

# PLAIN SPEECH

Volume 2 – Issue 25 – 5 April 2009

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

By Scott Parker

## BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

Of Paul, Luke wrote: *“And from Miletus he sent to Ephesus, and called the elders of the church. And when they were come to him, he said unto them, Ye know, from the first day that I came into Asia, after what manner I have been with you at all seasons”* (Acts 20:17-18).

Sadly, not many people these days – though they claim to be members of the church – share Paul’s willingness to be transparent. Yes, even though Christians are supposed to be “what-you-see-is-what-you-get” people who walk in the light (1 John 1:7) some have no qualms whatsoever wearing masks and hanging out in the shadows of subtlety and deceit. They do so to the peril of their own soul in that Christians are to have a faith unfeigned (1 Tim. 1:5) and are not to walk around in the dark (Eph. 4:17-18).

Let me give you one particular way I’ve noticed non-transparency down through the years. It is that experience has taught me there are things many people will say behind “closed doors” that they simply refuse to say publicly. How’s that for living in the shadows? Let me give you some specific examples.

I know an individual who believes that all women who do not wear an artificial veil on their heads at all times while sitting in a worship assembly offer up to God worship that is “perverted.” How do I know? He told me so one Saturday at my residence. That individual, however, has never said that statement publicly; i.e. before the congregation. Why? Who knows why! I just know this much: he is quite different behind closed doors regarding his view on the covering of 1 Cor. 11:2-16. If he really does think those ladies who do not wear an artificial veil at all times in a worship assembly are offering up “perverted” worship, why not come out and say just that (Gal. 2:11-14; 6:1)?

I know people who think it just fine to serve up for lunch – behind closed doors, in the privacy of their homes – “fried elder” or “fried preacher.” Like little, spoiled children they get really upset when they do not get things their way – even within the realms of freedoms and expediencies. Behind closed doors they moan and complain about this or that and ascribe evil motives to those who will not shy away from preaching the whole counsel of God (Acts 20:27). Said people usually claim to love the Word of God. Obviously, however, the brats do not really like to embrace passages like 2 Tim. 4:2-5; Heb. 13:17. What’s funny though is that these kinds of people usually are the first ones to shake hands with the people they will later fry, saying something like, “*appreciated the lesson.*” What causes people to act like this? Who knows why! I just know this much: they are much different behind closed doors than they are out in the open. Why hug someone only to later denounce that person when you think no one who might care is looking? Better be careful (Prv. 15:3).

I have known plenty of instructors at liberal preaching schools who behind closed doors throw the term “anti” around like it is going out of style. They mean it in a derogatory way. They paint those who call for Bible authority as “baby haters” and as those “unwilling to help a starving non-saint.” Yet, they never say so on Sunday mornings. What’s more is that they never say it to the face of those who oppose the errors they espouse. Why? Who knows why! I just know this: they act one way behind closed doors and a different way out in the open. Pitiful.

So many are the occasions in which preachers say one thing behind closed doors and say something totally different from the pulpit. For instance, I know a preacher who said – behind closed doors – that he couldn’t wait to line some people out with the Word of God regarding things like how the Holy Ghost indwells the Christian only to shy away from it once “the song before the lesson” was over. I was told by another of a preacher who was going to preach a gospel meeting at a congregation in Indiana where error on MDR is being guarded as truth. The visiting preacher time and again said he would deal with the issue while at the meeting. The meeting began and ended and the issue never came up. Why do preachers do this? Who knows why! I just know this much: sometimes they act one way behind closed doors and a different way out in the open.

So many more shadowy examples could be given. We’ve not even touched upon how – behind closed doors – some people denounce another’s giving, style of preaching, style of teaching, dress, and 1001 other things, yet all the while, out in the open, they say nothing.

I can only imagine what those who have their “toes stepped on” by this article will say about me – behind closed doors!