

TITLE *The Uncertain Trumpet*

PREACHED

Williamstown

Trinity

Valley Falls

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Newtown 3/30/42

THE UNCERTAIN TRUMPET

"For if the trumpet give an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself to the battle." I Cor. 14:8

"If the trumpet sounds indistinct who will get ready for the fray?"
(Moffatt)

I. Explain the figure

A. The confusion resulting from a trumpet call that the soldiers cannot understand.

B. Give the background of the chapter and tell what it means to speak with tongues

C. The confusion resulting from the exercise of this gift.

D. Paul's argument

1. "Inanimate instruments, such as the flute or the harp, may give a sound, but if no intervals occur in their music, how can one make out the air that is being played?"

2. "If the trumpet sounds indistinct who will get ready for the fray?"

THE UNCERTAINTY TRUMPET
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"If the trumpet sounds indistinct
who will get ready for the fray?"
(Mottet)

1. Explain the figure
A. The confusion resulting from
"I cannot," declared
Epictetus, "give credence
to a philosopher who
professes to have found
the secret of high living,
and the power to conquer
evil, if he speaks without
animation in a hang dog
fashion, with the face of
a condemned man on his way
to execution, and a mouth
drooping in such a melancholy
fashion that it seems to
reach down to his knees. He
does not look like a conqueror
to me."

II. The church today must go something which is intelligible to the majority of the people.

A. First we must speak in the language of today in the sense that we use a modern vocabulary

B. Then we must realize that what we are speaks louder than what we say.

1. We as Christian people must live our faith

2. We must try to be better than the average

3. We must be stronger than those who are non-Christian

C. Finally there are certain things which we can do which will give to people very clearly the notion of what we believe and what we consider important.

1. Our church property is speaking to this community

2. Our church program is speaking to this community

3. Our interest in other people as evidenced by our benevolence program is speaking to the world.

"THE UNCERTAIN TRUMPET"

"For if the trumpet give an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself to the battle?"

1 Cor. 14:8

I. Explain the figure

- A. Paint a picture of the confusion resulting from a trumpet call that the soldiers cannot understand.
- B. Give the background of the chapter and tell what it means to speak with tongues.
- C. Show the picture of the confusion resulting from the exercise of this gift.
- D. Paul's argument
 1. "Inanimate instruments, such as the flute or the harp, may give a sound, but if no intervals occur in their music, how can one make out the air that is being played?"
 2. "If the trumpet sounds indistinct, who will get ready for the fray?"
 3. "Unless your tongue utters language that is readily understood, how can people make out what you say."

II. The church today is sounding an uncertain trumpet because the call that the church gives is unintelligible to the majority of people.

- A. Speaking in the language of yesterday
- B. Living in the language of yesterday.
 1. Noble Peace Prize.

III. There is a danger that patriotism will sound an uncertain trumpet.

- A. We do not know what we mean by patriotism today.
- B. Christianity does not destroy patriotism but develops a higher type of patriotism.

IV. An appeal to Christians to live lives
that will be intelligible to people and
thus avoid being uncertain trumpets.

Forward, then! And onward, upward, toward the
greater days to be,
All the nations singing with us one great son
fraternally.

Up and up, achieving, failing, weak in flesh
but strong of soul.....
We may never live to reach it. Ah, but we have
seen the goal!
--Odell Shepard.