not a new story.

In Acts 13 Paul was preaching in Antioch in Pisidia. Following the reading of the law, Paul stood up and addressed his comments to the "men of Israel". What did he say?

"The God of this people Israel chose our fathers, and exalted the people when they dwelt as strangers in the land of Egypt, and with an uplifted arm He brought them out of it. Now for a time of about forty years He put up with their ways in the wilderness. And when He had destroyed seven nations in the land of Canaan, He distributed their land to them by allotment. After that He gave them judges for about four hundred and fifty years, until Samuel the prophet." {Acts 13:17-20}

All Paul did was review the history of the Israelite nation. All these facts could be verified by them reading the law. So far so good.

"And afterward they asked for a king; so God gave them Saul the son of Kish, a man of the tribe of Benjamin, for forty years. And when He had removed him, He raised up for them David as king, to whom also He gave testimony and said, 'I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after My own heart, who will do all My will.' From this man's seed, according to the promise, God raised up for Israel a Savior; Jesus;" {Acts 13:21-23}

He was bringing them up to the present time. Christ Jesus, the message of the prophets and of John the Baptist, in Him was the key to the salvation of all men--Jews and Gentiles. Paul gives them a warning.

"And by Him everyone who believes is justified from all things from which you could not be justified by the law of Moses. Beware therefore, lest what has been spoken in the prophets come upon you: 'Behold, you despisers, Marvel and perish! For I work a work in your days, A work which you will by no means believe, Though one were to declare it to you. " {Acts 13:39-41}

Many begged Paul to come back and preach the next Sabbath. On that Sabbath almost the whole city came to hear the word of God! Wonderful, right?

"But when the Jews saw the multitudes, they were filled with envy; and contradicting and blaspheming, they opposed the things spoken by Paul." {Acts 13:45}

Did they question any of the points that Paul made in his sermon? What error had Paul taught? They threw dust; attacked his character; and raised emotions. But never did they question the spoken truth! The results?

"But the Jews stirred up the devout and prominent women and the chief men of the city, raised up persecution against Paul and Barnabas, and expelled them from their region. " {Acts 13:50}

What happened? Surely if Paul had been teaching error it could have been refuted with the truth. All they could do is start with the character assassination and false accusations. Truth has been silenced. Works every time. Pretty easy isn't it?

Yes, it worked then and it still works today. Men will send up "smoke screens," "confuse the issues," or make the discussion personal. Why? To derail the discussion and keep from answering the truth that has been revealed. When one cannot answer the truth this is often the path one will pursue to escape what truth demands of them—admit wrong and change! ***