

PLAIN SPEECH

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“Seeing then that we have such hope, we use great plainness of speech” (2 Cor. 3:12)

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WE NEVER FINISHED OUR BIBLE DISCUSSION

When I first visited Michigan, in order to get acquainted with you guys and so you could get a read on me, if you will remember we started a Bible class that we never finished. Well, we finished but there was more I wanted to point out. The title of the class was “Could Jesus Find the Place Where it is Written?” The idea was this: would the Lord be able to find authority for any number of things “religious” people believe today? This article will finish what I started. The text we used as a sort of “jump off” point is recorded below.

*“And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up: and, as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and stood up for to read. And there was delivered unto him the book of the prophet Esaias. And **when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written**, ‘the Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, to preach the acceptable year of the Lord.’ And he closed the book, and he gave it again to the minister, and sat down. And the eyes of all them that were in the synagogue were fastened on him. And he began to say unto them, this day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears” (Lk. 4:16-21).*

What are some of the things that Jesus would **never** be able to find written in the New Testament if He were holding one in His hand? I can think of many items. For instance...

- Could Jesus find the place where it is written that denominationalism is acceptable to God? No.
- Could Jesus find the place where it is written that Christianity is all about health and wealth? No.
- Could Jesus find the place where it is written that preachers are not to name names? No.
- Could Jesus find the place where it is written that local churches are authorized to engage in frivolity? No.
- Could Jesus find the place where it is written that local churches are authorized to fund human institutions? No.
- Could Jesus find the place where it is written that individually funded institutions like Truth Magazine or Florida College may engage in spiritual work? No.
- Could Jesus find the place where it is written that states everyone has the right to his/her own personal beliefs on every issue? No. Romans 14 included.
- Could Jesus find the place where it is written that lukewarm Christians receive the praise of God? No.
- Could Jesus find the place where it is written that accountable folks who died before ever hearing the gospel will be saved? No.
- Could Jesus find the place where it is written that homosexuality is acceptable to God? No.
- Could Jesus find the place where it is written that it’s okay to lie sometimes if the situation calls for such? No.
- Could Jesus find the place where it is written that drinking alcoholic beverages is authorized? No.
- Could Jesus find the place where it is written that the silence of the Scriptures is a way to establish Bible authority? No.
- Could Jesus find the place where it is written that individual Christians and the local church may engage in all the same activities? No.
- Could Jesus find the place where it is written that there is more than one reason that one may divorce his/her spouse and remarry? No.
- Could Jesus find the place where it is written that local churches are authorized to offer a “make-up” Lord’s Supper? No.

Well, space will not allow me to finish all I wanted to point out this time either. There is much more that could be noted. What else can you think of? Let’s remember to stick with what we can read, rightly divided (1 Cor. 4:6; 2 Tim. 2:15).