



The PROJECTOR

Dr. Dayton Hobbs, EDITOR

“Projecting the Light of the Word of God on the Issues of the Day”

"Unto them
that look for him
shall he appear the
second time without
sin unto salvation"
(Hebrews 9:28)

THINKING BIBLICALLY

By

Dr. Dayton Hobbs

Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near: Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts (Isaiah 55:6-9).

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 Cor. 10:5).

I suppose it is all right to “think outside the box” as long as you don’t think outside The BOOK. As believers, we are not at liberty to study and evaluate all the various ideas and philosophies of men, giving credence to thinking that is anti-biblical. It has often been said that we are “people of the Book,” meaning the Bible, of course. The standard for our thinking is “bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ” (II Cor. 10:5b). As in all of God’s standards, this standard is absolute, that is, there is no wiggle room in it. We as believers, being the fallen sons of Adam, are unable to keep this standard perfectly, as is the case in all of God’s standards; however, the

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A Good Name

By

Ludwig H. Opager

Proverbs 22:1 — A good name is rather to be chosen than great riches, and loving favor rather than silver and gold.

Recently I have been reading from the book of I Chronicles which can sometimes be very tedious because of the great lists of names. I have taken it as a challenge to try to pronounce all the names but fail many times because most are unfamiliar, perhaps appearing in the Bible in that place only. But every so often a familiar name appears which seems to be one of the rewards for taking the time to read this book. Going through these lists is like mining for gold and finding a rare, valuable

nugget. It is interesting to see that some of these names have survived for use in our day, but most have fallen by the wayside. Adam and Seth have survived, but who calls their son Ham? We still use Dan, Joseph, and Benjamin, but where are the Issachars and Zebulons?

But these lists are in the Word of God for a reason. These lists of people, who lived long ago, include some who lived for God and many who did not. Some of those names given immediately bring to mind a person we know much about and also brings to mind the character of the person whose name is displayed in the Bible. That

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GUEST EDITOR'S DESK

by
Tod Brainard

There are two types of giving. There is that kind of giving that has no obligations or strings attached, and then there is that kind of giving that has the expectation of repayment in some form or another.

Recently while studying for a series of messages from the book of Galatians, I was reminded of the Greek word "didomi." The word in its context means to give or to bestow with both hands. In other words, this kind of giving requires no expectation of repayment.

Dr. J.B. Williams in his autobiography, *God's Leading Hand*, tells of arriving in Dahomey (Benin), West Africa and having to immerse himself and his family in the culture. Some months after arriving, Dr. Williams was teaching in the Bible school, and he handed a notebook to one of the boys in attendance. The boy took the book and another boy reached over and slapped the boy on the head. After class, Dr. Williams pulled the boy aside and asked him why he slapped the boy who had taken the book. He answered, "Batudi (Dr. Williams), he did a very impolite thing." "What was that?" he asked. "He took the book from you with one hand, which is impolite; he should have taken it with both hands." "Why with two hands?" he asked. "When we receive something from another and we know it is without cost and nothing is expected of us for it, we receive it with two hands. Likewise, when we give something to someone with two hands, we do not expect anything for it; therefore, it is accepted with both hands," he replied. Dr. Williams used that

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is what names do. I'm sure you know people that when their name is spoken certain emotions arise within. We have good thoughts or bad thoughts or no thoughts. We hear the name Hitler, or the name Judas, or the name David, or the name Jesus, and for each, different emotions well up. So there is more to a name than just how it sounds, just how it plays off the lips.

This thought should be remembered by prospective parents who agonize over choosing their baby's name in order to have a first, middle and last name that provides a smoothness of flow, almost rhythmic, if you please. Along that line, there are some names that fit together well and some that sound like a mismatch. Much work of parents, who agonize long to get the right sound and flow to their daughter's name, has been quickly undone when she marries a man whose name no longer sounds good with their selection. Mary Louise Johnson is now Mary Louise Jabloneski.

We may think that a name is a sound that we respond to when our attention is desired. When you are called to supper you know that it is you who is called by recognizing the sound of your name. The postman knows where to deliver mail because of names that are written on the envelope. But do these sounds and letters have anything to do with the name by which God knows you, the name that obviously has great value, the name that is meant in this Proverbs verse?

What's In A Name?

Juliet, of Shakespeare's play, "Romeo and Juliet," asks of Romeo, "What's in a name? that which we call a rose by any other name would smell as sweet." This classic play is about two young people who fall in love but are members of two warring families. By this question Juliet tells Romeo that a name is an artificial and meaningless convention, and that she loves the **person** who is called "Montague," but not the Montague name and not the Montague family.

She says to Romeo:

What's Montague? It is nor hand, nor foot, Nor arm, nor face, nor any other part Belonging to a man. O, be some other name! What's in a name? that which we call a rose By any other name would smell as sweet; So Romeo would,

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The Projector



EDITOR

Dr. Dayton Hobbs

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CAN A TRUE BELIEVER APOSTATIZE?

by
Pastor Tod Brainard

There is no question that we are living in the last days. How far into the last days we are, no one can tell, but we are without question further into days of apostasy than most are willing to admit.

What is Apostasy?

There is “the falling away” that the Apostle Paul tells us about that pre-dates the Second Coming of Christ. This “falling away” is not about just any departure from the faith but about a special and well-known one. It is the apostasy that will come before the Day of the Lord. II Thessalonians 2:3-4 says, “Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come (the second coming of Christ), except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.”

The phrase that catches the eye is the expression “...except there come a falling away first.” The root word is *apostasia*. Apostasy does not mean merely disbelieving but rather a gradual defection from revealed truth ending in a revolt against that revealed truth. Paul gives in detail the nature of this great departure from the truth that is taking place in I Timothy 4:1-3

and II Timothy 3:1-5; 4:3-4. In these passages he says that this gradual defection was occurring in his day and would continue.

Who then is falling away and from what?

The answers to these questions are found in II Thess. 2:7-12, “*For the mystery of iniquity doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way. And then shall that Wicked (One) be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his brightness of his coming: Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they receive not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie. That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.*”

“They” and “them” mentioned in the text are clearly unbelievers. Matthew 24:23-24 reads, “*Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; believe it not. For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were*

possible, they shall deceive the very elect.” This passage indicates that it is **not possible** for the elect (the regenerate believer) to be deceived by “*the lie*”.

Apostasy Understood Biblically

- 1) The “mystery of iniquity” referred to by Paul (II Thess. 2:7) that had begun in his day is a reference to “the falling away” of the last days.
- 2) Apostasy is among unbelievers, not believers. The “falling away” is from “the **love** of the truth that they **might be saved.**” Unbelievers (tares) apostatize, believers (wheat) **may** compromise, but **never** apostatize. Wheat never become tares. If we keep that important distinction we will avoid putting the label “apostate” where it does not belong.
- 3) This “falling away” is not a reference to the Rapture as some teach. “Apostasia” is never used in a good sense. It is clear from Scripture that the Day of the Lord will not come until the great apostasy sweeps the earth.
- 4) A saved man or woman is never referred to in the Scripture as an “apostate.” Only unbelieving men and women are referred to as “apostate” (Hebrews 6:4-6;

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desire should be there. The heart of the believing child of God desires to think in harmony with the Word of God; to know God's ways, not just His works. "He made known his ways unto Moses, His acts unto the children of Israel (Ps. 103:7). When the Word of God approves, we must also approve. When the Word condemns, then we must also condemn. We citizens of heaven have no choice in the matter. We may not always understand God's view of a particular matter, which is certainly understandable when you consider the pea brain which we bring to the table; however, we must wholeheartedly, without reservation, endorse and actively support the position given us by God in His Word. We are to go slowly in questionable areas, where good men may differ in interpretation.

The Mind of Christ

Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God; But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men; And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross (Phil. 2:5-8).

In order to think biblically, we must make every effort to know what God meant; what His mind is in any particular passage. This, of course, involves the work of the Holy Spirit in our behalf, as He certainly has the mind of Christ and has promised to teach us truth. *But ye have an unction from the Holy One, and ye know all things. But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in him (1 John 20, 27).*

The same qualities found in Christ, as He took upon Himself the form of a servant, need to be found in us.

1. The humbling of ourselves, losing our man acclaimed reputation.

2. Obedience unto Christ even unto death.

3. Taking on the role of a servant even as Moses, who esteemed "the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt..."(Heb. 11:26).

Think Objectively, Not Subjectively

To think objectively means to think without bias or prejudice; with reason. Subjective thinking brings the feelings and emotions into the process. The temperament or opinions of the person doing the thinking overshadow the facts. This thinking is generally incapable of being checked externally or verified by other persons. "Just the facts,

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were he not Romeo call'd, Retain that dear perfection which he owes Without that title:--Romeo, doff thy name; And for that name, which is no part of thee, Take all myself.

In Juliet's question "What's in a name," we can see that a person's given name does not automatically reflect the person. A person's name that is given at birth is not what God is talking about in this proverb.

A rose by any other name would smell as sweet! The word *rose* in Polish is RÓŻANY. Does a rose smell less or more sweet in Poland because it is called RÓŻANY? In Spanish, the word *rose* is *rosa*, in Italian it is called *sorto*, and the Dutch call it *de roos*, while in Portugal it is called *rosa*.

Even though the rose is called by many names it emits a beautiful, immediately recognized fragrance. In other words, a characteristic of a rose is its beautiful perfume, its beautiful fragrance. The name the rose is given and what letters spell its name is irrelevant to the intensity of its fragrance. A German, French, or Polish rose smells as sweet as a rose in America. The name of the rose does not increase nor decrease the delightful perfume of the rose.

Many names are chosen because they describe a characteristic of that which is named. There are towns that boast of their characteristics by naming themselves Happy Camp, CA, Smileyberg, KS, Friendly, WV. There are also towns that obviously don't boast, such as Boring, OR, Dinkytown, MN and Embarrass, WI, or even Oddville, KY. There are towns that make you hungry, such as Big Rock Candy Mountain, VT, Hot Coffee, MS, and Two Egg, FL. There are even towns that make you itch, such as Bugscuffle, TN, Fleatown, OH, and the town in which I live that is sometimes called Scratch Ankle.

Britain has towns with names like Crackpot, Fattahead, Goonbell, Giggleswick, Wigglesworth, Nether

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Proverb Practicals

By Ludwig Opager

Proverbs 19:11— The discretion of a man deferreth his anger; and it is his glory to pass over a transgression.

Discretion is that ability to judge critically of what is correct and proper, united with caution, and primarily regards one's own conduct.

Using this definition to paraphrase the first half of this proverb, I can say it this way: **The ability to judge critically what is correct and proper will put off anger to perhaps another time or may put it off all together.**

TIME

Discretion takes time. It takes thought. The mind is engaged when discretion is being used. Emotion gets in the way and tries to barge ahead of discretion, but discretion is in charge of emotion and tells it to cool off until reason comes to bear. Time with reason will weaken the strength of any emotion. Discretion is a power that is of great value to a man or woman, because it has immense positive effect on something that can be very harmful to a person. Discretion should be sought from the Lord!

CONTROL

Do you have discretion? If you do, it is a tool that will hinder anger from coming too quickly. It is a tool that applies the brakes to anger and causes anger to take a back seat and wait to be called at the proper time. Discretion may not eliminate anger because anger is not supposed to be totally eliminated in all cases. The Bible says in Eph. 4:26, **Be ye angry, and sin not: let**

not the sun go down upon your wrath. So there is a time to be angry, but this verse tells us that deferring anger is of great value. God tells us that there needs to be an interval between that emotion which rises in us and any outward manifestation of that emotion that comes with anger.

Anger has a place in life. God displays His anger, and God expects us at times to be angry. But because we are sinners, God gives us a controller of anger and that controller is discretion. God knows our frame, and He has given us the tools that we need to be wise as we go about our daily living. God desires that we not be quick in expressing anger either out loud or within ourselves.

See what He says in other proverbs about anger.

Prov. 12:16 — **A fool's wrath is presently known: but a prudent man covereth shame.**

Prov. 14:29 — **He that is slow to wrath is of great understanding: but he that is hasty of spirit exalteth folly.**

Prov. 15:18 — **A wrathful man stirreth up strife: but he that is slow to anger appeaseth strife.**

Prov. 16:32 — **He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty; and he that ruleth his spirit than he that taketh a city.**

Even *Poor Richard's Almanac* talks about anger: "A man in a Passion rides a mad Horse." "The end of Passion is the beginning of Repentance." "Anger is never without a Reason, but seldom with a good One."

William Penn said, "Every stroke our fury strikes is sure to hit ourselves at last," and Ralph Waldo Emerson said, "A man makes his inferiors his superiors by heat."

WISDOM

Do you want to know if you have discretion? Do you want to know whether you are a wise man or a fool? How do you handle an affront? This is the test that reveals whether or not you are a slave to your own passions. The world tells us to get even, to render insult for insult, but the Christian standard is "not rendering railing for railing, but contrariwise blessing." A fool will not allow any semblance of an affront to be unanswered, but the wise man will not only defer his anger but will also pass over that which offends and even figure out a way to make the whole event a blessing. The wise man, by appropriating the grace of God, comes to a point in life where it is his glory to pass over offenses.

Do you think that every transgression against you ought to be mentioned? Passing over or letting an affront that you receive pass without mention is a godly thing, but only with discretion is such a thing possible. Find out your discretion quotient. See if you are able to take a pass on the next transgression that raises its head toward you. Ω



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Ma'am, just the facts." A few examples of each manner of thinking may be in order.

1. Objective thinking.
 - a. Using the faculty of our God-given reasoning ability to get at the truth.
 - b. Use of DNA evidence to determine guilt or innocence.
 - c. The claim that "the spin stops here." I said "Claim," for many may question this.
2. Subjective thinking. We could list examples of this for many pages; however, we will limit them to a few, and you can add others for yourself.
 - a. A mother's account of her child's reaction to authority.
 - b. The defendant's account of the crime, or non-crime.
 - c. The tear-jerking story the preacher uses at invitation time.
 - d. The ability of the product of the advertiser to heal any problem you may have.
 - e. News reporting which contains a great deal of subjective material. A crying woman, a bloody corpse, a neglected child usually brings forth a subjective response.

Think in Absolutes

Absolutes are denied by the educational and scientific

culture of our time. Their cry is that there are no absolutes, which, of course, is an absolute statement, but that doesn't seem to bother them.

Absolute: Definition – Perfect; complete, whole, not mixed, pure, not doubted, real. (Webster's New World Dictionary). It becomes obvious that these words add up to what we find in the Bible. Absolutes have to do with truth; the way things should be, not necessarily the way we find them. God lays out the perfect condition of a proper Biblical marriage, what God intended the marriage to be as patterned after Christ and His bride, the Church. God lays out the perfect conditions in any area; however, we find ourselves most of the time missing the mark. We all live in gray areas, not in the absolute state God designed, but we can always look to God's Word to see the standard, the absolute, the way God designed things to be. We create the less-than-absolute condition and have to live in it. We will never meet God's absolute standards; however, we must not lower His standard. Grace is designed to help us to live in the imperfect world, which we create because of our inability to live up to God's absolutes.

Ω

(Continued from page 4—A Good Name)

Poppleton, Yonder Bognie.

What about their town called Ugley! Would you be happy to be a member of the Ugley Men's Social Club that meets every month in the Ugley Village Hall? Nearby Ugley are the hamlets of Nasty, Snoring, and Seething. Headlines in local papers are such as, "Nasty Woman Weds Ugley Man," or "Snoring Man Takes Seething Bride." Where these names came from I do not know, but perhaps some describe something about the area or the people.

You Choose

Very few of us get to choose the name that is legally attached to us, but in this proverb Solomon tells us that we can choose our name. We have a choice in what name we have, for the name that is referred to in this verse is a name not given but a name that has been chosen. The name in this verse does not speak of the name recorded on a birth certificate but describes the name earned in life, that which reveals our character and not our reputation.

The difference between reputation and character can be very wide, the difference between estimation and the actual.

Reputation is: The estimation in which a person is generally held; the position a person occupies or the standing he has in the opinion of others, in respect to attainments, integrity and the like.

Character is: The combination of moral and other traits which make one the kind of person he actually is, as contrasted to what others think of him.

So reputation is not necessarily reality, but reputation may be simply the image that is portrayed. A man named Elbert Green Hubbard (1856–1915) said: **Many a man's reputation would not know his character if they met on the street.** As Christians we are not to accept image as reality, reputation as character. But this is the age of image, of reputation building that has no connection with character.

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Thanks!

to all our Projector friends who have shown support for this printed ministry by their Letter Month response through gifts, addresses, and words of encouragement. It means more than we can say! Thank you!

(And it isn't too late for any who intended to send but have not. The same address still works.)



Teaching Tips

by Doris Peppard

What Kids Need to Know about Their Teacher

There are five basic things kids need to know about their teacher.

- 1) **My teacher loves to serve God.** True servants are happy in the service of their King, and this happiness comes from the joy God gives believers. Joy comes in finding God's will and then doing it. As Jesus said, "My yoke is easy, and My burden is light." Often during the middle of teaching a lesson, I will catch this thought running through my mind: "I can't believe that I'm getting paid to do this." God is good to allow us the opportunity to be a witness to and teach boys and girls. If you are teaching just to bring in additional income for your family, your students will know that it is "just a job." Be careful that you present Christian service as a ministry to which God called you – not "just a job."
- 2) **My teacher will provide structure.** Kids, by their very nature, require structure, order, and a feeling of safety. This is provided when they know someone in authority is in control of their classroom. Teachers can accomplish this by having clearly defined rules and making sure that the room is safe and comfortable. The atmosphere in your room should be clean, relaxed (without being loose), and consistent. Students should always know "what comes next," because their teacher always does it that way. This "glorified rut" gives students confidence that allows them to settle into their day.
- 3) **My teacher is a genuine person.** Beware! You cannot fake out a child. They are usually better at reading people than adults. Kids will work harder for you if they like the person that you are. Although teachers should not worry about whether their students like them or not, they should work hard to be a likeable person. You can let down your guard without letting down your standards. You can enjoy teaching the lessons and make your lessons memorable by occasionally using personal glimpses into your life that will allow the students to know the real you. Let your students know that you will do whatever it takes to help them learn. All students enjoy having a teacher who is willing to share his/her heart with others. Take a moment to think about it - the teachers that are most memorable to you are probably those with personable character traits.
- 4) **My teacher lets me know the rules.** We should never discipline children if we do not love them, and you cannot love them if you do not discipline them. This Biblical principle should be carried out in every Christian School classroom. Our rules and regulations must be spelled out clearly so that there is no question in the child's mind when it comes to right and wrong. There are really only three necessary rules: 1) do not talk without permission, 2) do not get out of your seat without permission, and 3) do right! When a student does wrong, it is important to question him/her to make sure that they understand why their actions are wrong. Take the time to explain your rules at the beginning of the school year so that misunderstandings will be avoided.
- 5) **My teacher cares about me.** We are able to love our pupils because God first loved us. Our students will discover that we love them as we "cheer them on." All of our students should realize that we are on their side, that we want the best for them, and that we are going to go the "extra mile" so that they learn what is being taught. We should "cheer" for them during math, reading, or history, just as we do at recess. This does not only mean giving praise and compliments. We should also walk around our classrooms and quietly pat their shoulder, give a thumbs-up, and point out excellent work. We should also greet them when they arrive in the morning and provide positive encouragement when they sit properly or walk down the hall correctly. When students realize that you notice everything – not just the negative – they will work hard to please.

When your students know these five things about their teacher, they will be ready and willing to receive your teaching and instruction.



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illustration in his preaching to the Bariba people by saying, "Take Yesu with both hands because God gives salvation with **both** hands. You don't earn it, nor can you buy it, nor will there ever be any expected payment for it."

There are many people today who are giving and receiving with **one** hand. They take the message of the gospel with **one** hand, because they do not appreciate the gift given and, quite frankly, they are anticipating something more for themselves. There are people who who give to the church or

to missions endeavors with **one** hand expecting something in return as "repayment." Whether they realize it or not, they are, in fact, bribing the pastor, the church, or even thinking to bribe Jesus Christ, because they seek something in return for their gift.

The only way to receive the gift of salvation through Jesus Christ is to receive it with **both** hands because that is how it is given. The honorable way to operate as a Christian in this evil world is to give and receive with **both** hands and thus avoid the appearance of evil.

Ω

FOR THE MEN—

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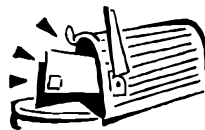
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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Any true born again person, who believes in the Holy Bible, can see apostasy taking over churches that once were sound. Your publication still stands on the solid rock, not shifting sand. Maranatha.



PA

Thank you for your faithful ministry in helping to hold the line on Biblical fundamentalism—for taking the time to put help for the brethren into print. May God continue to guide you in your choice of articles-messages-etc. and keep you in good health physically and spiritually. In Christ's love.

MI



I do not know how you ever got my name or address. I am glad you did. For sometime now I have been receiving your paper, The PROJECTOR. It has been a blessing to me. I am refreshed and encouraged with each addition....

I am not able to send much as I am in a retirement home and on a set income, but hope this small gift will help a bit on the postage anyway. May God keep you strong in the faith, faithful to HIS word and bless you with

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12:16-17). If one believes that a regenerate man or woman can apostatize, then it stands to reason that individuals can lose their salvation. This, of course, is totally contrary to the teaching of Scripture (John 10:25-30; I John 5:9-15).

5) Apostates in the Scripture are presented as deeply religious, but unconverted. There is the danger! It is possible to have religion and not have Christ. Matthew 7: 21-23 (see below).

The great truth of the last days is that there will only be a remnant of true believers when the Son of man returns (Luke 18:8). The great apostasy of the last days is not that true believers are falling away from the truth, but that unbelievers who profess to be believers and part of Christ's body, the church, are, in fact, the followers of another Jesus and

another Gospel. Their apostasy is of the heart, not of their profession. The deeper they go into the mystery of iniquity, the more loudly they proclaim their devotion to the Christian religion. Both the "broad way" and the "narrow way" of Matthew 7 are populated by professed believers; however, the leaven of iniquity has done its work causing the "narrow way" to be traveled by only a few faithful believers.

"Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me ye that work iniquity" (Matthew 7:21-23). Ω



THE CURE FOR A FRETFUL SPIRIT

by
A.W. Tozer

THE HOLY SPIRIT IN PSALM 37 admonishes us to beware of irritation in our religious lives: "Fret not thyself because of evildoers, neither be thou envious against the workers of iniquity."

The word "fret" comes to us from the Anglo-Saxon and carries with it such a variety of meanings as bring a rather pained smile to our faces. Notice how they expose us and locate us behind our disguises. The primary meaning of the word is to eat, and from there it has been extended with rare honesty to cover most of the manifestations of an irritable disposition. "To eat away; to gnaw; to chafe; to gall; to vex; to worry; to agitate; to wear away"; so says Webster, and all who have felt the exhausting, corrosive effects of fretfulness know how accurately the description fits the facts.

Now, the grace of God in the human heart works to calm the agitation that normally accompanies life in such a world as ours. The Holy Spirit acts as a lubricant to reduce the friction to a minimum and to stop the fretting and chafing in their grosser phases. But for most of us the problem is not as simple as that.

Fretfulness may be trimmed down to the ground and its roots remain alive deep within the soul, there growing and extending themselves all unsuspected, sending up their old poisonous shoots under other names and other appearances.

It was not to the unregenerate that the words "Fret not" were spoken, but to God-fearing persons capable of understanding spiritual things. We Christians need to watch and pray lest we fall into this temptation and spoil our Christian testimony by an irritable spirit under the stress and strain of life.

It requires great care and a true knowledge of ourselves to distinguish a spiritual burden from religious irritation. We cannot close our minds to everything that is happening around us. We dare not rest at ease in Zion when the church is so desperately in need of spiritually sensitive men and women who can see her faults and try to call her back to the path of righteousness. The prophets and apostles of Bible times carried in their hearts such crushing burdens for God's wayward people that they could say, "Tears have been my meat day and night," and "Oh that my head were waters, and mine eyes a fountain of tears, that I might weep day and night for the slain of the daughter of my people!" These men were heavy with a true burden. What they felt was not vexation but acute concern for the honor of God and the souls of men.

By nature some persons fret easily. They have difficulty separating their personal antipathies from the burden of the Spirit. When they are grieved they can

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Character is discounted as worthless, as reputation can be manufactured by the professional image makers to fulfill the customer's every desire. They can make any crook match the campaign posters that say "Vote for Honest John." But we should remember that they are only manufacturing a reputation that projects the image of gold where in reality there simply may be tinsel. It is an illusion of diamonds only to find, upon digging deeper, glass rhinestones, for reputation depends upon man's faulty judgment.

Thomas Paine (1737–1809) said: **Reputation is what men and women think of us. Character is what God and the angels know of us.**

Abraham Lincoln (1809–1865) said: **Character is like a tree and reputation like its shadow. The shadow is what we think of it; the tree is the real thing.**

Our Lord Jesus Christ warns about having a reputation where you are spoken well of by all men. In Luke 6:26 he says: **Woe unto you when all men shall speak well of you! for so did their fathers to the false prophets.** A man who is spoken well of by all segments of society is not a good man but a *w e a k m a n*, a compromising man, a man

of poor character for he accommodates himself to all men.

A man is known by his enemies. A man who has no enemies should take the Lord's "woe" personally and get some enemies by taking a stand. Oswald Chambers (1874–1917) who died at age 43 wrote: **What we stand up for proves what our character is like. If we stand up for our reputation, it is a sign it needs standing up for! God never stands up for His saints, they do not need it. The devil tells lies about men, but no slander on earth can alter a man's character.**

Slander only alters a man's reputation, which may need altering. So our proverb is not talking about reputation, for reputation can easily be worn like a new suit. Angelus Silesius (1624–1677) said: **What is outside yourself does not convey much worth; Clothes do not make the man, the saddle not the horse.** People are so easily captivated by the outward, but we would never say how fine a horse was by looking at its saddle! Our Proverbs verse talks about good character displayed in daily living, character that reveals what the person really is, not the image, not the costume, not the mask. Dwight Lyman Moody (1837–1899) said

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it this way: **Character is what you are in the dark.**

The good name that is spoken of in this Proverb verse is a good name with God. It is true that we desire the friendship of men and friendship is certainly useful, but it cannot be compared with the favor of God, for God is greater than men and gaining His favor is what we ought to be about. But we are to know that if our efforts are to gain God's favor we will lose the esteem of men just as did the Lord Jesus Christ. The regard of men is good to have but only to help us be more effective in serving God and to bring good to men's souls. So we must remember, that even in this, we must first seek the kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you, and that includes having a good character.

Eternity's View

When good character is valued apart from its value in serving God, then good character can easily become a trap, for it will be relied on as sufficient to please God. The Pharisees, who projected themselves to all as men of good character, would not confess Jesus as the Messiah, loving the praise of men more than the praise of God. If in this life we only seek to please men then we are not loyal and true servants of the Lord Jesus Christ. Rejoice when your name is cast into the mud because of your service to God, for the Bible tells you that you are now partaker of the sufferings of Christ and, as such you shall also be partaker of His glory.

In the Salvation Army's early days, its founder, William Booth, was bitterly attacked in the press by religious and government leaders. When his son showed Booth a newspaper attack, the General replied, "Bramwell, fifty years hence it will matter very little

indeed how these people treated us; it will matter a great deal how we dealt with the work of God."

Character considers the eternal value of things, while reputation concerns itself with the temporal. The right character carries us beyond the pleasing of men and remembers that pleasing God comes first. If riches come they must be placed properly and not thought higher than maintaining a good name. We must value our character above riches, even above great riches, and avoid everything that will corrupt, even though it may enhance our reputation. Overall, we should be thankful to God for any good name we may have, for all things come by His hand. That good name is not to be hoarded and used to advance the world, but it is to be used in the advancement of His kingdom and for His Glory alone.

Ω



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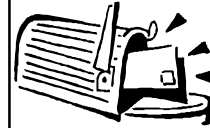
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MORE LETTERS
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THE EDITOR

I enjoy "The PROJECTOR" and use it in a college class along with your book "Teaching Methods." God bless. VA

Thank you for the PROJECTOR. Continue to be Light and Salt in our troubled world. God Bless.



MS

I know our Lord Jesus is with you in your beautifully true "The PROJECTOR" magazine. I look forward to reading it each time. Thank you. CO



Praise the Lord for your stand for "Thus saith the Lord." May God raise up young people that will stand faithful until Jesus comes for His own.

God bless you and your ministry.



Stars of the Morning

RUNNING SHOES

by

"Aunt Carolyn"



Stevie sat on the back steps of his home. The sunset before him was beautiful, but he could not think about it for being so dejected, disappointed, stumped – in whatever state he seemed to be. He was a quick, fast runner to be sure – maybe the fastest in his class, but how could he be on the school’s relay team without any running shoes? Some of the boys had good athletic shoes, some even had real track shoes, but Steve’s were hardly fit to wear to school, let alone to run an important race on a cinder track! His shoes were held together by piecing and patching. One day he put heavy rubber bands around his shoes to hold the soles to the tops, but when the kids pointed and laughed he slipped the bands off and just tried to walk carefully so the floppy soles wouldn’t be so noticeable. Glue worked a little while but not long. He knew Mom would get him some shoes as soon as she could, but they barely had enough to eat at home. There was no money for shoes. In fact, if the owner of the bakery where Mom worked had not allowed her to take home some of the unsold week-old bread, they really would have been hungry. Steve kicked at the ground before him, and his thoughts didn’t extend further than “shoes” and “supper.”

When Mom came home, she leaned out the back door with her usual perky greeting and caring questions about Stevie’s day at school. Then she said, “Come on in, Son. We have some good bread and milk for supper. And would you believe the bakery had some peanut butter cookies to spare tonight, so you’ll have good dessert, too! Isn’t the Lord good?”

“Yes’m, He surely is,” Stevie replied, but the tone of his voice lacked life, which told his knowing

Mom that something was wrong.

“Okay, my boy, what is wrong? Can you tell me about it?”

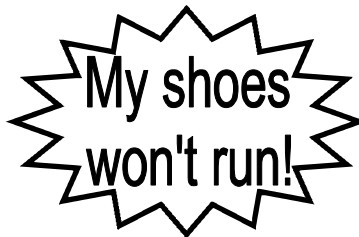
“Well, yes’m, but I don’t want to worry you. I just – I just...”

“You just what, Son? I can’t help if you don’t talk. I can’t help if you don’t tell me.”

“Well, you know the track meet that’s coming up at school? Well, they want me to run on the relay team, but – well, my shoes won’t run!”

“Oh, oh! Shoes don’t run, Stevie. You have to run!” Mom nudged.

“Yes’m, but that’s what I mean. I can’t run in my shoes. They are worn out! The soles are peeling loose from the



tops. They slow me down and might even trip me and make me fall!

“Perish the thought on that cinder track!” Mom exclaimed.

“Yes, what a thought!” Steve moaned. “I’m sorry, Mom, but I just need some new shoes, especially some running shoes!”

“Indeed, you do, young man. I’ve been noticing your shoes and have been asking the Lord about them. He always supplies our needs, but He tells us to ‘ask,’ you know. Suppose we ask again right now before we go in for supper.” As they bowed their heads, the back steps became a sacred place of humble, earnest prayer before the Lord.

Stevie enjoyed his supper of bread and milk, and it seemed his burden for the shoes was eased, but he still wondered about them. How in the world could the Lord supply a pair of

shoes? And how could He send them quickly? Steve needed them soon! The evening passed, and in bedtime prayers they again called on the Lord in their need.

Four days before the Track Meet, Stevie continued practicing in his old shoes, but everyone knew he could run faster than that. The coach pulled for Stevie, but unless he could get better speed he would not make the relay team. “Oh, woe is me,” thought Stevie.

That evening as Steve again waited on the back steps for Mom to come home, he prayed, “Oh, Lord, You said ‘Ask’, and now I’m asking again to please help me somehow to have some good shoes and let me run in the track meet, but may Thy will be done. And help me to be thankful for whatever Thy answer is.”

As Mom came home from work that evening, she was carrying a big bread sack. Steve was glad for that, because bread and whatever they could add to it would make a good supper. But this time Mom held the bag high motioning Steve to come. “Come, Stevie! Come and see!”

What Steve saw when he opened the big bag almost took his breath away. The bag held no bread; it held shoes! Beautiful (if running shoes can be called beautiful) running shoes! “Oh, wow, Mom! Where’d they come from? How did you get them? Are they my size?” Steve was too excited to wait for answers. He jerked off his old shoes and tried on the new ones! Wonder of wonders! They fit! They really fit!

“You shouldn’t be so surprised, Stevie. Don’t you think the Lord knows your shoe size? If He knows how many hairs are in your head, He surely knows how big your feet are!”

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(Continued from page 9—The Cure For a Fretful Spirit)

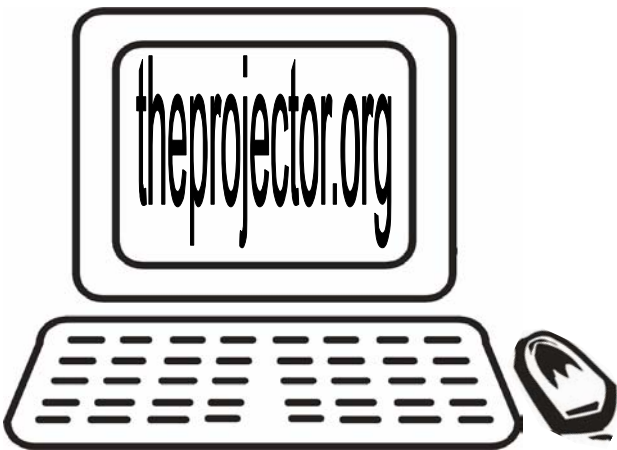
hardly say whether it is a pure and charitable thing or merely irritation set up by other Christians having opinions different from their own.

Of one thing we may be sure, we can never escape the external stimuli that cause vexation. The world is full of them and though we were to retreat to a cave and live the remainder of our days alone we still could not lose them. The rough floor of our cave would chafe us, the weather would irritate us and the very silence would cause us to fret.

Deliverance from a fretting spirit may be by blood and fire, by humility, self-abnegation and a patient carrying of the cross. There will always be "evildoers" and "workers of iniquity," and for the most part they will appear to succeed while the forces of righteousness will seem to fail. The wicked will always have the money and the talent and the publicity and the numbers, while the righteous will be few and poor and unknown. The prayerless Christian will surely misread the signs and fret against the circumstances. That is what the Spirit warns us against.

Let us look out calmly upon the world; or better yet, let us look down upon it from above where Christ is seated and we are seated in Him. Though the wicked spread himself like "a green bay tree" it is only for a moment. Soon he passes away and is not. "But the salvation of the righteous is of the Lord: he is their strength in the time of trouble." This knowledge should cure the fretting spirit. Ω

Excerpt from: *Man—The Dwelling Place of God*



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Mom said smiling. "Mr. Fredricks, the bakery owner, noticed your shoes the other day. Today he brought this sack and asked if you might wear these shoes. They were his son's, but his boy has many pairs of shoes. He said you are welcome to these if they fit."

"Oh, they fit, all right!" squealed Stevie, and he fairly danced for joy up the back steps. Then with a sudden stop, he sank and sat down on the top step. "Oh, Mom, let's thank the Lord right now! Thank Him for the shoes. Thank Him that I can be in the race. Thank Him for looking out for us like this!" And they did thank the Lord with hearts full of gratitude and rejoicing.

After the "Amen," Mom added, "Now there's one thing more, my boy. Mr. Fredricks also said you could come work an hour after school each day. He will pay you to sweep, clean, and run errands at the bakery, so you can earn money for some of the things you need."

Well, Track Meet Day was exciting, and the results were great. Stevie's team won the Relay Race, and Stevie was the fastest runner on the team! His whole school raved and yelled for their team and for Stevie. They were proud of their team, they were proud of Stevie, and everyone was proud of his new shoes! No one ever made remarks about Stevie's "rubber band shoes" again!

Stevie went to great lengths to

thank Mr. Fredricks for the shoes and for his new job. And he could hardly thank the Lord enough for saving him from sin, for answering his prayers, and for providing his needs – from salvation, to bread and milk, to running shoes! He kept thinking of the Bible verse he had learned, "My God shall supply all your need..." (Phil. 4:19). Stevie didn't know what all it would mean, but he promised God that he would live for Christ and run the race of life for Him.

May we also "lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith" (Heb. 12:1,2). Ω