

# PASTOR SCOTT'S

## MONTHLY MESSAGE



## Isaiah, and Abraham Lincoln

In days long past Isaiah proclaims, "Woe to me. I am ruined. I am in the presence of the Lord, in the presence of righteousness, in the presence of purity, morality, and truth. In the presence of all this and I live among people with unclean lips - in the presence of all this and I have unclean lips. I'm surely *toast*." (Isaiah 6:5)

Woe to us, we are ruined - we are in the presence of the Lord and live among people with unclean lips. We live among those who take dangerous drugs, and those who deal in dangerous drugs. We live among those who steal from others, so they can support their dangerous habit.

We live among those with unclean lips who traffic human beings. Not just in some far-off place, but right here in America. Anti-trafficking groups inform that human trafficking goes up here in America in conjunction with major sporting events (think 'playoffs') - and legislative sessions.

We live among corporate executives with unclean lips that choose profits over lives. They chose to release products they know will harm, maim, and even kill some of their customers when they can easily make their products far safer. They calculate that injuring people and paying their claims will be more profitable than the expense of adding a minor part to prevent the harm.

We live in a country with unclean lips that chooses to separate children from their parents seeking asylum.

And I (we) have unclean lips. Possibly we *dabble* in some of the above or other "unclean activities" that tarnish us and make us antithetical to the purity of our Lord. Maybe we don't engage in such, but we tolerate unclean lips doing what they do. Maybe we don't like the untruths and deception spilling off the lips of corporate, organization and governmental leaders, but we don't confront them with their lies. Racism, nationalism, injustice, and violence may bother us, but maybe we suffer such - consoling ourselves, "There is little I can do about it."

Abraham Lincoln said, "To sin by silence when they should protest makes cowards of men." Powers and principalities want us to be silent. Our silence when we should speak up makes us complicit in their uncleanliness - makes us cowardly conspirators.

After Isaiah voices his "woe", a seraphim gathers a burning coal and touches it to Isaiah's lips taking away his guilt and sin - enabling Isaiah to speak, to speak truth in love to those with unclean lips.

Christ came as love incarnate, revealing God to humanity. Christ came to take away our sin and guilt, restoring a right relationship between those who follow his revelations and God. Christ came, saying "If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." (John 8:31)

Christ touches our lips and frees us to speak - to speak truth, justice, morality. As disciples there is no need to fear, our Lord walks with us empowering us to speak with love to bring about justice and peace. So speak!

Speak to corporate, organizational, and governmental leaders. Let them hear God's truth, calling them to just ways and decisions. Speak with your mouth, speak with your pen, and speak with your keyboard. Join with other voice speaking the truth in love. Travel to meet with those needing to hear God's teachings and ways. Travel to blend your voice in a march with others. Christ has shown us the truth, and has set us free to speak it. So speak!

Peace,

*Pastor Scott*