

The Darkness of Deafness

“If the truth does not convert men, it turns them into its foes”. – Pulpit

Act 7:57

Then they cried out with a loud voice, and stopped their ears, and ran upon him with one accord,

Is it so different today than when Steven was stoned for speaking the truth? Is truth today considered blasphemy as in Steven's day? Are people resisting the truth by plugging their ears to the truth and considering truth to be hate speech or foolishness? Yes, but we believers must not compromise the truth but proclaim it for what it is; the truth and revelation of God, the LORD Jesus Christ.

Act 7:51-52

51 Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers *did*, so *do* ye.

52 Which of the prophets have not your fathers persecuted? and they have slain them which shewed before of the coming of the Just One; of whom ye have been now the betrayers and murderers:

Act 7:54-57

54 When they heard these things, they were cut to the heart, and they gnashed on him with *their* teeth.

55 But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up stedfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God,

56 And said, Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God.

57 Then they cried out with a loud voice, and stopped their ears, and ran upon him with one accord,

The truth is not received as truth but as blasphemy by the high priest and council. Their conscience seared by the truth; they stopped their ears. They tried to prevent their ears from hearing what was already seated and sealed in their hearts; that they had killed the 'Just One', the Holy Lamb of God, the Messiah, and they could not accept the faithful witness of Steven; of Jesus in Heaven in the Glory of God and standing on the right hand of God. They were cut to the heart. "If the truth does not convert men, it turns them into its foes."

Jeremiah 6:10 (Babylonian Captivity-To the first captives)

To whom shall I speak, and give warning, that they may hear? behold, their ear *is* uncircumcised, and they cannot hearken: behold, the word of the LORD is unto them a reproach; they have no delight in it.

Zechariah 7:4-6, 11 (To the remnant after 70 yrs. captivity)

4 Then came the word of the LORD of hosts unto me, saying,

5 Speak unto all the people of the land, and to the priests, saying, When ye fasted and mourned in the fifth and seventh month, even those seventy years, did ye at all fast unto me, even to me?

6 And when ye did eat, and when ye did drink, did not ye eat for yourselves, and drink for yourselves?

11 But they refused to hearken, and pulled away the shoulder, and stopped their ears, that they should not hear.

Beloved it is no different today. As the Judah rejected the testimony of Jesus Christ given by Steven and the prophets; so it is rejected today. The unbelievers, scoffers and workers of iniquity refuse the truth of the Gospel. The darkness of deafness continues; and so must the fight against it.

Itching Ears, and Subverted Truth

2Corinthians 4:3-4

3But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost:

4In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

Jude 1:18

18How that they told you there should be mockers in the last time, who should walk after their own ungodly lusts.

19These be they who separate themselves, sensual, having not the Spirit.

Those surrounding Steven didn't want to hear the truth that they had killed the Lamb of God, the salvation of Israel. To them it was blasphemy. Today people don't want to hear the glorious gospel. They do not want to be confronted with the reality that they are sinner's and doomed to hell without belief in and acceptance of Jesus Christ. They do not want to submit to the Lordship of Jesus and prefer to be blinded to the truth and ready to accept anything that pleases their conscience. They plug their ears and close their eyes, believing that if they don't hear and don't see that it is not there. Such actions do as much good as a doctor operating on a dead person. They take pleasure in lies rather than confront the truth of the reality of God (YHVH)

Isaiah 30:9-10 (To Judah toward coming captivities)

9That this *is* a rebellious people, lying children, children *that* will not hear the law of the LORD:

10Which say to the seers, See not; and to the prophets, Prophecy not unto us right things, speak unto us smooth things, prophesy deceits:

2Timothy 4:3

3For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears;

4And they shall turn away *their* ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.

They seek not after preaching that edifies Jesus Christ and ministers to the soul and spirit of those that hear it; but rather they seek preaching that lifts up their pride and ministers to the flesh and pleasures of their carnal minds. To them the darkness of deafness meets their desires to live for the pleasures of this life and the treasures of this world; what deafness and blindness! **1John 2:15-16** *Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.*

No One Goes to Hell Blindfolded

Those that choose to be blind to the word of God do so willingly. If you refuse the salvation of the LORD Jesus Christ that is offered to you; then you have chosen to reject God and accept the deceptions of Satan. You are without excuse.

Romans 1:18

18For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness;

19Because that which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed *it* unto them.

20For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even* his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:

The human race is created in the image of God. *Genesis 1:27* *So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.* Even though that image has been marred through the Fall

and the resulting sin nature. (Genesis 3:14-19) Every human being has a concept seated in their conscience of God, who He is, it is as the instinct God gave the animals to help them survive. God's creation testifies to His existence, and man at a deep level knows this; and through free will can accept or reject Him. They can plug their ears and cover their eyes but the heart knows and either accepts or rejects salvation; no one goes to hell blind folded.

Romans 1:21-22

21 Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

22 Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools,

As the high priest and counsel "cried out with a loud voice (Acts 7:57) as Steven spoke; so to do those that plug their ears today because it is not the ears that are offended but the conscience; as they listen to the lies of Satan and his demonic spirits that seduce those blinded to the Gospel by their own self- deceit.

1 Timothy 4:1

1 Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils;

2 Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron;

Removing the Darkness of Deafness and Blindness of Eyes;

As Saul became Paul and was called to preach the Salvation of the LORD Jesus Christ; so are we fellow believer called to deliver the message of Salvation through the LORD Jesus Christ. We are to turn the spiritually deaf and blind from the darkness of unbelief and the resulting fate of death and hell; and deliver the lost from the power of Satan.

Act 26:18

To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.

Ephesians 1:18

The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints,

Matthew 28:19-20

28 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:

20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.

Let us be faithful in so doing what the LORD has commanded His Saints to do. Preach the, Gospel, shine the light and remove the darkness of deafness to the Word of God; that some may be saved.

JESUS SAVES-To God be the Glory

R.E.G.