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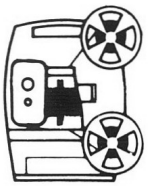

The PROJECTOR

Dr. Dayton Hobbs, FOUNDING EDITOR *"Projecting the Light of the Word of God on the Issues of the Day"*

Salt or Sugar

by Pastor Tod Brainard

Matthew 5:13 "Ye are the salt of the earth!"

Many sermons have been preached on this text, all of them using basically the same outline: 1) Salt seasons 2) Salt preserves 3) Salt purifies – usually about ten to fifteen minutes is used talking about medical uses, sanitary uses, water purification and a few good stories and you have a thirty minute message. But as many times as I have heard the above text used, I do not recall ever hearing a message that includes the fourth and the fifth points: **4) Salt irritates and 5) Salt must be applied to receive any benefit.**

Jesus Christ said to his disciples, *"Ye are the salt of the earth."* Those early disciples were salty – and what a powerful effect they had upon those with whom they came into contact. If you read the book of Acts and the epistles to the Corinthians, you will find that the early Christians irritated those who heard them. Salt irritates, and those men made no attempt to keep from "rubbing it in!"

I think it is interesting that Jesus Christ did not say

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Wrong is Always Wrong!

In a period of loose and sagging morals, Satan provides many rationalizations for improper behavior. Those who would be faithful in Christian living must not be ignorant of his devices *(2 Cor. 2:11)*. Wrong is always wrong despite efforts to excuse our actions.

***Wrong Is Wrong,* Even if we don't get caught.** Let us remember "the eyes of the LORD are in every place, beholding the evil and the good" *(Prov. 15:3)*.

***Wrong Is Wrong,* Even if we do it for a good cause.** The honorable purpose does not justify a dishonorable deed or action. The end never justifies the means. "For sin is the transgression of the law" *(1 John 3:4)*; "all unrighteousness is sin" *(1 John 5:17)*.

***Wrong Is Wrong,* Even if others are doing worse things.** In the day of judgment and loss of reward, it will be little comfort to know others committed worse sins. Even "the thought of foolishness is sin" *(Prov. 24:9)*.

***Wrong Is Wrong,* Even if it doesn't bother your conscience.** The conscience can be trained, or educated to accept wrong-doing *(1 Tim. 4:2)*; even evil done in sincerity is sinful in the sight of the Holy God. "...whatsoever a man sows, that shall he also reap" *(Gal. 6:7)*.

***Wrong Is Wrong,* Even if it is commonly considered acceptable.** The Bible says, "Thou shalt not follow a multitude to do evil" *(Exod. 23:2)*. The Christian should "enter not into the path of the wicked, and not go in the way of evil men. Avoid it, pass not by it, turn from it, and pass away" *(Prov. 4:14-15)*. "Prove all things and hold fast to that which is good. Abstain from all appearance [*or* every form] of evil" *(1 Thess. 5:21-22)*.

Remember, there is never a right way to do wrong!

Adapted from Pat McGee– **The Sword and Staff**

EDITOR'S DESK

by Pastor Tod Brainard

Reflections on God's Providential Care in the Age of Randomness

What about others' mistakes that effect us?

Not only are the willful acts of other people under God's control, so also are the mistakes and failures of other people. Did a medical laboratory fail to detect a deadly infection in its early stages after an accident, which caused serious and potentially life-threatening issues? That happened to the editor in July of this year. Yet God has delivered and healed in spite of the undetected error. Did a physician fail to detect your cancer in its early stages, when it would have been treatable? That recently happened to a close and dear family member. Though painful and emotionally difficult, all of these circumstances are under the controlling hand of our sovereign God, who is working them out in our lives for our good. Do you believe this to be true? **The insignificant sparrow cannot fall to the ground without His will.** And what is true for the sparrow is true for me. No detail of my life or your life is too insignificant for your heavenly Father's attention; no circumstance is so big that He cannot control it.

God Acts Sovereignly

The truth that no circumstance can occur outside the bounds of God's sovereign will is only one side of the coin. The other side, which is just as important, is that no plan of God can be thwarted. When He acts, no one can reverse it. No one can hold Him back or bring Him to account for His actions. God acts and works out every event to bring about the

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to the disciples, **"Ye are the sugar of the earth!"** Yet that is what most preachers spend most of their time being these days. They want to be sugar and spice and everything nice, anything but salty! We are living in the "sweet" generation. Salt is too abrasive, too irritating, too sour, our seminarians would have us to believe. Yet that is exactly what our Lord told the disciples to be, **salt of the earth!**

I read not too long ago an article on meat preservation of the 1800's. Here was the process – 10 to 14 days of soaking meat in a brine solution (salt water). Rub salt into meat and allow to hang in a smoke house for several weeks. The meat could be stored for over a year after that process.

The key to meat preservation according to a colonial man from Leesburg, VA in 1776 was taking salt and *"rubbing it into the meat, getting the salt deeply into the tissue of the muscles of the meat."*

Salt Irritates

In the book of Acts, the apostles were often arrested, beaten and imprisoned. They were forbidden to speak in the name of Jesus – but none of those things could cause these giants of the faith to become "good mixers" or to change the doctrine that made them "salty."

When the religious rulers brought those first Christians, (the name *Christian* was a term of derision as you recall), in for questioning, the answers given by these Christians were not soft-spoken answers from fearful hearts, but BOLD answers which came from hearts that feared only God. *"We cannot but speak the things which we have seen and heard,"* they replied: or *"Which is*

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The PROJECTOR

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The Projector is a fundamentalist publication that seeks to "project the light of the Word of God on the issues of the day." It desires to honor Christ by articulating a clear testimony for Biblical separation from error in these last days as God's answer to the deepening apostasy of the visible church.

The Root of Theological Error

by Dr. Clay Nuttall
Vice-President of Academics
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This month I taught another module on Introduction to Hermeneutics [1] and I will teach it again in Egypt in February. Last September, I also taught it in Jordan. In every class, students tend to raise the same questions. They are confused as to how so many people can study the same text and get so many different interpretations. One student asked, "Which denomination is right?" My answer was, "None of them; the truth on every subject is in the Bible text, not in a denominational creed or statement of faith."

The question we should ask is this: "If truth is in the scripture, why doesn't everyone get the same interpretation of every text out of the Bible?" The answer is simple: nearly everyone comes to the text with presupposition and motive. There has to be some way to erase our presuppositions. The good news is that there is a way; and it is simple, not complicated.

A maxim I pass on to my students says that anything you cannot simplify has probably been poisoned by man. This is the reason why the faithful interpreter who wants to find the one interpretation of a text will "simplify to clarify", while the one who wants to insert motive and presupposition will "complicate to confuse". Does this mean we are challenging their motive? Yes, it does.

The Sieve of a Biblical Hermeneutic

God has given us a **"hermeneutical sieve"** to help us strain out motive and presupposition. Use of that one biblical system will accurately block the addition of human insertions into a text. The system is mathematical and will succeed in producing a single interpretation to central texts of scripture.

The reason why there are so many conflicting ideas in theology comes from a failure to obey the system and rules that God's Word has clearly outlined. I warn you that this God-given restriction will be hated by those who persist in putting their own ideas into the text. One reader suggested that this idea would limit God, but it is actually the other way around. The constant infusion of philosophy into Bible text is what hinders the teaching of truth. Without a sieve to strain out error, there is no way to arrive at a theology that is biblical.

The Point of Tension

This takes us to the age-old tension between faith and reason. Throughout history, humans have always been tempted to add to or detract from scripture. This is exactly what happened in Eden in the conversation between Eve and Satan. Most of the people in our circles would say that the Bible is the final authority in faith and practice. **The truth is that the root of human reason is the cause of the conflicting theology in our midst.** This reading of philosophy into the text can be readily seen in much of contemporary writing, worship and practice.

Yesterday I was reading an article by a prolific writer whom I consider a friend. It happened to be on church polity, a study of interest to me. I was amazed to note how easily culture and human philosophy were stated in the discourse, as if they were equal to the clear statement of Bible text.

Our problem seems to be that we assign the misuse of human reason strictly to liberalism, as if we could not possibly commit that error ourselves. Reason has value, but faith that rests on the Bible is supreme; that is why we need the one system of interpretation that rises from Scripture. I am convinced that the root of theological and doctrinal error comes from a hermeneutic that is based on human reason.

What, Then, Is That One Hermeneutic?

There is one system of biblical interpretation. It is that normal, plain, ordinary, consistent literal system that represents the similarity to, and is limited by the construct of, all literature. That system reveals three unmistakable

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accomplishment of His sovereign will. This is what Job learned in Chapter 42:2, *"I know (by revelation and by experience) that thou canst do every thing, and that no thought can be withholden from thee."*

Resting in the LORD

Because we know God is directing our lives to an ultimate end, and because we know He is sovereignly able to orchestrate the events in our lives toward that end, we can rest in Him. We can commit to Him not only the ultimate outcome of our lives, but also all the intermediate events and circumstances that will bring us to that ultimate outcome. Over all the actions and events of our lives, God is providentially doing as He pleases - not apart from those events, or in spite of them, but get this - through these events.

Joseph's brothers meant to do evil to their brother. They sold him into slavery. But in due time, Joseph recognized that through his brothers' evil actions God was acting. He could say remarkably in Genesis 45:8, *"So now it was not you that sent me hither, but God: and he hath made me a father to Pharaoh, and lord of all his house and ruler throughout all the land of Egypt."*

I must admit that I have struggled through this truth many times over the past several weeks after a rope swing accident in Georgia. I have been through a month-long convalescence after knee surgery and twice-daily intravenous treatments for a serious bacterial infection. **The Lord has patiently taught me in these days of recovery that just as we must learn to obey God one choice at a time, we must also learn to trust God one circumstance at a time.** Dear reader, are you getting what I am saying? Trusting God is not a matter of my feelings. I never feel like trusting God when adversity hits, but I can choose to do so because that is what His authoritative Word has told me. The act of the will to rest in Christ must be based on belief, and that belief must be based on God's revealed truth!

As I close, let me say this from a humbled heart: Our first priority in times of difficulty, adversity, and pain should be to honor and glorify God by resting in Him. However, from experience **we tend to make our first priority the gaining of relief! This is a natural desire, but not necessarily a spiritual desire.** God has promised grace sufficient for our trials and our pain (II Cor. 12:9; Phil. 4:6-7). God's honor is to take precedence over our relief. Ω

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rules, which are (1) grammar, (2) context, and (3) the historical setting of the text that is being interpreted. Many tools for interpretation are revealed in holy writ; but they are tools; not rules.

One major error is the idea that application is part of the interpretation. There is only one interpretation of each text, but there are many applications. If application is made a part of interpretation, the conclusion will be corrupted by human reason and innocent (or deliberate) adjustment of the text.

The basic conflict here is not about an interpretation of the text; it is about the fact that people use a variety of humanly invented systems. These human additions cause the confusion that results in many interpretations rather than one correct one; this is the root of doctrinal error.

In the end, the Bible student has two options: (1) to use the one biblical system and be limited to a theology that is placed in Scripture by the Holy Spirit or (2) to choose any other system, thus allowing him to conclude anything he desires in his theology. Ω

*This article was reprinted with permission from the **Shepherd's Staff** published by Dr. Clay Nuttall at www.shepherdstaff.wordpress.com*

[1] Editor's Note: *Hermeneutics is the study of the principles and theories of how Biblical texts ought to be interpreted. Hermeneutics also concerns itself with understanding the unique roles and relationships between the author, the text and the original or subsequent readers of the revelation of God.*

Proverb Practicals

by Ludwig Opager

Proverbs 11:2 - When pride cometh, then cometh shame: but with the lowly is wisdom.

This proverb presents three characters: the first is named Pride, the second, Shame, and the third Lowly. Look down the road, and all three are coming in a line. Pride is in the lead, followed by Shame, with Lowly bringing up the rear. Picturing this proverb in this way we can see obstacles on the road of life. Pride always desires to be first in this parade, but this proverb tells us that pride always results in shame. **When pride cometh, then cometh shame.**

SHAME

Today, the word "shame" has taken on a meaning that does not match the Bible meaning. Today this word is shameful in our culture. One thing that is apparent is that when God speaks, Satan gives his all to undo God's Word. So in Satan's world today this word "shame" is anathema and must be banished, for everything about it is considered harmful. God, however, says that the natural result of pride is shame and indicates that there is something good about shame. God says it leads to lowliness, which leads to wisdom.

Webster's 1828 Dictionary defines shame this way: "To excite a consciousness of guilt; to cause to blush." A modern dictionary defines shame this way: "The painful feeling of having done or experienced something dishonorable, improper or foolish." The old definition says shame excites a consciousness of guilt while the new definition concerns painful feelings. This change bears the mark of Satan, who majors on the touchy-feely, emotional manner of life.

Feelings

So what is anathema to today's culture? It is painful feelings. Simply get rid of painful feelings is today's message. Don't get rid of the cause that brought the painful feelings, just get rid of the feelings.

The Bible definition of shame, that of bringing guilt, is designed to result in the correction of that which brought that guilt to the mind. Modern psychology, however, promotes addressing the subject in this manner:

Shame is not the same as guilt.

When we feel guilt, it's about something we did.

When we feel shame, it's about who we are.

When we feel guilty we need to learn that it's OK to make mistakes.

When we feel shame we need to learn that it's OK to be who we are!

This is not a message of correction but of fitting one into Satan's realm! When pride enters the scene, God is not satisfied with who you are. He, therefore, through shame, brings you a consciousness of guilt. His message is that sinners are not acceptable in His sight. You must be born again, you must be washed in the blood of Christ. It is not "OK" to be who you are if you are an unredeemed sinner!

Today, shame of any kind is shunned. Causing someone to feel ashamed is the worst possible thing you could do, but think about what God says in His Word. God boldly says that all my righteousness is as filthy rags. But I may say, using Satan's way, "God, what a horrible thing to say about me! You have hurt my feelings in the most awful way, and I may be crippled for life by hearing such things!"

Modern psychology would have you flee from this horrible message as fast as possible for it may result in **SHAME**. But why did God say this? He said it because the **TRUTH** will set me free. Satan proclaims lies, which will eternally bind, but God's Word eternally frees!

Modern child rearing concentrates on feelings in lieu of correction. A parent or teacher can be so concerned about a child's feelings that they refuse to upset the child, shunning shame and thereby neglecting the necessary correction. Even altar calls or teaching that a child is a sinner is anathema in some circles, for it may provoke shame. I wouldn't be surprised that soon, the teaching that children are sinners would be thought of as hate speech, for what

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better – to obey God, or man?" And when those men of Galilee were gone out from them, the religious leaders *"took knowledge that they had been with Jesus!"* This kind of confrontational preaching is missing from our churches today.

I wonder how many sinners, after having been in your presence and mine, take knowledge that we have been with Jesus? I wonder what our answer would be if some authority should come to us and demand that we never again speak publically in the name of Jesus Christ. Oh, I know we say we would do this or that – *but since we are doing so little as it is*, I wonder what we would really do in the face of opposition.

I raise this question because opposition to Christianity is on the rise. This opposition is coming from without and within our own ranks. You and I are being challenged. **Are you salty enough to deal with the opposition**?

Real, blood-bought believers rub the world the wrong way! The bread and butter religionists of our day soothe rather than irritate the world. I think it is time for preachers to take off their flashy Joseph A. Bank coats, roll up their sleeves and start preaching the forgotten truths of the Bible.

Its time to get Salty!

Jesus instructed His disciples to take His yoke upon them, come alongside Him, walk in His ways, and preach as He preached: *"....except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish!"* Luke 13:3-5). If we preach as Christ preached, we will preach about hell fire (Matthew 5:22,29,30). We will preach about separation from the world, the flesh, and those who are compromising the truth. Jesus plainly told His disciples, *"And whosoever shall not receive you, nor hear your words, when ye depart out of that house or city, shake off the dust of your feet."* Matthew 10:14 and Luke 9:5.

The cry today is "Fellowship," "Unity at all costs," "Keep low fences and shake hands often across denominational lines", "Set aside your doctrines and let us fellowship together." Amos 3:3 says, *"Can two walk together except they be agreed?" "Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing"* (II Cor. 6:17). Jesus said of His disciples, *"I have given them thy Word; and the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world"* (John 17:14). The idea of fellowshipping with Christ deniers and compromisers of God's truth and every new fad this broad-minded religious age generates is error and must be treated as such.

"Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution" (II Tim. 3:12). Godly living is a rebuke to this age. ***Godly living is spreading salt on a decaying world.*** When a person announces that he or she believes in the verbal inspiration of the Scriptures, believes in a church separated from worldiness and compromise, that person is looked upon as being "narrow minded, uncooperative, and weird." When in actuality all the dear believer is trying to do is to carry out God's command to be "salty".

The modern church resents and is irritated by the light of the Scriptures which exposes its corruption – corruption being carried on in the name of religion.

Salt must be applied to receive any benefit

Dear folks, salt is no good sitting in a bag. It has to be applied in the right place. Dr. T. L. Cuyler once wrote, *"A barrel of salt set in the corner of a butcher's stall is of no more use than a barrel of sawdust; it must be brought into contact with every inch of the meat in order to prevent decomposition. Spiritual salt is of little value to the community as long as it is barreled up in the Church, however orthodox may be the brand stamped on the barrel. The salt must be scattered so as to touch and to season those who are tending to corruption. How tenderly did the Lord Jesus Christ put Himself in contact with the diseased and the depraved. The book of Acts is the narrative of unbarreling and scattering the salt in communities infected with heathenism. The secret of the success for the Christian is to scatter the salt of Christ where the stench of depravity is the worst."*

Salt has to be applied in the right place. The church of the living God is to be a testimony to poor, lost sinners. But under the modern program we are told to fellowship

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Teaching Tips *by Doris Peppard*

Middle School Motivations:

At some point our students will "morph" into scholars, right? While we certainly will try to make the process as easy as possible, in reality, it can be quite scary or painful for some young people. It is almost as if some students want to stay elementary all their lives and let the teacher do the work to help them learn. There are several ways to help your middle school students become the "scholars" they can be. As the Army advertises, "Be all you can be!" we desire our young people to follow the message in this quote. Helping these middle school students requires patience, lots of love, diligence, and determination. In reality, you have to practice a form of "tough love."

A few, a precious few, students have an internal motivation to learn, study, and do their homework on their own. They commit to this work in order to satisfy their own inner drive. Abraham Lincoln was an example of a self-starter. As told in historical records, he once walked miles to return a book he had borrowed. Because we do not have many "Lincolns" in our school, we have to do the next best thing: motivate our students to rise to the occasion and do their best to become a scholar.

Noah Webstser's 1828 Dictionary defines a scholar as: "A person who is engaged in study; diligent; eager to discover something." Even though many of our students do not rise to the title of "scholar;" it is our responsibility to help them develop skills necessary to become one. Teachers can definitely teach their students to learn to care about their school work, to develop their character, and to motivate themselves to be successful at school.

1) Start with yourself! The students in your classroom were put there for you to motivate and inspire. We cannot allow ourselves to become "weary in well doing." Motivating and inspiring children requires a motivated and inspired teacher. Be excited about your lessons! Prepare new ways to teach old materials. Excitement is contagious!

2) Believe in your heart that your work has merit! Middle school science and yes, even English grammar are important for your students. They need to study their academic subjects to become an educated individual. Since we do not know what God has in store for these young people, we must have a heart and vision for every student and his or her future.

3) Be prepared and have a plan! Part of the planning requires personal involvement. Insist your students keep a planner with classwork, homework, due dates all recorded. Check these daily for accuracy. Assign each student a "watch dog," a student neighbor who checks their friend's planner for accuracy.

4) Help your students see the "big picture." Many students cannot see beyond the class period. When they see that this "education" is vitally important, they will put forth more effort. Our students need reminding that their work is valuable to their future – high school, college, and career!

5) For teaching organizational skills, try the notebook approach! Every student keeps every assignment in his own notebook. The teacher can keep a sample notebook also for students to copy-cat. This is especially important when anyone is absent a day or two! Ask a student to make a copy of his work to go into the sample class notebook. Even slow and uninterested students become eager to have their work put into the class notebook.

6) Give your middle school students a chance to "shine!" They need to feel that you understand and appreciate their worth. In elementary school, teachers will often put a student's work up on the bulletin board for all to see. We must look for opportunities to allow our students to excel and have a sense of pride in their hard work. Brag to other teachers (in public) when your students do exceptionally well on an assignment. Read work aloud

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A TRIUMPHANT REFUSAL

by Pastor John Ashbrook

This is part of a continuing series on Biblical Separation from the booklet by Pastor John Ashbrook entitled Axioms of Separation. This booklet is available from his web site, www.hereistand.org, or from us at www.childrensbibleclub.com for $2.00. I know of no other treatise of Biblical Separation that hammers home in a practical way the necessity of practicing Biblical Separation. (Editor)

At this point in the passage our prophet did one more thing, and it is the key to the whole chapter. The prophet's fourth action was to make a refusal. King Jeroboam was scared to death. God had fulfilled a prediction before his eyes. His arm had been instantly withered by God and then graciously healed. He knew that prophet was God's man. He spoke to his tormentor in a conciliatory tone saying, "Come home with me, and refresh thyself, and I will give thee a reward."

Right here we come to this prophet's finest hour. I think he stuck his index finger in King Jeroboam's mustache and waggled it, and he spoke the words of verses 8 and 9 with obvious contempt.

"And the man of God said unto the King, If thou wilt give me half thine house, I will not go in with thee, neither will I eat bread nor drink water in this place: For so it was charged me by the word of the Lord, saying, eat no bread, nor drink water, nor turn again by the same way that thou camest."

Then, turning on his heel, our prophet departed the scene. I have called this, "a scene of victory." It is always victory in spiritual things when a man simply obeys the Lord. I hope that you see, in this booklet, that my crusade is one for simple obedience to God's Word. New evangelicalism takes God's Word and mixes it with equal parts of human reason and modern culture to determine the way to go. We fundamentalists need to be reminded that we have only to take God's Word and obey it. That is victory.

Observe carefully, in this first scene, that the temptation to compromise came from the enemy. Jeroboam represents apostasy, unbelief, counterfeit religion. In our day the National Council of Churches and the ecumenical movement are the sworn enemies of the Bible-believing church. Yet the enemy sings to us the siren song of cooperation. There has never been a time in this dispensation of grace when the enemies of the Gospel have so actively sought the support of the Lord's people. The doctrine-free, false prophets of ecumenism are the respected apostles of our age. They turn to us with invitations to cooperate, share pulpits, join campaigns, reach communities and support good causes. The new evangelicals have heeded these siren songs and gone over to dialogue. The fundamentalist, as the prophet of old, must see them as the Devil's invitation.

PATTING WOLVES

Years ago I sat at our dinner table with a young man trained in Fuller Seminary. Our guest said, "I think of myself as a fundamentalist; but I have to confess that fundamentalists have been very uncharitable in their approach to the liberals. They have refused to dialogue with them and have failed to demonstrate Christian love toward them." He had absorbed the Fuller philosophy. Let me ask you, where in Scripture do you find the teaching that we are to treat false teachers with charity and the apostles of apostasy with Christian love? That is exactly the opposite of the teaching of II John on which we have already commented. Scripture terms the purveyors of false doctrine as "grievous wolves." The faithful shepherds of history have not dialogued with grievous wolves.

Had our prophet taken his dramatic stand against Jeroboam's heresy and then gone home with him to dinner, his actions would have belied his condemnation. God had protected him from that with clear orders. He has done the same for us.

I always wish that this chapter ended at verse 10. It doesn't. As we move on we see a second scene. We see the nameless prophet in a scene of compromise. That seems impossible.

To be continued. Next Issue: "A Scene of Compromise"

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with unbelievers, deceivers, compromisers and to take part in the seminars, association gatherings in order to prove to them that we are likeable! Jesus called them hypocrites, blind guides, fools: whited sepulchres full of dead men's bones (Matthew 23:23-29).

Dear friends, conservative evangelicalism is trying to develop a brand of religion which will not irritate the world, a brand of religion which will not offend the Sunday morning worshipper who lives like the Devil the rest of the week!

Christ said something else in Matthew 5: *"But if the salt have lost its savor, wherewith shall it be salted? It is thenceforth, good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men."* Salt loses its savor if it is contained for a long period of time. If it is not applied, it goes bad. You and I are to be salty. The Gospel irritates hypocrites and Pharisees – but every child of God should be salty for Jesus Christ to slow and stop the spread of corruption in their place of service.

Someone has said, and I think this to be accurate, *"I looked for the church, and I found it in the world; I looked for the world – and I found it in the church."* There is more truth than poetry in that statement!

The most uncomfortable place on earth for a lost sinner is in the presence of a consecrated Christian! The pure life of a child of God reproves the sinner of his or her impure life. The righteousness of God within God's child reproves the unrighteousness, which abides in the heart and life of the sinner. The Christian and the sinner do not think the same thoughts, they do not speak the same language, they do not sing the same songs, they do not love the same things nor enjoy the same pleasures. Therefore, the Christian is an irritant in this world.

New Testament Christianity teaches us to be good "separators", not good mixers. We are to have no fellowship with the unfruitful darkness of this world. We are to have no fellowship with any person who denies any part of the doctrine taught by Jesus: *"If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed; For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds"* (II John 10,11).

"Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt have lost his savor...it is thenceforth good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men" (Matt. 5:13).

Am I Salt or Sugar? Am I good for nothing? Two tough questions this soft generation needs to ask itself. Ω

Article Correction

In the summer 2011 issue, the author of *Evolutionary Parenting* mistakenly referred to the Dawkin's book as *The God Hypothesis*. This is a chapter title; the book's title *is The God Delusion*. We apologize for any confusion caused by this mistake. Thank you.

(Continued from page 7 - Middle School Motivations)
at times to let others know of exceptional work. Take advantage of any opportunity to let your students exhibit their new learning and achievements.

7) Hold your students to a high standard! Teach your students the old quote, "When the going gets tough, the tough get going!" Challenge your students to go above and beyond the textbook and course requirements.

8) Realize that growth is sometimes painful – growing pains are real! Students may feel like they are "bobbing" in a deep ocean without a life preserver. Let them know that you are there and that you won't let them "drown." Instruct your students' parents that learning *how* to learn is sometimes quite difficult, but you'll help. Parents must be willing to allow their children's grades to slip a bit before they really learn how to be a scholar. Natural consequences of "forgetting stuff in lockers," "leaving stuff at home," "didn't do my homework," etc. must sometimes be learned the hard way!

The Apostle Paul stated in I Cor. 13:11, "When I became a man, I put away childish things." The middle school years provide students the opportunity to learn how to put away childish ways and develop skills necessary to becoming men and women. Life may not always be easy and many trials may come their way; so, we must allow our students the opportunity to grow up, accept responsibility, and mature with love and respect as well as nudging, prodding, and sometimes forcing them to move beyond their comfort zone. Ω

Pray for the ministry of The PROJECTOR!

(Continued from page 5 - Proverb Practicals)
will teaching them this "hateful thought" that "all their righteousness is as filthy rags" do to their self-esteem?

What does God teach in His Word? **Come unto me all ye that are heavy laden and I will give you rest,** but we will not know we are heavy laden unless we believe God's Word. Without God's Word, how am I to know that I am a sinner, which goes against the world's teaching that it is OK to be who we are? The devil uses the status quo to bind people, but we are to teach truth. We are to teach that shame is God's servant to lead us to lowliness and wisdom.

Christ's saying, **"Whosoever humbles himself shall be exalted"** applies to all those who expect to live with Him. Every man, woman, boy or girl must go through shame on their way to Christ. Every individual must have a consciousness of guilt, an acceptance that they are not OK, and that they are a sinner who can only be made new by the direct act of God through Christ our Lord.

PRIDE

Pride in the Bible is never presented in a positive light. Pride is rebellion against God, for it attributes to self the honor and glory due to God alone.

Pride justifies itself by saying honor must be maintained, insult must be avenged, competitors must be vanquished, superiors must be equaled and surpassed. Our rights must be protected! Pride thinks and acts opposite of the Word of God. How foreign to the world and to most of us are the words of Jesus in Matt. 5:39-42, **But I say unto you, That ye resist not evil: but whosoever shall smite thee on thy right cheek, turn to him the other also. And if any man will sue thee at the law, and take away thy coat, let him have thy cloak also. And whosoever shall compel thee to go a mile, go with him twain. Give to him that asketh thee, and from him that would borrow of thee turn not thou away.**

One thing we should learn from this Scripture is that God does not want us to be a man of this world following its ways, culture, retributions, or desire for revenge.

God is making us into men and women of distinction; the world desires to make us into cookie cutter men and women following its culture.

Selfless Spirit

We are born-again to live on a higher plane. We are created in Christ Jesus to have a humble spirit, a modest spirit, a meek or lowly spirit, a non-strife producing spirit. The man of God is to have a well advised spirit, well advised as administered to him by the Holy Spirit of God, for there is no better advice than from the Word of God. Phil. 2:3 is the rule of life for the well-advised spirit: **Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves.**

The proud and contentious despise the advice of others and are their own worst enemy. The humble will not allow themselves to be drawn into contention and strife. **With the lowly is wisdom.**

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Stars of the Morning

Angel Wings

by "Aunt Carolyn"

Tim found Cissy working with cardboard and tinsel and muttered, "What, pray tell, is that?"

"*That*, dear brother, is a pair of angel wings for my costume in the Christmas play."

"Well, cardboard is as close as you will ever get to wings, let alone being an angel!"

"Mind your own business, Tim Baxter! Besides, I don't see any halo hovering over your head!"

Just then Mother came in and heard the stir. "What are you two arguing about?"

"It's okay, Mother. Cissy just thinks she's going to be a Christmas angel, and I said, 'No way!'"

Cissy retorted, "Huh, big brother! I might have been *born* an angel for all you know."

Tim nearly choked at that, and Mother stepped in. "No, my dear! I love you, but you were not born an angel! Nobody is born an angel. At times when you two were babies I called you 'my little angels,' but sometimes you showed your true sinful nature. You weren't born an angel, nor will you ever become one! God created angels to be His messengers and carry out His will. There are many unseen angels around us."

Cissy mused, "I know, but it's hard to understand when I can't see any of them – none!"

Mother replied, "But that doesn't mean that they are not there or not at work."

"Work!" Cissy puzzled. "What do you mean 'work'?"

"Well, the Bible tells of many times when angels carried out jobs for God. Do you know any?"

"Maybe, but I never thought about angels 'working'."

"Well, they willingly obey God, but it is not always easy. Do you remember when the archangel, Michael, was sent to help Daniel in Babylon? He said he had been on the way for three weeks but that Satan's angels had opposed him. And what about the angel who delivered Peter from prison? And what work did God give the angel, Gabriel, on the first Christmas?"

Cissy blurted, "Oh, he had to start long before Christmas, because he went to Zacharias, the priest, with a big surprise! He told Mr. Z. that his wife, Elizabeth, was going to have a baby."

Tim said, "Well, that may have been good news, but what was so surprising about it?"

Cissy answered, "Surprise? – more like a shock, because Zacharias and his wife were very old. But God made them the happy parents of John the Baptist, the special servant God sent to prepare the way for the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. It was a miracle!"

"Yes," said Mother, "And Gabriel soon had to deliver another message."

"Oh, I know, Mother, I know," chimed Cissy. "He appeared to the Virgin Mary to tell her that she would be the mother of the Baby Jesus! That was another miracle!"

"Yes, God was preparing heaven and earth for the birth of His Son as a human baby. Jesus became man to save us from sin. When Jesus was born, the sky filled with the light of God's glory, and Gabriel made the grand announcement! He no sooner spoke the words than the whole sky filled with angels praising God! What an exciting night! But after Christ's birth, the angels didn't go off duty. No, they watched over Jesus always. Even when He was mistreated, they were watching, but they did not always intervene, because Jesus was doing His Father's will. They did minister to Him after His forty days' temptation in the wilderness. On the cross, if He had called, the angels would have delivered Him from the awful agony, but Christ did for us what no angel could do. He *gave* His life, His sinless blood, to redeem us from sin and death."

Cissy murmured, "I wish I could be an angel."

"Well, the angels had the special privilege of announcing Jesus' birth, but you know you have a

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privilege that even the angels do not have?"

"What? What do you mean, Mother?" Tim was puzzled.

"Well, God gave the angels the joy of telling of the Savior's birth, but His birth wouldn't have helped us if later He had not also died for our sin and arisen from the tomb. If you are a Christian, God has given you, not the angels, the privilege of telling the wondrous story of Jesus' death, burial and resurrection, and of eternal life by faith in Christ.

"Well, I never thought of that! – We can do something the angels cannot do. That's amazing!"

"Yes, it is a privilege but also a responsibility. Sometimes I think that if an angel came to people they might be quicker to repent and believe the Gospel, but God gave us the task. He said, "Ye shall be witnesses unto me" (Acts 1:8). When someone receives Christ, Heaven rejoices!"

"That's wonderful," Tim said. "I guess in all our Christmas plans we should also be witnessing. Maybe wishing someone 'Merry Christmas' doesn't mean much if they don't know the One who gives true joy. We could give out some Gospel tracts. Cissy, will you come with me?"

"Sure! But you know, 'Aunt Carolyn' has a new Christmas tract for children, 'The Best Gift'. Kids like the story, because they all want gifts. Let's get some and be ready for opportunities."

Mother smiled. "I'm glad you want to tell the Good News. While you're at it, ask 'Aunt Carolyn' for the tracts in Spanish, too. Spanish speaking kids also need to know the Savior."

"Right!" Tim agreed. "We can say 'Merry Christmas' or 'Feliz Navidad!' Maybe the angels will be glad, but most of all, I pray the Lord Jesus Christ will be honored! Hurry up, Cissy! Forget your angel wings and get your coat! Let's go!"

Won't you also share the true meaning of Christmas? You may order the tracts, (English - "The Best Gift", or Spanish - "El Mejor Regalo"), on line at www.childrensbibleclub.com or call The Children's Bible Club, Toll Free: 1-877-626-7030. ($10.00 per 100 pack) "Aunt Carolyn" wishes all her boys and girls "Merry Christmas" and "Feliz Navidad" with the prayer that they will put the Lord Jesus Christ first in Christmas this year! Ω