

# PLAIN TEACHING

BY CARL MCMURRAY

*So the Jews gathered around him and said to him, "How long will you keep us in suspense? If you are the Christ, tell us plainly." (John 10:24 ESV)*

The Jews wanted Jesus to speak to them plainly. That didn't mean they would accept everything He said, but at least it would be understandable to them. Men have the right to expect plain teaching from us today as well. I once listened to an elder take great pains to explain a passage of scripture. He detailed it and explained it for several minutes straight and when he was done he had that passage saying just exactly opposite of what the passage actually said. Sometimes too much explanation is a bad thing. We need to speak so as to let the Bible speak clearly for itself.

Isaiah prophesied of the gospel in the following way.

*And a highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Way of Holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it. It shall belong to those who walk on the way; even if they are fools, they shall not go astray. (Isaiah 35:7-8 ESV)*

We live in an age of cultural transition. We are overrun with false teachers and imitation churches. Jesus warned the disciples that they needed to be careful of false Messiah's and Paul warned Christians of false teachers that presented themselves as angels of light. Part of our cultural challenge that is being used to deceitful ends by the Devil is the philosophy of "tolerance." If we are not careful, we try so hard to show ourselves loving and tolerant that we handcuff the power of the gospel. We try to present the gospel so as not to offend anyone and we forget that this was a task that even Jesus could not do, as John 6 testifies. Too many New Testament Christians are falling prey to the false teaching that there are Christians in every church, or maybe God will change his mind and go back on His word and save people just for being good.

The apostle was not ashamed of the gospel, Romans 1:16. He believed and taught it to be the power of God to salvation. Instead of looking for ways for people to remain in their deceived and sinful conditions we should stand on the truth and shine that light for men to come to. Ephesians 4:4-5 teaches that there is but one faith (gospel) and one body (the church). Now, is it more loving to stand on that truth and call upon men to change and be saved, or to allow them to be deceived and remain in counterfeit churches practicing error because we're afraid of hurting their feelings? In an age of smoke and mirrors and pleasure seeking, if anyone is going to speak plainly it must be the people of God. Stand on the word and fear not.