

THE LANGUAGE OF ASHDOD

By Keith Greer

"And half of their children spoke the language of Ashdod, and could not speak the language of Judah, but spoke according to the language of one or the other people." {Nehemiah 13:24}

"For if the trumpet makes an uncertain sound, who will prepare himself for battle?" {1 Corinthians 14:8}

Brethren, what is happening in the church today? Since beginning preaching in 1985, more and more I'm hearing the "**language of Ashdod**" and "**uncertain sounds**" among many of my preaching brethren. Why is this so?

Personally, I believe in the "supply demand" system. Preachers are giving in to the demand of people, instead of God's demands:

"Preach the word! Be ready in season and out of season. Convince, rebuke, exhort, with all longsuffering and teaching." {2 Timothy 4: 2}

"Holding fast the faithful word as he has been taught, that he may be able, by sound doctrine, both to exhort and convict those who contradict." {Titus 1:9}

"As I urged you when I went into Macedonia; remain in Ephesus that you may charge some that they teach no other doctrine." {1 Timothy 1:3}

God is very plain on what the lost need to hear: the plain, simple, pure, gospel of His Son. Yet, is this being taught today by God's servants? Could it be that many have given in to the "itching ears"? Allow me to give you a few examples.

JESUS IS NOT THE SON OF GOD. All of a sudden many of my brethren cannot understand the teaching of the book of John. Please read Matthew 1:23 and John 1:1-3. Could it be any clearer? Yet, a number of years ago two gospel preachers debated this very issue.

ROMANS 14. In what I believe opened the flood gates to loose teaching on many different moral issues, the discussion of this chapter has caused much trouble. To be quite honest, the difficulty of this chapter is not because of the text, but a side issue: fellowship of a late renowned brother who taught and promoted error on the marriage question.

A number of years ago I attended an open discussion between two men on Romans 14. Sadly, the focus was on this preacher, not the error which he taught. Call me simple minded, but explain this: how I can extend fellowship to one who teaches something that can cause one to be lost if they follow that teaching?

MARRIAGE, DIVORCE & REMARRIAGE. In the past twenty years I've attended six different debates on this subject. Here are some things which brethren are teaching: adultery releases both parties; alien not amenable to God's law on marriage; redefining adultery; repentance and baptism takes care of the adultery; preaching the unpardonable sin; limiting the blood of Christ; too difficult to understand. Did God make it that difficult? Please read: Malachi 2:14-16; Matthew 19:3-9; 1 Corinthians 7(keeping in context!).

From my personal study, listening to all these different positions in debates, and much prayer, one thing is clear to me. My brethren are allowing the world to influence their thinking. Just because the world has gone "divorce crazy" and "being filled with lust," do we have to jump on the bandwagon? God's plan is one man and one woman for life. Only one cause for divorce-adultery! It is this simple! Muddying the water won't change truth. ***