

Finding Value in Silence

Jeremiah 8:14- Why do we sit still? assemble yourselves, and let us enter into the defenced cities, and let us be silent there: for the Lord our God hath put us to silence, and given us water of gall to drink, because we have sinned against the Lord. (KJV)

Being silent and examining the self is the way to assess our personal sinfulness. Silence enables the believer to review contents of the heart, mind and soul. Reviewing the nature of the self provides the direction for needed personal change. Adhering more to the ways of Jesus Christ is the motivation for self-examination. The Church encourages constant repentance and renewal in the Lord Jesus Christ

Zechariah 2:13- Be silent, O all flesh, before the Lord: for he is raised up out of his holy habitation. (KJV)

Being silent is the way to consider the state of the conscience and need for change. Silence enables believers to clearly focus and be attentive to the Lord's teachings. Compliance with Divine teachings directs the believer to the Heavenly Kingdom. When the surroundings are quiet, clear thinking becomes increasingly possible.

Ecclesiastes 3:7- A time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; (KJV)

Looking to the Lord for guidance for the time to speak or be silent is beneficial. Keeping the Lord consciously in the mind facilitates peace in conversations. Appropriate use of silence develops internal peace of the heart, mind and soul. The conscious and careful use of silence strengthens personal relationships. Love of God and love of others are revealed in the appropriate use of silence.

Amos 5:13- Therefore the prudent shall keep silence in that time; for it is an evil time. (KJV)

Knowing when to keep silent results in continuous benefits to the believer. The Holy Scriptures offer numerous points of reference on the value of silence. Heeding the wisdom of the Scriptures is a matter of choice among believers. Speaking at the wrong time and wrong place can be perilous to the believer. Believers do well to carefully weigh when to speak and when to remain silent.

Habakkuk 2:20- But the Lord is in his holy temple: let all the earth keep silence before him. (KJV)

Value exists in sitting quietly and being at prayer in God's Holy Church. Utilizing opportunities to be alone in the quiet of the Church enriches the soul. Prayerfully focusing upon the holy icons in the silent church nourishes the soul. Lighting a candle in the dark church directs the heart, mind and soul to God. Grateful believers greatly appreciate opportunities to contemplate God in silence.

Venerable Father Hilarion the New; Venerable Stephen Wonderworker.

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