KEEPING QUIET THE SWORD

Jeremiah 47: 6 - 7; 48:10

Sermon by Donald Townsley

INTRODUCTION

1. The SWORD of the Lord mentioned by the prophet was a PHYSICAL SWORD to be brought upon the Philistines, Moab and Babylon (Jer. 47: 6 - 7; 48: 9 -10).
2. The Philistines plead in verse six for the Lord to PUT UP THE SWORD.
3. The Lord answers the pleading of the Philistines:
   (1) "*The Lord hath given it (*sword*) a charge* -- v. 7
   (2) The measure of their INIQUITIES is FULL, and God hath appointed the SWORD to destroy them.
   (3) The WIELDING of the sword was NECESSARY.
      1. Justice must be done.
      2. Right must be established.
      3. Evil must be destroyed and suppressed.
      4. The wielding of the Sword was for a good purpose.
      5. The Sword had a MISSION TO ACCOMPLISH -- the mission was more important than temporary comfort.
4. Today the Word of God is called a SWORD --Eph. 6:17.
   (1) It cuts and destroys sin -- Heb. 4:12; Acts 2:37; 7: 54
   (2) It is POWERFUL -- Heb. 4:12; Rom. 1:16
   (3) It is a SPIRITUAL WEAPON -- II Cor. 10: 3 - 5; Eph. 6:17
5. Today WE have been given a CHARGE WITH THE SWORD:
   (1) II Tim. 4: 1 - 5
   (2) Mark 16: 15 - 16
   (3) I Tim. 1:18
   (4) I Tim. 6:12, 20
   (5) Jude 3
6. The Lord having given US this charge - how can we be quiet? -- Isa. 55:11; I Cor. 3:6
7. Today there are those like the Philistines in the church and out of the church -- they want the SWORD to be QUIET and be put into the SCABBARD.
8. The Spirit of Compromise has ever plagued the church.

I. THE DENOMINATIONS WANT US TO "PUT UP THE SWORD"

   1. They teach there are <u>many</u> churches.
      (1) The word of God teaches ONE CHURCH -- Matt. 16:18; E$ph. 4: 4; Eph. 1: 22 -23
   2. They teach that you can be <u>saved out of the church.</u>

(1) The Word of God teaches the SAVED are ADDED to the church -- Acts 2:47

(2) Christ will save the body, the church -- Eph. 5:23

3. They teach that these denominations were started at many different places and times.

(1) The Bible teaches the church of Christ was started in Jerusalem -- Isa. 2: 2 - 4; Mk. 9:1; Acts 1:8; Acts 2: 1 - 4

4. They teach DIVISION -- many doctrines and churches.

(1) The Bible teaches UNITY -- John 17: 20 - 21; Eph. 4: 1- 6; I Cor. 1:10

(2) The Bible teaches ONE FAITH -- Eph. 4:5

(3) ONE CHURCH -- Matt. 16:18

5. They teach many forms of worship.

(1) The Bible teaches that worship NOT AUTHORIZED IS VAIN -- Matt. 15:9

(2) The Bible teaches FIVE ITEMS OF WORSHIP:

1. Singing -- Eph. 5:19
2. Prayer -- Acts 2:42
3. Giving -- I Cor. 16:2
4. Lord's Supper -- Acts 20:7
5. Teaching -- Acts 20:7

6. They teach FAITH ONLY.

(1) The Word of God says it is not so -- James 2:24

7. They teach that you CANNOT fall from Grace.

(1) The Bible teaches you CAN FALL FROM GRACE -- Gal. 5:4; I Cor. 9:27; I Cor. 10:12

II. SOME CHURCH MEMBERS WANT THE SWORD PUT UP

1. Some members don't want you to preach on ADULTEROUS MARRIAGES.

(1) The Word of God teaches ONE REASON for divorce and remarriage -- FORNICATION -- Matt. 19:9; 5:32; Luke 16:18; Mark 10: 11 - 12

2. Some don't want you to preach on the HOME if they are not living right.

(1) Husbands don't LOVE their wives -- Eph. 5: 25, 28 - 29; I Pet. 3:7

(2) Wives not in SUBJECTION -- I Pet. 3:1

(3) Husbands and wives DEFRAUD one another -- I Cor. 7:5

3. Some don't want you to preach on GIVING

(1) The New Testament teaches it is a duty to give -- I Cor. 16: 1 - 2; II Cor. 9: 6 - 7

4. Some don't want you to preach on IMMODEST DRESS.

(1) The Word of God teaches children of God are NOT to dress immodest -- I Tim. 2: 9 - 10; Gal. 5:19; Matt. 5:28; James 1:27

(2) Shorts, sundresses with the back out, pants too tight, etc.

5. Some don't want you to preach on ATTENDANCE.
   (1) The New Testament teaches we must be FAITHFUL in attendance -- Heb. 10:25.
6. Some don't want you to preach on DRINKING.
   (1) The New Testament condemns "Social Drinking" -- I Pet. 4:3
   (2) Drunkards cannot go to heaven -- Gal. 5: 19 - 21
7. Some don't want you to preach on the MISUSE OF THE TONGUE.
   (1) Matt. 12: 34 - 37
   (2) Cursing -- James 3: 9 - 12
   (3) Corrupt communication -- Eph. 4:29; 5:4
   (4) All evil speaking -- I Pet. 2:1
   (5) Whisperers -- Rom. 1: 29
   (6) Backbiters --Rom. 1:30
8. Some don't want you to preach on ISSUES FACING THE CHURCH.
   (1) Institutionalism
   (2) Social Gospel
   (3) Calvinism
   (4) Individualism
   (5) The ONLY organization of the church is the LOCAL CONGREGATION -- Acts 14: 23
   (6) The MISSION of the church

III. IF THE SWORD IS QUIETED, THE LORD'S CHARGE IS NOT KEPT!

1. We are to preach the Word -- II Tim. 4: 2 - 4
2. We are to CONTEND for the Faith -- Jude 3; Phil. 1:17

CONCLUSION:

1. Many are crying "Put up the Sword, let it be quiet, rest and be still".
2. But, it is impossible -- CHRIST HAS GIVEN THE CHARGE -- Matt. 28: 19 - 20
3. Are we allowing the Sword to be quiet by NOT using it as we should?
4. We can keep it quiet, but we will answer in the Judgment -- II Cor. 5:10.

Preached at: Underwood Hts., Florence, AL 1980 (WXOR); Paragould, Arkansas 1986; Midway, Florence, AL 1985; Manslick Road, Louisville, KY 1985; Anderson, AL 1985; Piney Grove, AL 1986; Simpsonville, KY 1986; Erwin, TN 1987; Highview, Chaplin, KY 1987; Campbellsville, KY 1987; River Bend, Florence, AL 1995