



## Straight Shoot'n

What is "**Straight Shoot'n**?" Well, I am a traditional archer and one of the sayings we use all the time in our salutations is "Straight Shooting" or we hope you always shoot straight. Another way of saying it as a Pastor would be to "*shoot it straight*" or just '*tell it like it is.*' Speak the truth. One of my instructors at Rhema told us to, "*speak the truth and let the chips fall where they may.*" I have a Pastor friend who had a saying in the foyer of his church that said, "*We speak the truth no matter who it hurts.*"

Well, I am certainly not out to hurt anyone or in anyway advocating it but sometimes the truth does hurt. I have never tasted any medication that tasted good going down but we took it because of the benefits. And, we continued to take the medication until we improved.

Now, I will get to the point of this webpage. For some time, I have observed great changes that have taken place in the "church." I also believe that the church, in many areas, is heading down the wrong road in some of its teachings and beliefs. It seems more and more the church has taken the worlds complaints and changed to satisfy the people. Pastors have become fearful to speak the real truth. They have changed their churches over to political correctness in what they call "seeker friendly." I like to have friends as much as the next guy but not if I have to compromise the truth. A very notable minister was recently seeking the Lord about 2008 and asking the Lord how he could become more relevant to the people. He said the Lord immediately spoke back to him and said, "*Relevant! Relevant! I didn't call you to be relevant, but to speak the truth.*" I have heard some scary things lately that are happening in churches and to put it bluntly, I am becoming fearful for the church. I hear now, that some will not preach on sin and some won't even give altar calls, much less have Holy Ghost meetings. They never challenge the people but try to please them. And, I am not talking about churches or pastors who normally reject the power of God but even Word of Faith ministries. It appears they will do anything to get people in their church. Someone has said, "*There is no honor except among thieves.*" Listen to me, body of Christ; right now we live in the church age which is the dispensation of the Holy Ghost. His ministry is to direct the affairs of the church. But, for the most part we have shut the Holy Ghost out of our services. Truly a form of godliness has taken over and a denying of the power thereof. Extremisms have also entered the church, and itching ears are at work. It is not our job as ministers to make people feel comfortable. Sin is sin and God still hates it. Are we on fire for God or are we lukewarm and ready to be spewed out of his mouth.

I believe that there are still a people of God who want the truth. They're tired of going to dead churches and enduring dead services with empty teachings. I want the truth! Tell it to me! Preach the truth! Be instant in season! And, out of season! And if we have to reprove, rebuke, and correct, we should stand up and quip ourselves as men. Preacher - be the man of God you were called to be. Don't let political correctness take over your ministry. Who called you? That's the one you have to answer to. You know some will think you are a tyrant but you're not! You love your people and that's why you tell them the truth. Spare not for their crying. One man said to me, "*you must*

*not like having a large church.*” That means nothing to me; I will stay with the Word and I will not compromise. A desire for a large church is no reason to back off the truth. Error has crept into the church and true ministers of God must expose it. It comes with the job. It is our responsibility. The people may accuse you of not walking in love but who is it that you want to please. When you begin you will probably hear the goats and wolves crying and screaming. I like what one preacher said, “*Feed the sheep, milk the goats* (because they probably won’t be with you long anyway unless they convert to being a sheep), *and run off the wolves.*” So, stay tuned, once or twice a month I will update this page and we are going to start shooting it straight from the hip. I especially hope it will be a blessing to ministers of the true gospel. Let’s deal with some issues, instead of sweeping it under a rug. The purpose of this page is not to be harsh and end up “just preaching against something.” But, I have been led to address some subjects that concern the church and possibly offer a few warnings. It is given in love with concern for my brothers and sisters. Of course, if you can’t handle it then don’t follow the link to this page. And, I can hardly wait to receive the emails that I know are going to be forthcoming.

**Pastor Jim**