

# ***CONFUSION***

**Definition:** Lack of certainty; Disruption of order

**Synonyms:** Bewilderment, Turmoil, Fluster

Since my weekly email goes out on Tuesdays, this devotion begins on Tuesdays and ends on Mondays.

## ***DAY 1 - Tuesday***

In 1 Corinthians Paul tells the church members that God does not like confusion. In this context Paul is referring to the worship service. The disruption (it appeared to be mainly women) was causing confusion and Paul wanted it to stop.

Confusion is never God's way. Look at the creation. The laws of nature all work together in unison to keep the universe humming. Creator God is logical and therefore we have order in His universe. The laws of physics and chemistry work together so humans can live on this earth.

I don't know how the atheist accounts for the orderly laws of nature. It is hard to fathom that these laws spewed out of a Big Bang.

## **THOUGHT FOR THE DAY**

**"For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace" (1 Corinthians 14:33a KJV).**

## ***DAY 2 – Wednesday***

When we say someone is confused it is usually in a lighthearted way. They just don't understand something or it is a joke about someone who is clueless. But confusion is not a joke. False teachings cause confusion, chaos, and disruption in our churches. Places of worship are torn apart and people don't know what is true.

There were false prophets as far back as the Old Testament. These men would tell leaders and the people what they wanted to hear. Since it was good news they never worried about the veracity of the message.

During New Testament times when the church was getting on its feet there were heretical teachings that confused new believers. Docetism taught that Jesus was only a spirit who appeared to have a body. Gnosticism held that the spirit is good but all physical matter is evil, making it difficult to accept a Savior who is fully human and fully divine.

Today we still contend with false teachers and theologies. Scientology, Jehovah Witnesses, and New Age thinking lead many astray from the truth. There are also prosperity gospel preachers who prey on people's needs or greed.

The Bible tells us we must never believe people until we test it against the Bible. Understanding Scripture keeps us from confusion about our beliefs. In Acts 17 the Bereans did not allow confusion to infiltrate their worship and faith. They listened with an open mind, but tested everything against Scripture.

We must not be taken in by false teachings. Understanding our faith and responding like the Bereans to what we are told will keep confusion at bay.

### THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"searched the scriptures daily, whether those things were so" (Acts 17: 11b KJV).

#### ***DAY 3 - Thursday***

Another way to cause confusion in the church is to add to God's word. The Bible is explicit that doing this is a grave sin.

*"And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book" (Revelation 22:19 KJV).*

Jesus taught that it was wrong and hypocritical to ignore God's law and substitute traditions. It was business as usual for the Pharisees to add to God's laws. It was done because this group wanted to maintain their power and appear better than the "ordinary" Jew. This created confusion about what laws were God's and what were made up. Tradition is fine, but it must agree with God's Word.

### THOUGHT FOR THE DAY

"For laying aside the commandment of God, ye hold the tradition of men" (Mark 7:8a KJV)

#### ***DAY 4 – Friday***

Society would have us believe that as culture changes so does God. Living together before marriage is commonplace so it must be ok. Our culture accepts a woman's right to choose and gay marriage, so God is ok with us ignoring what he says about these subjects.

The groups that have worked so hard to legalize abortion and gay marriage have caused a great deal of confusion about how we should think. We are told that we are intolerant and bigoted, so we stay silent. The millennials are particularly confused – their world has always accepted these actions that ignored God's Word.

#### **THOUGHT FOR THE DAY**

"Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever" (Hebrews 13:8 KJV).

#### ***DAYS 5 & 6 - WEEKEND REFLECTIONS (Saturday and Sunday)***

In Genesis 9: 1-9 we read that the people built a tower to honor self and not God. They thought this monument would make them famous and prevent them from being scattered.

I guess God showed them! He confused them with different languages and scattered the people all over the world.

This ultimate story of confusion is found early on in the Bible and we see that God used confusion to punish people. This should enlighten us to the fact that confusion is not good or God honoring.

#### ***Day 7 – Monday***

Take this day to focus on your Sunday sermon, spending additional time in prayer to prepare for your week.