

# The PROJECTOR

Dr. Dayton Hobbs, EDITOR

*"Projecting the Light of the Word of God on the Issues of the Day"*

## True Faith, True Love

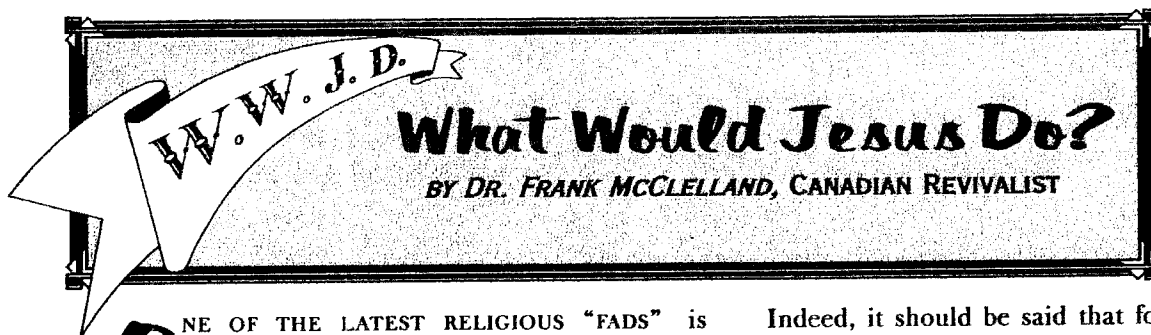
by Dr. Dayton Hobbs

**I**N CHAPTER ONE OF EPHESIANS, after the great exaltation of the Lord Jesus Christ and the gracious assurance of the work of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer, Paul prefaces his wonderful prayer on behalf of these believers with this commendation, "I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus and love unto all the saints" (Eph. 1:15). Here Paul recognizes two qualities concerning these Christians, qualities for which every preacher, evangelist, and pastor throughout the church age has looked as evidence that someone has been genuinely saved.

### FAITH

The first evidence is *faith*. He said, "I heard of your faith." You see, faith makes a noise; faith makes a sound. James put it a little differently.

In James 2:14, he wrote, "What doth it profit my brethren, though a man say he hath faith, and have not works? can faith save him?" In other words can *that kind* of a faith save him? The point is not whether genuine faith can save him. It certainly does. The point is can a faulty faith save? Can a faith that is not genuine save? "If a brother or sister be naked, and destitute of daily food, and one of you say unto them, Depart in peace, and be ye warmed and filled; notwithstanding ye give them not those things which are needful to the body; what doth it profit?" (verse 16). You haven't shown any compassion by your pious talk or empty words, "I surely hope you don't freeze to death." That will not be of any help or satisfaction when he goes out into the cold if you have a coat you could have given him. That's the point!

*continued next page*

**O**NE OF THE LATEST RELIGIOUS "FADS" is actually the resurrection of an older one. Christian bookstores are now heavily promoting the book by Charles M. Sheldon, *In His Steps*. Along with the book is a plethora of T-shirts, bracelets, necklaces, key rings, and other artifacts bearing the letters "WWJD?"—"What Would Jesus Do?"

As is the case with many of these innovations Christians are vulnerable, especially the young, and many innocently become promoters of something that they may not have tested themselves. It can often fall into the "It seemed such a good idea at the time" category.

Basically, when faced with some decision in life regarding how we ought to react, the idea is to ask "What would Jesus do?" and then modify our behavior in line with His.

Indeed, it should be said that for *believers* to follow the example of Jesus more would be an immense blessing to the church at large. Please note that we are speaking about *believers*.

However, the modern WWJD movement needs to be examined carefully before encouraging young believers to get involved.



### WHO WAS CHARLES M. SHELDON?

Charles Sheldon (1857–1946) was pastor of Central Congregational Church in Topeka, Kansas. He is mostly remembered for his novel, *In His Steps*, that has sold widely throughout the world. (The editor's 1937 copy estimates sales of over 22 million at that time.) That book lays the foundation of the WWJD movement of today.

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## MARCH WAS LETTER MONTH!

A SPECIAL "THANK YOU!" GOES OUT TO ALL OF OUR READERS WHO TOOK THE TIME TO WRITE AND SHARE WITH US THEIR FEELINGS ABOUT *THE PROJECTOR*. SOME OF THE MANY RESPONSES WE RECEIVED CAN BE READ THROUGHOUT THIS ISSUE. IF WE HAVEN'T HEARD FROM YOU, DROP US A LINE!

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"Even so faith, if it hath not works is dead... Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works" (verses 17, 18). That's a good standard: "Show me thy faith without thy works." You can't do it, not to any man. God sees your heart and knows whether you have faith or not, but to man, Paul and James both say, "Show me." You cannot show me your faith without your works. It is impossible to do, but James says, "I will shew you my faith by my works." I'll show you that I have faith by what I do. Watch me run. Watch me walk. Watch me go, and I'll show you my faith by my life. "Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble. But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?" (verses 19, 20). That kind of faith has no power and certainly will not quicken or make alive.

So Paul says here, "I have heard of your faith, your deeds, and your actions. I've heard how you have changed in your walk. I have received reports of what you do, how you act, and how you behave now as compared to how you used to live and act before you professed faith in Christ." That's what we seek in a convert—a change in works from the works of the flesh to the works of the Spirit! Faith brings that change in works, and if that change is not there, there is no genuine faith. Paul looked for works as one of the natural fruits of saving faith. He emphasized faith.

## FAITH REQUIRED

Faith is the one ingredient that God requires. Hebrews 11:6 settles that for us. "But without faith it is impossible to please Him!" That's a very simple statement. You don't have to have a high education to understand that statement. Without faith it is impossible to please God! The remainder of the verse says, "For he that cometh to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of them

that diligently seek Him." *Faith is required!* GOD NEVER TAKES UNBELIEF LIGHTLY! Not to believe God and take Him at His Word the very first time we hear it is the very worst sin one can commit. People consider murder, adultery, or child abuse to be the worst sins, but no, the worst sin a person can commit is to hear the Word of God and not believe it. Stop and think about that a moment. Let that thought soak in, because few people believe it. I hope the Lord will imprint that in your mind and heart. I wish I could stamp it as a frontlet before your eyes. The worst sin you can commit is to hear or read the Word of God and not believe it! All of our other sins, no matter how heinous they may be, were taken care of at the cross, but not to believe God cuts us off from His ability or opportunity to bless us. Do you understand that? God has the opportunity to save you because of Christ. He can forgive you your sin of adultery, murder, swearing, taking His name in vain, or whatever your sin may be, because God has already been reconciled. He says, "I want you to be reconciled to Me. I accept what Christ did, and I am already reconciled, satisfied. So I'll forgive your sin on the basis of what Christ did on the cross." On what condition? "That you believe Me—That you *believe* Me." So what is the sin that cuts you off? What is the sin that keeps you from reaping God's other benefits? It is the sin of *unbelief*.

It is strange, though, that this is the sin that is "respectable" in our churches. Nobody ever gets out of a church for the

sin of unbelief. No one gets excommunicated for the sin of unbelief. You may commit the sin of adultery or other sin and, oh, yes, the church may expel you or withdraw your "letter," but you may harbor the sin of unbelief, the worst sin of all, and nothing will ever be done.

If you are a true parent (I choose my words carefully), the thing you desire most from your children is that they believe your word, that they take what you say as fact and truth as far as you know it. Now we're human and may, therefore, be in error, but what we want is for our children to believe us, trust us, and take our word. When we try to warn our children of a danger or pitfall down the road, we want them to believe us. Now if they want to go ahead and jump into the pitfall, that's another thing, but we want them to believe what we said about the danger before them. By the same token, God wants us to take Him at His Word. It is made so clear in the Scripture. For instance, consider Zacharias, the father of John the Baptist. The angel, Gabriel, said to him, "Behold, thou shalt be dumb and not able to speak." Why? "Because thou *believest not* my words which shall be fulfilled in their season" (Matt. 1:20).

Perhaps you have seen the misleading bumper sticker that reads, "God said it; I believe it; That settles it." No! God said it; *that* settles it! It has nothing to do with whether or not you believe it! That's what the angel declared to Zacharias. "Thou believest not my words *which shall be fulfilled in their season*." Admittedly, the news that his wife was going to bare a son in her old age was a pretty difficult thing to believe considering her age. It may also have seemed strange that after all these years they had had no children and now in old age she was to bare a son. Yet God said this was to be, and Zacharias was to believe it. Do you see that? Believing does not make it happen, contrary to what some TV preachers imply. Believing simply puts you "in the loop," so you can enjoy the blessings involved in the fulfillment of God's Word. Faith has nothing to do with whether or not God is going to perform what He has promised, but if you don't believe it, you will be left out. God's program will go forward with or without me. I am not essential to God's program, but if I want to participate in it,



I have to believe Him. This is why faith is so important and why the first thing Paul noted about this church was, "I heard of your faith."

## REALITY

Faith plugs me into reality. An unsaved person living in this world does not know what reality is. To an unsaved person reality is what the television says it is; reality is what the scientists say it is; reality is what the anthropologist or the atheist says it is. That's reality to them. But reality, friend, is what God says it is, and if I want to get in on it, I have to believe it. It's that simple. You don't have to be wealthy or have extra training. No! You just have to believe it!

## THE WILL

Exercise your will! Everyone has a will and you can exercise yours! You can say "No," and nobody can transgress that "No." You can say "Yes," and nobody can transgress that "Yes." You can exercise your will or you can let somebody else speak your "yes" and "no." You can give the power of attorney over to your girlfriend. I remember well one night when preaching up in Alabama, a young man in the back of the audience was so visibly under conviction that you could see he was miserable. When I gave the invitation to receive Christ, he moved to step out into the aisle to come forward, but his girlfriend stepped right in front of him and blocked the way. She stood in the gate and wouldn't let him pass. He looked at her and pushed again. She kept standing there, and he backed off. He backed into the pew again. He may be in hell today, I don't know, but he had his opportunity that night to say "yes" to Jesus Christ. Nobody else can take the responsibility. This power of attorney cannot legally be passed to someone else. At the day of judgment, you are going to answer! You alone must stand to answer about this matter.

## UNBELIEF REBUKED

Unbelief seemed to be the one thing that brought strong rebuke from Jesus upon His disciples. Jesus told His disciples to get in the boat because

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# THE EDITOR'S DESK

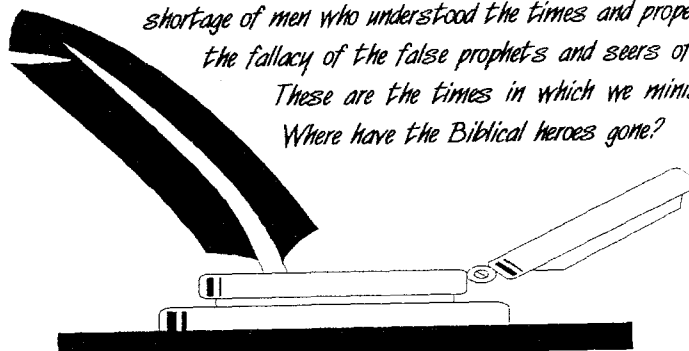
## HEROES

*Where Have You Gone, Elijah?*

"WHERE HAVE YOU GONE, JOE DIMAGGIO?" So goes the old song, and as this one, who was a great hero to millions of Americans, passes off the scene, it seems that most of the present "heroes" of America are not of the same mold as those of the past. A Dennis Rodman or a Mike Tyson will never fill the shoes of a Joe DiMaggio on his worst days. I'm certainly not speaking from the Christian viewpoint, as I have no illusions concerning the worldly lifestyle of the DiMaggios of the past. My point is, rather, the amazing degree to which the world's heroes have declined in character and class in recent decades, and it seems apparent that the same is true of our Christian heroes, the Christian's heroes in these days of apostasy. Where are the A.W. Tozers, the Harry Ironsides, the Chester Tulas, the Bob Jones, Sr's, and the many others who would be included in the long list of heroes of the faith of America's past?

We are signally void of such heroes in our day. Oh, we have many good men, faithful men, for whom we praise the Lord, but the fact is, from my perspective, that the giants of the past have departed the present scene. No national voices are crying out today against the vices and corruption inherent in modern day America's brand of fundamentalism. We are weak, anemic, and void of spiritual power, and the prophets have passed off the scene. Is there a reason? In my opinion, it is that the pressing apostasy an apostasy that many refuse to admit, is now present and choking back the ministry of the Holy Spirit to a great degree, and this is the heart of the matter. The mystery of lawlessness (spiritual lawlessness) was already at work in Paul's day, and Paul said that it would continue to work until the Holy Spirit is removed (II Thess. 2). That removal is "at hand," I believe, and the intense pressure of this great apostasy (falling away) has brought about the conditions we now see about us, which, by the way, are the conditions that always prevailed in the times of Israel's apostasy: (1) Great religious awakening, professing to be of God but in disobedience to His Word; (2) Time of great economic recovery and prosperity when they assumed, falsely, that God was blessing their corrupt worship; (3) A shortage of men who understood the times and properly exposed the fallacy of the false prophets and seers of the day.

These are the times in which we minister today.  
Where have the Biblical heroes gone? Ω





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## Following the Imagination of the Heart—Part II

by Tod Brainard

*But this thing commanded I them, saying, 'Obey my voice, and I will be your God, and ye shall be My people: and walk ye in all the ways that I have commanded you, that it may be well unto you.' But they hearkened not, nor inclined their ear, but walked in the counsels and in the imagination of their evil heart, and went backward, and not forward (Jeremiah 7:23-24).*

*For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds; Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ (II Corinthians 10:3-6).*

**J**EREMIAH WAS GIVEN AN UNPOPULAR TASK. He was to cast down the imaginations of the people of Judah by declaring God's judgment upon Judah in the midst of profound religious reformation.

We, as Judah of old, live in a day of religious fervor. Revival is the buzz word of New-Evangelicals, Charismatics, and Fundamentalists alike. Overflowing churches, large music programs, massive organizations, and influential pastors all seem to indicate that the visible church is alive and well. Yet God is proclaiming through His Word, "Your heart is far from me, obey my voice, and I shall be your God." The church, however, is too busy following the imaginations of the heart. There are imaginations about revival, about worship, about preaching, about music, about child-rearing, about Christian Education, about church growth, about soul winning, about missions; the list is endless. The church is full and overflowing with the thoughts and imaginations of the heart. It is the fearless preacher's responsibility in these days to "cast down imaginations and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God."

### A Militant Ministry

One of the prescriptions for the prevention of following the imagination of the heart is to have a militant ministry. In our passage in II Corinthians 10:4, the Apostle Paul introduces a military metaphor to describe the ministry of a true man of God. The panoply of God serves for the purpose of battling not only the Satanic onslaught, but also the pulling down of the strongholds known as the imaginations of the heart. Our spiritual weapons are divinely powerful for the overthrow of the imaginations of the heart. We are in a serious battle. Casualties are mounting in this battle. We had better remove the sword from the sheath and get busy (Jer. 48:10).

### Pulling Down Strongholds

Imaginations, high things, and thoughts are the strongholds to be overthrown, cast down, and brought into captivity to the obedience of Christ. Alford translates the first phrase of verse 4 this way, "Every imagination of the mind [heart], cast it down." The mind or heart of man is like a ball of clay. When dropped to the ground, that ball of clay will collect sand, grit, and trash as it rolls to a stop. There is no easy fix once the clay has been dropped. The only prevention is to not drop the clay in sand. So it is with man's mind and thoughts. This constitutes an admonition to the Church and particularly her pastors, for the temptation is always present to meet the challenges of the world, which is under the sway of Satan, with *carnal weapons*—that of human wisdom and philosophy, with the attractions of entertainment, with the display of massive organization. Not only do such weapons fail to make an impression on the strongholds of the imagination, but



actually serve to join a secularized church to Satan. *Who is going to pull down the strongholds of the Imagination?* God uses faithful men and women who stand with Him.

## The Imagination of the Heart At Work

### About Preaching

John Kilpatrick of the Brownsville Revival fame said recently, and I quote, "If preaching was the answer to turning this world around, it would have already done so" (Pensacola News Journal). Here is the imagination at work. The preaching of the gospel was never intended to turn the world around; it was intended to "call out a people for His name." God chose "the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe." The imagination says, "We must turn the world around!" The Scriptures say, "Cast down that imagination, and return to the Word of God."

### About Church Growth

Rick Warren of the Saddleback Community Church of California is purported to be a Dynamic Church Specialist. He wrote a book a few years ago on the subject and he listed five principles of church growth in the 1990's. Here are the principles as compiled by Dr. Greg McLaughlin in a message preached at the Fundamental Baptist Fellowship meeting of 1998 in Illinois.

1. Do away with traditional Sunday worship and replace it with non-threatening services.
2. Dress must be casual. All church staff must dress down—ladies no dresses.
3. Special needs and interests to the people of the church must be addressed. Compulsive behavior such as eating too much or sexual gratification needs to be handled through support groups. Those women who have had abortions need to have group therapy through the church.
4. The message should always be positive, only positive. Never preach doctrine in the morning service.
5. Music must be contemporary. Replace the organ with a band. The choir should never sing by itself, only with a soloist. Sing music that the people listen to during the week. There is great holding power with people if you perform the music that they enjoy.

So much for casting down imaginations. Here is the imagination of the heart in overdrive. No Scriptural basis, just pure imagination. Yet, you would be hard-pressed to find solid fundamental churches who do not practice at least one or more of these suggestions today.

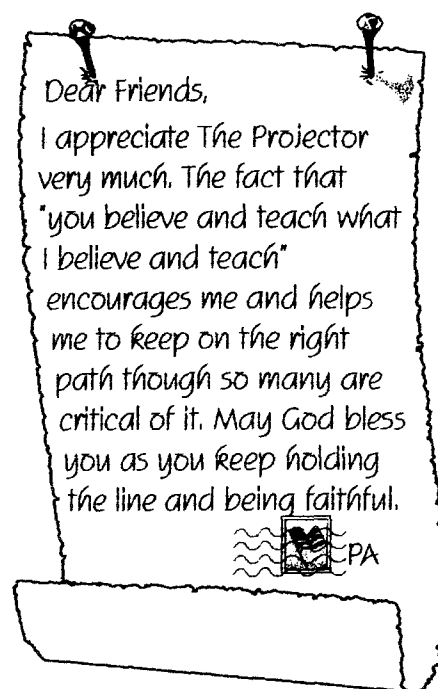
### About Music & Bible Education


The imagination of the heart is nowhere more apparent than in the area of music. People love their music. Honest, Biblical preaching on music will shrink a crowd faster than any other topic I know. There has been a slide in Fundamentalism over the past 20 years in the area of acceptable worship music. Boys and girls are not being taught the great hymns of the faith, rather they are being fed a steady diet of fun-loving choruses that emphasize self and good morals. A God-fearing, sin-hating consciousness is being replaced by a "playful, churchy" consciousness. Here the imagination of the heart runs wild.

How far have we come? Think about *who* we are allowing to teach our children today. The old-fashioned mom, dad, or Sunday School teacher who opened their Bible and gave the pure Word of God to boys and girls is being replaced with videos and tapes of funny, animated vegetables, sweet Donut Men, and singing, religious swash-buckling pirates. *Have we cast down any imaginations, lately?*

It is my contention that there is little "casting down of the imaginations" of the heart today in our pulpits and homes. We have become a society of "Christian Imaginators," rather than Imagination Destructors. There is a famine of hearing the Word of God today. Our end will be that of Judah's if we do not cease our love affair with the imagination of the heart and return to the faithful precepts of the Word of God for faith and practice.

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they were to go to the other side (Luke 8:22). They got in the boat all right, but when they got out into the middle of the Sea of Galilee, the storm raged. The boat filled with water and was ready to sink. The disciples looked, and there was Jesus sleeping on a pillow in the back of the boat. They cried, "Lord, don't you care that we are going to perish?" Jesus got up, rebuked and quieted the waves, and then He rebuked the disciples! Why would He rebuke them for being scared to death? If you have ever been out in a small boat in rough water with your heart in your throat and you weren't scared to death, you are not very human! Believe me, it's one of the most frightening experiences anyone can have! There is nothing solid around to stabilize you. Yet, at just such a time Jesus rebuked the disciples for their little faith. Why? Because He had already told them they were going to the other side! That should have been all He had to say. He didn't need to explain it to them. He didn't have to write a sermon and give them a four- or five-point outline. He simply said, "We're going to the other side," and they were to believe it! That's all the promise you have of getting to Heaven, you know. Jesus said that He is going to take you to the other side! Now are you willing to believe that He is going to take you to the other side or not? Are you willing to trust Him? Are you willing to put your confidence in Him, take Him at His Word, and believe Him?

Another time Jesus soundly rebuked His disciples for little faith is recorded in Luke 9, when they could not cast the demon out of the boy. Jesus rebuked the disciples sharply: "O *faithless* and perverse generation..." (Luke 9:41). Then He Himself rebuked the unclean spirit, healed the boy, and delivered him again to his father. Those closest to the Lord were called "*faithless*" and *that* paired with "*perverse*."

What a contrast in faith is seen in the first chapter of Luke with the angel's announcement to Zacharias of the coming birth of John the Baptist. When Zacharias was told of the birth of John, he said it was impossible. The birth of John came to pass just as God said it would, but Zacharias was struck speechless for nine months because he did not believe God.

In contrast, six months later the angel, Gabriel, came to Mary and told her God's plan concerning the birth of Christ. The Scriptures give her immediate response; "Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me *according to thy word*" (Luke 1:38). When Mary heard the seemingly impossible news that she was to be with child of the Holy Spirit without the instrument of man, she *believed* it. With that then came God's rewarding declaration, "Blessed is she that *believed*" (Luke 1:45).



## BLESSED OR CURSED

Yes, blessed is the one who believes, and cursed is the one who does not. That's just it. So the first thing that Paul recognized and extolled the church for was, "I heard of your faith." I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus (not your faith in the church, in a creed, or in some man who preaches on TV). Paul had heard of their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. The question is, where is your faith today?

Now Paul may not have personally known many of those who read his letters. Remember, this epistle was an encyclical epistle. It was passed in a circle to different churches that Paul had established throughout Asia. It was carried from church to church to be read, so Paul had not personally met some of the people, but he had heard of the good job they were doing. He said, "I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus." He couldn't see faith, as it is invisible; however, he could see the fruit of faith in their service.



## LOVE

The second thing Paul commended was, "And love unto all the saints." Now if he had just left out that word *all*, most of us would have no problem with this verse, but when he said that these folks had love unto *all* the saints, that nearly boggles our minds. That really makes us stop and weigh the matter. You understand, of course, that there are some saints we find easy to love because they are so lovable (those who

continued next page

# Proverb Practicals

by Ludwig Opager

**G**OD TAKES VOWS SERIOUSLY. If He makes a promise, we can count on His fulfilling it. God always keeps His Word and requires the same of His people.

God made us in His image, therefore, we are bound by any vow we make as God is bound by His Word. The Scriptures warn us not to make a vow unless we intend to keep it. "When thou shalt vow a vow unto the LORD thy God, thou shalt not slack to pay it: for the LORD thy God will surely require it of thee; and it would be sin in thee. But if thou shalt forbear to vow, it shall be no sin in thee" (Deut. 23:21-22). A vow has no inherent benefit of itself. You will not grow spiritually by making a vow, but if you vow and do not keep it, you have stepped into the trap of the adversary, Satan.

Consider the phrase in this proverb, "Devoureth that which is holy." To *devour* means to consume with greediness for one's own use. To devour that which is holy means to consume for one's own use that which has been separated unto God and belongs to Him for His use.

Remember the judgment that followed when Achan took the treasures of Jericho which had been separated unto God. Were not the goodly Babylonish garment, the two hundred shekels of silver, the wedge of gold of fifty shekels weight holy unto the Lord? Were they not separated by God to His service? What a snare in which Achan was caught. That holy thing which Achan devoured was simply bait placed in the snare and used by the devil to entrap him. And don't forget the awful defeat to the army of Israel, the death of thirty-six men, and the destruction of Achan's whole family, whose feet were also caught in the same snare!

You see, if you belong to Christ, you are HOLY, separated for God's use. You are a holy man or woman if you belong to God. The Christian who rebels takes that which has been dedicated to God and uses it for his own purposes, thereby denying God that which is rightfully His.

If you came to Christ, you came by a vow. "For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them" (Eph. 2:10). When you were quickened by the Holy Spirit, you came to Christ, and He gave you life for the purpose of your doing His will and His work. God says





***"It is a snare to the man who  
devoureth that which is holy,  
after vows to make enquiry"  
(Proverbs 20:25).***

that your time and whole being is holy, separated unto Him. Is not this vow a part of your salvation? Have not those of us who are saved vowed to serve the Lord and use the time that He gives us for His glory? We are not to give that which is holy unto the dogs or cast our pearls before swine! That which is holy belongs to the Lord, not to the dogs!

This proverb warns of a snare designed to entrap anyone who devours that which is holy and afterward inquires of God whether he really must keep his vow, as if to say, "Dear God, I know that I promised that I would serve Thee here, but it is so hard! Do I have to keep my vow? How may I be loosed from this obligation?"

Too many times we vow carelessly, perhaps in an emotional moment, then afterwards ask God how this promise can be retracted. Many are much more ready to make vows than to pay vows. Their life is built on shows of affection based on some emotional experience, stirring sermon, or moving scene.

Jesus said, "No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God" (Luke 9:62). The hand to the plow is the vow, and the looking back is the inquiry.

As Charles Bridges quotes Bishop Hall in his commentary on Proverbs, "He entangleth his soul in the snares of death, who resumeth unto a profane use that which is once consecrated unto God, and who, after he hath vowed aught unto the Lord, argues within himself, how to alter that holy purpose, and to defeat God of His due."

Mr. Bridges goes on to say: "Alienation of the gift proves the prior alienation of the heart. Let Ananias and Sapphira testify that God is a jealous God. Take care of rash engagements. Be faithful to upright engagements. Before entering into the service of God, make inquiry into its full requisitions. Beware of a religion of temporary excitement—far different from deep, solid, permanent principle. And whatever be the cost, be true to the consecration of thyself as 'a living sacrifice' on the altar of thy God."

Let those who serve the Lord Jesus Christ be careful in encouraging or pressing people to make vows to the Lord. This is an awesome responsibility and must be bathed in prayer and wisdom. Ω

think as we think and agree with us, or at least, say they do). Timothy was easy for Paul to love, as he was his son in the faith. Luke, the beloved physician who traveled with Paul, must have been easy to love. It wasn't quite as easy, however, to love Peter, impetuous Peter! As he grew older he may have grown easier to love, but Paul had to rebuke him soundly one time. That didn't mean he didn't love him. As a matter of fact, it meant he did love him. If Peter were wrong and Paul wouldn't rebuke him, that would have meant that Paul did not love him.

Some saints, on the other hand, are not easy to love (those who don't agree with us or think as we do). Some are just hard-headed and not as smart or smooth as we. They are stubborn, disagreeable, and not as lovable as we are. I suppose James, the Lord's half-brother, was probably Paul's thorn in the flesh when it came to the saints. In Acts 21 and 22, when Paul arrived in Jerusalem, James didn't give him much help. It seems clear in those chapters that James was not happy to see Paul come. I don't think there is any question that he would rather Paul had stayed out of Jerusalem. The Bible lays things out as they are, doesn't it?

## WILL TO LOVE

It is easy to deceive ourselves, but the Scripture teaches that we are to love as God loves. Now how does God love us? He loves us with His will. He does not choose suitable objects to love as we do. I may go outdoors and say, "What a beautiful plant. I must have one in my yard. Its so lovely." God didn't scan the globe, look at you, pick you out, and say, "Oh, he's so beautiful, she's so nice. He has so much possibility. If I could just get him saved I could bring out the best in him." Oh, the foolish thinking of men! God loved you, because He *willed* to love you. You were rotten, unlovely, no good, and worthy of hell. Everyone of us were, but He said, "I *will* love them anyway." That's the way we are to love. We are to *will* to love. You say, "I don't like that person in the church. He or she is stuck up; they do this or that." Well, you should see how you act! Yes! Yet some, in spite of that, love you. You should try thinking about loving the unlovely, you see, because you happen to be one of them. If the unlovely are not loved, you won't be loved, and neither will I! But thank God, that He *willed* to love. You see, it's the will!

## NEGLECTED SUBJECT

This subject of the will is often neglected by the church and by preachers today. God gave us a will. We can use it, and nobody can stop us from using it. It has no restrictions or hamstrings. It is ours to use. You can change your behavior, your actions, and your walk simply by the act of the will. When you "*will* to do His will [you] shall know of the doctrine" (John 7:17). Until you *will* to know His will you are not going to know much. You will get your theology and everything else wrong until you will to know His will and bow to that. That is what Paul is saying. Love for God's people is, after all, one of the acid tests of genuine conversion. "We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren" (I John 3:14). Why is that true? Because they are like us. If anybody could love me, I can certainly love them, and if I can love them, then that is the acid test that I have genuinely been saved. Love is the acid test.

Faith and Love. Paul commended the Ephesians for these two signal qualities. Ω

*Thank you for a publication that causes me to examine  
my beliefs, and those espoused by teachers around me.  
While I do not agree with everything in The PROJECTOR, there are many  
valuable articles. My children enjoy the children's stories.  
Your encouragement to us as believers to come apart from the  
world, to be separated, is a true blessing. Yours is a somewhat lonely  
voice.*





*continued from cover*

David Beale, in his *Pursuit of Purity*, traces the growth of fundamentalism in the United States since 1850. He also deals with the strands of contrary theology that furthered the need for the fundamentalist cause to be advanced.

One of those dominant strands is known as New England Theology, whose "Governmental Theory" of the atonement "virtually omitted any emphasis on the demands of God's holiness." The more radical wing of New England Theology "insisted that all sin is voluntary, not inherited."

One of its main proponents, Charles G. Finney (1792-1875), "denied the doctrine of the imputation of Adam's sin and guilt to his posterity." Finney became professor of theology at Oberlin College, Ohio in 1835 and served as college president from 1851 to 1865.

From Oberlin came two distinct theological trends—Pragmatism and Perfectionism. Oberlin Perfectionism "taught that man is capable of attaining *entire sanctification* in this life."

Hence, if man "can be entirely sanctified then society itself is also perfectible." This idea of changing society was "most popularly expressed in the work of Charles M. Sheldon."

His book, *In His Steps*, "presented a method for reforming society through the example of Jesus. Pragmatism and Pelagian Perfectionism blended naturally into WHAT BECAME THE SOCIAL GOSPEL" (emphasis *Canadian Revivalist*).

Thus, according to Beale, New England Theology, through the Oberlin College pillars of Pragmatism and Perfectionism, paved the way for "Humanism and the New Theology with its Social Gospel emphasis."

So we see that, what seems on the face of it to be an exciting way of motivating Christians, is actually a deadly theological virus that leads to liberalism.

In the foreword of the editor's 1937 edition of Sheldon's book is this statement: "The world has not yet tried the Jesus' plan in politics, business, amusement, and international dealing. As soon as it tries the Jesus' way, WARS WILL CEASE, race hatred will disappear, vices will be wiped out, money making will not be another term for greed, and civilization will be HEAVEN ON EARTH."

Now that sounds very nice and desirable. The problem is that it flies in the face, not only of the deeds of Jesus, also His words. He said there would be "wars and rumours of wars" until the endtime. He also said, "*Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword*" (Matthew 10:34). He would bring peace to the troubled heart that trusted in Him, but did not promise "Heaven on Earth."

### SHELDON'S BOOK

It must be remembered that it is a novel and not a factual story. The writer knows someone who read almost to the end of the book before discovering that it was not factual.

Sheldon read the book, a chapter at a time to his congregation, instead of preaching a sermon. "What Would Jesus Do?" I think He would preach because "*it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe*" (I Corinthians 1:21).

The book emphasizes following the *example* of Christ. But the Bible makes it clear that the salvation of the soul is not by the example of Christ, even though it was impeccable, but by the *sacrifice* of Christ on the cross.

Hence Sheldon's novel is a story with no Gospel—no good news to show helpless sinners the way back to God. Yet today it is being widely distributed to unbelievers and its message, inevitably, will leave them hopeless. The unbeliever needs to know, not so much "what would Jesus do?" but "*what has Jesus done?*" namely, on the cross for his sin.

### ANOTHER CONCERN

Developing the practice of asking, "What would Jesus do?" would seem reasonable. But the question arises—how does one determine what Jesus would do in any given situation?

If the answer comes from the Bible, well and good, for that is the only record we have of how Jesus lived and acted. The Bible is the *sole* authority in matters of faith and practice. But there is a real danger in speculation, no matter how well intentioned, especially among those who are novices and young in the faith.

What would happen if we were confronted, as Jesus was, by a weeping woman sore vexed by the illness of her

daughter? Would our response be as that of Jesus in Matthew 15? Would we do as Jesus did? Perhaps not, for our perception of what Jesus would do, would probably be wide of the actual mark.

Again, the foreword of the editor's copy would suggest a serious inconsistency. Much of it is taken up with discussing the number of copies of Sheldon's book that were sold. In 1937 they felt that over 2 million copies were sold.

"What would Jesus do?" Well, He would hardly be into boasting as the publishers are. Humility was one of the hallmarks of the life of Jesus, although if anyone had the right to honestly boast it would be the One who is the "*King of kings and Lord of lords.*"

An amulet is an object worn on the body to ward off evil spirits. Many wear crosses, and other objects, to secure some imagined, religious advantage. Others carry crucifixes, pictures, rosary beads to *remind* them of the duties of their religion. Protestants have always recoiled at the very idea which smacks of pagan superstition.

Is the present practice of wearing armbands with the letters "WWJD?" any more acceptable? And does it not seem to trivialize our blessed Lord when His holy and righteous name is reduced to the letter "J"?

The Jews treated the awesome name of God with great respect. Ought not we to do likewise?

The writer is also a preacher. Preachers use abbreviated sermon notes, yet never could I abbreviate the name of Christ to JC or our LJC even in private notes—it seems so irreverent.

"What would Jesus do?" if He walked into one of the modern Christian bookstores with its slick and garish displays of T-shirts, bracelets and brooches, bearing the letters "WWJD?"

"What would Jesus do?" when confronted by the multi-million dollar business of "marketing" Christianity today? Would He not rather take the legendary "*scourge of small cords*" and drive them forth.

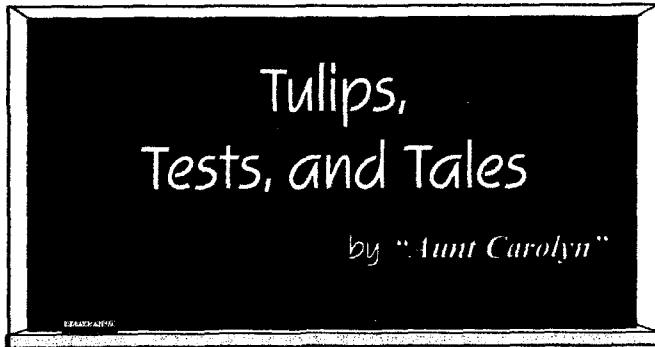
As Christians, let us not follow blindly after every religious fad. Let us be wise, and be wary. Ω

*From Canadian Revivalist.  
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# Stars of the Morning



THEIR STUDY OF THE NETHERLANDS with its windmills, canals, dikes, and vast fields of beautiful flowers had the class excited beyond containment. Every child wished he had an airplane ticket to Holland that very day! He, too, would wear wooden shoes, taste rich cheeses, and pick bright flowers. Jeter became so inspired by it all that he just blurted out, "Man, you oughta see my Mom's tulips! We have a whole yard full of 'em all across the front of our house!"



"Really?" the girls giggled in disbelief.  
 "Yeah, really!"  
 "Ah, I never saw any at your house," Tom Jackson scoffed.  
 "Well, you just didn't come at the right time," Jeter insisted.  
 "They are beautiful! Lots of bright yellows and reds!"  
 "Oooh," the class purred.  
 Teacher looked at Jeter a little skeptically but said nothing, for she had not been by his house lately. Though such a splendid garden seemed very unlikely, she would not want to accuse the boy falsely. After all, his mother had been laid off her job. Perhaps she had a lot of time now to work in the yard.  
 A friend chimed in, "Maybe you could bring a bouquet to school one day!"  
 "No! Oh, no," Jeter flushed. "No, my Mom won't allow them to be picked."  
 "Ah, too bad. I'll bet they're pretty."  
 "Uh-huh, they surely are!" Jeter crowed.  
 His big talk of his flowers and their beauty made quite an impression, but then the class had to move on to other lessons, and that ended that.

Lessons never got boring in Miss Katsky's room, and competition was keen for her approval.  
 Weeks passed. Jeter carried on his school activities the same as other boys. He did notice, however, that he was having to wriggle out of trouble with his mom or teacher more and more often. It wasn't easy, but he used every excuse he could think of to cover his trail for any wrongdoing.

It was just such a day when the teacher called him to stay after school. "Jeter, my dear, I am wondering about this math paper. It looks strangely like Tom Jackson's, who sits in front of you. Do you have anything you want to tell me?"  
 "No. No, Ma'am."

"Well, Jeter, did you work every problem yourself?"

"Yes. Yes, Ma'am. I surely did!" Jeter answered strongly.

"You did? Ummm." Miss Katsky mused. "That's strange. I was wondering how you came up with the same answers Tom has all the way through, even where his were incorrect."

Jeter felt his face flush. He jammed his hands in his pockets and stood speechless before his teacher. Miss Katsky said nothing for what seemed forever, giving him time to contemplate his situation. Jeter felt mighty uneasy and began to shift back and forth from one foot to the other, his eyes staring at the floor. "Now," Miss Katsky continued softly, "I'd hate to think one of my students would cheat, but that is what this appears to be. Jeter, did you copy answers from Tom's paper?"

"Who, me?" Jeter croaked. "No, Ma'am, I wouldn't do that!"

"No? Well, all of your answers are just the same as Tom's. If you did not copy from him, I wonder if he copied from you."

Jeter scuffed the floor with his feet. "Well, I don't know. I didn't see him if he did, but he sometimes turns around toward me, all right."

"Uh-huh. It hardly seems he could see answers upside-down so well that you would not notice."

"Well, I don't know," Jeter stumbled. "I couldn't say what Tom might do."

"No, no. I suppose not." Miss Katsky looked straight at Jeter. "Young man, are you sure you did not copy any answers from Tom? Are you sure you did not cheat?"

"No, Ma'am!" Jeter persisted. "I told you I would not do that, and anyway, my eyes aren't that good."

"Oh," teacher responded. "I didn't realize you were having eye problems. That's too bad. Maybe we should have you move to the front, closer to the chalkboard."

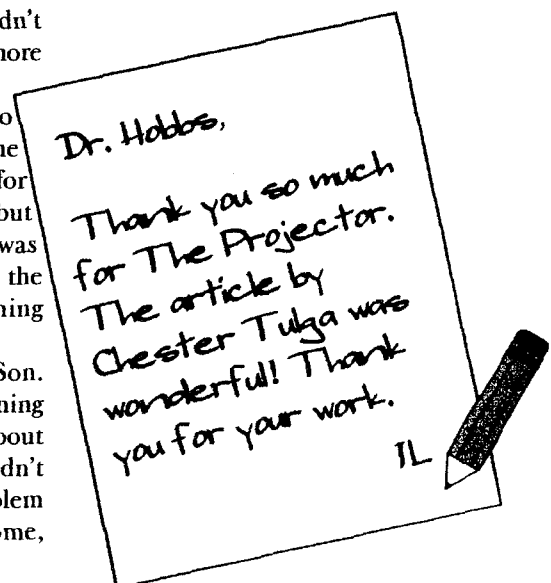
"Yes'm." Jeter surely didn't want to sit at the front near the teacher's desk, but right now it seemed like an agreeable idea.

"Well," she paused, "I guess that will be all for right now then. You may go."

"Thank you, Ma'am." Jeter wasted no time getting out of there. He didn't want any more questions!

He had to hurry home to make up for lost time, but Mom was standing at the door watching anyway.

"Hello, Son. I was beginning to worry about you. You didn't have a problem coming home, did you?"



continued back cover



## Teaching Tips

by Doris Peppard

### "JUST THE FACTS, MA'AM!"

Technology can be a wonderful thing, but the best computer is still the "neck-top" (the human head) type. We try our best to fill it with the facts that will help our students process information to solve problems daily. Knowing the facts may not be an end in itself, but without knowing those facts, our students would have no tools with which to work.

Modern educators have often scoffed at the use of drills as boring, mindless, robotic exercises. Well, it is true that drills are exercises. But exercises stretch our minds rather than dull them. This method is Biblical. The Children of Israel were instructed to drill their children about God and His goodness to their people "when thou sittest, when thou standest, when thou walkest in the way." They were even to write God's Law on their doorposts. The right teacher can make drills interesting and exciting for his or her students.

Ideas to try:

1) *Flashcards*: Don't leave home without them! They are fun to use if you don't spend too long at the drill. These work best when used here a little, there a little.

2) *Fasten a Flashcard*: Pin one flashcard on each child's shirt and every time they are called upon, make them review their "fact for the day." I know a teacher who called on the children by using their fact rather than their name one particular day: "Hello,  $5 + 4 = 9$ !" The children had no trouble recalling their fact after that.

3) *Post a Door Pass*: Put five math facts or letter cards on the door of your classroom. Students recognize these every time they come or go.

4) *Highlight a "Problem of the Day"*: Practice and make an extra effort to drill a certain problem often through the day.

5) *Feature a "Math Minute"*: Spark a one minute drill of addition, subtraction, multiplication, or division. Capitalize on this workout often.

6) *Build a Time Line*: This is an excellent way to teach historical facts in chronological order.

7) *Promote a Spell Down*: Start with a spelling list, then move back to previous lists. Final round words should be challenging. When children are put out of the race, have them write every word called out so they will not allow their own minds to wander.

8) *Emphasize Listening Drills*: These are probably the toughest to practice, but they really help. Children learn to pay attention to details. Short lists (groceries, chores, events, etc.) help children focus on concentration. Read or tell a short story and then ask questions concerning details. Use words like first, second, third, etc. to help children learn to think in an orderly fashion.

These drills are like all exercising: it hurts before it gets better. The training involved is critical to young children, so we must make every effort to meet this need.

Ω



## The Portrait

by T. T. Shields

There was a man who died in England, so far as was known, without an heir and without leaving a will. His solicitors looked everywhere for his last will and testament, but they could find none. They found only a word of direction, a scrap of a will, that the contents of the house should be sold by public auction at a certain time after his decease.

On the day appointed people came together to buy rare pictures and other things of value. There were works of art by the old masters that brought fabulous sums, some of them hundreds of pounds; and some, even thousands. In the course of the sale the auctioneer held up a little picture. It seemed as though he regarded it as being of little value, but he offered it for sale. No one seemed to be interested in it, and although he offered it again and again, no one bid; he could get no offer at all.

Presently when there was a lull in the proceedings, an old lady timidly approached the auctioneer and said, "You offered a picture for sale just now, but nobody wanted it. I wish I could have it."

"What do you want of that picture?" the auctioneer inquired.

The old lady replied, "Nobody seems to know what it is. It is a portrait of the deceased gentleman's son. I was a nurse in the family when the child was born. I loved his mother, and when he was a little fellow I loved him for her sake. He grew into a fine lad, and I learned to love him for his own sake. When he was a young man, suddenly disease laid its hand upon him, and took him off in a few weeks. His mother soon followed him to the grave, and his father was left desolate: and not long after he went the way of the other two. Now they are all gone. Nobody seems to know, and nobody seems to care. I thought if I could only have that picture to remind me of all their kindness to me I should feel that I had a real treasure."

"Then," said the auctioneer, "why did you not bid for it?"

"Because I have nothing, sir, with which to buy it."

"You have no money at all?"

"All I have in the world is a shilling."

"Very well, then offer your shilling. I have instructions to sell everything without reserve. I will put the picture up for sale again, and you offer the shilling, and if no one offers more, you shall have it."

After a while the auctioneer again held up the picture and said, "How much can I get for it? How much am I offered for this?" The little old lady held up a shilling between her thumb and finger, and the auctioneer said, "I am offered a shilling. I am offered a shilling." Nobody offered more, and presently he knocked it down to her. She put it under her shawl, and, all interest in the sale being over for her, she started for home.

She determined to give the picture of her dead master's son the place of honor in her house, to put it before the door so that nobody could cross the threshold without seeing it. She rearranged her poor pictures on the wall, and as she was about to hang her new treasure, she discovered that the back was somewhat bulged. She tried to straighten it, and as she pulled out the tacks something inside rolled up, and dropped on the floor and she picked up a stiff document. She took it to the window and read it over and over and over again. Little by little it dawned upon her intelligence that she had stumbled upon the last will and testament of the deceased multi-millionaire.

The terms of the will were very brief: "I bequeath all my estate, without reserve, to anyone who loved my son enough to want his picture."

The old lady discovered that she had become heir of her master's estate because she loved his son.

"Whosoever loveth is born of God." Open your heart to Jesus Christ. Pray that He may be formed in you—the hope of glory. Ask for His picture, the restoration of God's image in you; and with that prayer all the wealth of heaven shall be yours, for "all things are yours; and ye are Christ's; and Christ is God's."

Baptist Bible Tribune, March 15, 1999



continued from page 9

"Oh, no, Ma'am." Jeter didn't mention being detained by the teacher. Some things were better left unsaid.

"Did you have a good day at school?" Mom asked.

"Sure!" he quipped. "I mean, yes, Ma'am. I surely did."

"Well, your snack is on the kitchen table. After that, get your clothes changed and get your chores done."

"Yes, Ma'am." Jeter went right to it. This was not the day to poke around.

With chores done, supper finished, and the evening nearly wrapped up, Mom took down her Bible for Devotion Time. She mulled and mused a little, then turned to Proverbs, chapter 19, and began reading.

"Verse 5," she began. "'A false witness shall not be unpunished, and he that speaketh lies shall not escape.' (Verse 9) 'A false witness shall not be unpunished, and he that speaketh lies shall perish.'"

Jeter felt uneasy and stuffed his feet up under himself in the chair. "What was Mom up to?" he thought. She must have hand-picked tonight's verses just for him. How did she know? What did she know? Ω

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VA

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OH

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