

"THEY DON'T WANT TO HEAR IT" **H.L. Collett**

"Don't bring that up because they don't want to hear it!" Meant as a rebuke it is really the description of a "mind set" characteristic of many regarding certain Biblical truths. It is not new but as old as Cain. (Gen. 4:5-14) Not wanting to hear the truth continues throughout the Old Testament into the New. In Acts 4:1 and 2 we read: "And as they spake unto the people, the priests, and the captain of the temple, and the Sadducees, came upon them, *Being grieved that they taught the people, and preached through Jesus the resurrection from the dead.*" The priests, the captain of the temple and the Sadducees didn't want to hear it. Peter shouldn't have said anything about Jesus: his betrayal, condemnation, death nor of his resurrection by God's power. Why? *Because they didn't want to hear it and they didn't want the people of Israel to hear it.*

In Ac 4:18 the apostles were "*commanded ... not to speak at all nor teach in the name of Jesus...*" but the angel of the Lord said "*Go, stand and speak in the temple to the people all the words of this life.*" (Acts 4:20) When they obeyed, the high priest, the council and all the senate of the children of Israel said: "*Did not we straitly command you that ye should not teach in this name? and, behold, ye have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this man's blood upon us.*" In verse 29 the mind set of the apostles is stated: "*Then Peter and the other apostles answered and said, We ought to obey God rather than men.*" Neither the highest religious nor the highest civil authority to cease and desist preaching the gospel had any authority to stop the preaching of Christ. Neither did imprisonment nor threats prevent the preaching of the gospel by the apostles of the Lord. They were obedient to a much higher authority.

They knew that the salvation of world depended on the people hearing and heeding what they had been authorized to preach. They declared that "*The God of our fathers raised up Jesus, whom ye slew and hanged on a tree. Him hath God exalted with his right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins. And we are his witnesses of these things; and so is also the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey him.*" (Acts 5:30-32) Thus they recognized that the divine command was their mandate and there was no higher authority. Whether the people or their leaders wanted to hear it or not, they were going to teach it. So must we.

Even those of the world know that "*they don't want to hear it*" is no standard. Christians don't want to hear cuss words but they cuss at every turn. Christians don't want the name of Christ or God to be used in vain, but they use both in vain daily, publically and with out shame. Christians

don't want to hear nasty words, filthy language etc, but that doesn't slow the potty mouths of the world down. Christians don't want evolution taught in school to their children but every worldly judge who has heard petitions just to allow creationism be taught along side evolution have refused. If they recognized "they don't want to hear it" as a rule of conduct they would cease and desist from these things immediately.

Myriads of folk don't want to hear the truth on some things. Some members of the church don't want to hear that neither entertainment nor recreation nor general benevolence is the work of the church. Others don't want to hear the truth on Marriage, divorce and remarriage. Still others don't want to hear that sound doctrine must be taught, believed and practiced and that unity in diversity is foreign to the Bible. Those with closed minds don't want to hear anything outside their narrow minded view discussed in Bible class.

God in heaven give us grace to discern and judge as the apostles: *"But Peter and John answered and said unto them, **Whether it be right in the sight of God to hearken unto you more than unto God, judge ye.** For we cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard."* (Acts 4:19-20)