



Food for Thought: Ball of Confusion

*For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace,
as in all churches of the saints.” ~1st Corinthians 14:33*

Over the past three weeks, we have been fasting and praying. Almost every night, I heard people asking for prayers for themselves, for their friends, for their families, for our country, its leaders, and the world. But it did make me wonder, what’s wrong with the world today that there are so many needs for prayer? How did we get so sideways?

I am not the only one pondering the answers to that question judging by the number of answers I heard. Turn on one of the Christian Ministry channels and you will see what I mean. Some blame it on Health issues, some, the loss of jobs, the economic environment, the Opioid epidemic, the COVID-19 lockdown, the education system, the government, no COVID relief payments, individual privilege, declining morality, and of course, its Trump’s fault.

The list does seem endless. But we are not the only ones with problems. The rest of the world has its share. There are problems from America to Algeria, from Ecuador to Eritrea, and from Macau to Micronesia. No one, from the troubled suburban teens, to the aborigines in the outback, has been skipped. These crisis’ have seemingly affected every tribe, every tongue, and every nation. The world, it seems, is just one big Ball of Confusion filled with problems.

In the 70’s, the R&B group “The Temptations” released a song entitled “Ball of Confusion.” That song could have been written about the climate in the world today. I heard it just the other day and was blown away by how truly relevant its lyrics are:

People moving out, people moving in Why?
Because of the color of their skin.
Run, run, run but you sure can't hide.
An eye for an eye, a tooth for a tooth.
Vote for me and I'll set you free

Rap on, brother, rap on.
Well, the only person talking about love thy brother is the preacher.
And it seems nobody's interested in learning but the teacher.
Segregation, determination, demonstration, integration
Aggravation, humiliation, obligation to my nation
Ball of confusion Oh yeah, that's what the world is today.

Cities ablaze in the summertime. Evolution, revolution, gun control.
Where the world's headed, nobody knows
Just a ball of confusion Oh yeah, that's what the world is today.
Fear in the air, tension everywhere Unemployment rising fast,

See what I mean? If we just added a new verse or two, we could completely encapsulate everything that is wrong with the world today:

Corona virus taking lives, anarchy thrives,
News media out of hand, sound bites we don't understand.
It's a Ball of confusion That's what the world is today.

If, as our anchor verse says in 1st Corinthians 14:33 that God is not the author of all of this confusion, then we must be under attack. It is like the enemy released this Spirit of Confusion to deceive the people and confuse the world. If that was his plan, it is effectively doing just that. Even the news reporters, whom we have trusted for years, can't differentiate between the truth and lies, even fighting and ignoring the truth just to convince the people that some of the lies are real.

Paul said there are many voices in the world, all of which can affect our well-being. Like background music in a store, we hear it but we are not always fully aware of what we are hearing. These voices play in the background and tease our minds with thoughts and ideas. In the end, we will be influenced by whatever we are most receptive to and it doesn't matter if they are the sounds of darkness or the wholesome melodies of heaven. On the surface, they are just noise.

But in my 70 years, I've learned that the voice of the enemy does not always come just in the form of temptation. It is now coming ever more incessantly as the voice of condemnation, accusation, slander, fear, or worry. There are no more rules of decency in advertising, broadcasting, news much less, life. The enemy knows that he can use anything as long as people respond to it and that gives him a lot to work with.

In case you haven't noticed, we live in a time when everyone and everything has a message, a revelation, an opinion, a theory, or a cause that they want you to buy into. Turn on the radio or television, or pick up a magazine and you can experience a hundred different voices with a thousand different message. Each are trying to convince you to receive their words, embrace their cause, or try their products. Why? Because they realize that you are indeed going to listen to *someone*, and whomever you listen to will have influence over you and that means that they have a way to control you and your life.

So, it easy to understand why those voices in our head are varied, loud and unrelenting. Our nightly news, best friends, neighbors, mother, colleagues, trade journals, entertainment channels, all pour opinions into those two openings in our head and it's up to us to sort it all out. It is up to us to balance it and make sense of all the noise. No wonder it is confusing!

The problem is that we don't recognize that those subtle voices are poisonous, and have become more blatant and bolder especially, this last year. In my opinion, never has there ever been such an obvious declaration of satanic doctrine being pushed and evil surfacing in the world. God has been removed from almost every walk of life; school are teaching deceptive curriculums and espousing alternate lifestyles in this, "The New Age Movement."

We are overloaded with psychic hotlines, white witchcraft, channeling, meditation, eastern mysticism, and popular music with perverse words. It has become so pervasive that even the Hallmark Channel, once heralded for its wholesomeness, has a series entitled "The Good Witch," and has begun embracing gay relationships into its mainstream media, labeling them as "*family*" *entertainment*."

I think that it is only a question of time before Satan is no longer content to simply speak outside of the Church. I can only imagine what lengths he will go through to get his voice heard within the church. As we speak, I have heard and read about Churches being assaulted by false leaders, false prophets, false music, and false doctrine. Satan is deceiving countless thousands by false prophecies and miracles, preying on immature Christians who are either to naive to believe this is happening or they have not developed an ability to discern the truth from darkness.

Nonetheless, the articles that I read said that Christians are falling left and right and taking their families and friends with them after becoming disenchanted with God. It does give me cause for concern because this could be the beginning of a new movement he has aimed straight at our young adults.

But we know that God is not the author of this confusion, it says so in I Corinthians 14:33. It also says that He doesn't want us to be anxious but wants peace for us. But I still wonder, can we as sheep really figure all this stuff out for ourselves? The world will tell us that we can, on our own, make these decisions like finding good food and water and defend ourselves from life's evils. So, we don't really need a shepherd, do we?

But we have one, because we do indeed need one. The problem is that while we were grazing in the fields and listening to all those voices and we cannot hear

the one voice that guides and protects us. We cannot hear it because we wouldn't tune out those worldly noises.

Turn off the radio, television, chat shows, entertainment, sports, and sit quietly on your commute. When you are in bed, at lunchtime, at the park, read His words and listen to His voice. Tune out the rubbish and fill your head with the good words of Scripture. Listen in prayer as He guides your words and speaks quietly back to you.

It is that voice that found you when you were lost and saved you from certain death, that voice that steered you toward bread and wine, the voice that gave you eternal life. That's the voice, the only voice, that you need to hear.

The Lord promises us that, despite of all the upheaval around us and all the confusion, He can still lead us in the right direction of life *if* we will listen and be prepared to obey! *"And Whether you ' turn to the right or the left, you will hear a voice behind you, saying: "This is the way, walk in it. " (Isaiah. 30:21).*

God is saying, "My sheep hear My voice and they know Me".

In Malachi 3:18 it says, "And then you will again see the distinction between the righteous and the wicked, between those who serve God and those who do not." That distinction is getting harder and harder to recognize because of this spirit of confusion. It is time to break those chains of confusion before it ruins us as individuals, families, or churches.

All this confusion is designed to destroy lives, our relationships with God, and even our relationships with other people. God told us that the answer is simple. All you have to do to overcome it is to spend time in the presence of God asking the Holy Spirit to expose any area of confusion or compromise in our life. Then listen. The more time we spend in the Word, the less confusion the enemy can stir up in our lives.

Maybe the world is just one big Ball of Confusion, but it can only get to us if we fail to put the Word of God in our eyes, ears, and hearts. As one of the lines from the lyrics of the Casting Crowns song 'The Voice of Truth' says, *"Out of all the voices calling out to me, I will choose to listen and believe the voice of truth - Jesus you are the voice of truth."*

How about you, what are you listening to?

Just some Food for Thought