



The PROJECTOR

Dr. Dayton Hobbs, FOUNDED EDITOR

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

Scriptural Generalizations and the Force of Argument

Is it always necessary to give specific examples in order to make a Biblical argument?

by Pastor Tod Brainard

We live in a day of modern doubters. These doubters are constantly haranguing those who generalize arguments concerning situations in modern Christianity. It seems that many have bought into the line of thinking espoused by our culture that if no specific examples are given, then whatever argument is being made is invalid and unworthy of consideration. This is not to say that sometimes specifics, particularly individuals and movements, should be included in an argument being made for consideration; however, it is not always necessary.

The cry for "specifics," that is, the seeking of specific examples, has sometimes become a substitute for genuine investigation and in-

trospection on our part of a general trend taking place. Right thinking is based on Biblical principles, not necessarily the number of human examples we can list. I believe it is important that God's people understand that the Scriptures often argue from *generalizations* without necessarily naming *specific* examples.

Recently, I received an email from an unidentified individual questioning the validity of Dr. Clay Nuttall's article, *"The Secularization of Christian Education."* The thrust was, there were no specific examples (the names of Christian schools and colleges) given; therefore, the argument was weak and potentially invalid. Really? Would we prefer to revel in the sordid details of erroneous actions of named Christian educational institutions before we can consider the weight of Biblical truth and general trends? In this kind of thinking, the people, or the schools named, is more important to know than the investigation of both trends and Biblical understandings of the times.

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William Earl Farrington

April 5, 1927 - December 27, 2015



Remembering Gator

On Sunday, December 27th, Earl 'Gator' Farrington, a charter member of Grace Bible Church, went into the presence of the Lord. He received his nickname, 'Gator', at age 13 when local businessman, Leon Barnes, saw him dragging a five foot long alligator out of the family's lake. From that moment, Earl would affectionately be called 'Gator' by both family and friends.

Gator's early life was one of working hard, exploring the outdoors, hunting, fishing, and helping his father, James, harvest juniper and cypress trees from the swamps of Yellow River. He was not able to attend his high school graduation in 1945 because he entered the US Navy to fight overseas in World War II. Gator would also serve in the Korean War (1951-54) and eventually be employed for over 35 years as a federal civil service Purchasing Agent at NAS Pensacola until his retirement in 1984.

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EDITOR'S DESK

Family Issues

Dr. Allen Griffith
Guest Editorial

It seems that fewer and fewer families have a solid set of biblical values to guide them in facing life's problems and making choices about their actions. For instance, I have often referred to a message I heard years ago about worshiping and serving the Lord. The preacher said that we need to make some big basic decisions about church attendance. The decision he focused on was a commitment to be in church every week for Sunday School, morning worship, evening worship, and the mid-week service. He said it should be as settled as going to work on Monday. His argument was that people with a full-time job do not get up on Monday morning and then debate whether they are going. It is settled—they are going and only an emergency would get in the way of them fulfilling that obligation.

Where is that kind of commitment to worship? [Editor's Note: *Worship* as defined in the Word of God. Worship of God in the context of a Bible-believing, Bible-preaching church with Christ-honoring standards of music and dress. What is called "worship" today centers on throwing off Biblical authority in favor of ear-tickling entertainment, cultural relevance, and the mixing of the world, the flesh, and religious concepts.] Oh, I know people say they don't have to be in a church building to worship God. They say that as if when they make their Sunday a leisure day by working in the yard, playing golf, watching a football game on TV, or even walking a nature trail, that they are worshiping God. And they call churchgoers hypocrites. There is an element of truth to the statement that you do not have to be in a church to worship, BUT God established the church and prescribed that worship should be formalized, by His people gathering together on the first day of the week in

honor of the resurrection of our Lord. [Acts 20:7; I Corinthians 16:1-2]

It is more than significant that when Paul was traveling during his third missionary journey, he arrived at Troas, as recorded in Acts 20:6-7. Luke tells us they stayed seven days and that Paul preached on the first day of the week, when the disciples gathered to break bread. Then Luke tells us they departed on the next day. In other words, they arrived on what we call Monday, (the 2nd Day of the week). Paul did not gather with the believers for preaching until the first day of the week (what we call Sunday). Then they left the next day which was Monday (the 2nd day of the week). What happened during the week we do not know, but we know the first day of the week was the day the believers gathered for the preaching of the Word.

The traditional pattern of the church in America has been - if 100 people show up on Sunday morning, 50 will show up on Sunday night, and 25 will show up on Wednesday night. It is getting worse, with many (Bible believing) churches giving up Sunday evening and Wednesday evening services. Are you and your family committed to faithful Lord's Day services in a solid Bible believing church?

Dr. E. Allen Griffith is director of Biblical Family Ministries, Inc. of Myerstown, PA. Their website www.biblicalfamilyministries.org has excellent materials available for Christian families. He can be reached at friendsoffamily@gmail.com □



The PROJECTOR

Dr. Dayton Hobbs, (1924-2006) Founding Editor
Pastor Tod Brainard — Publisher and Editor
Mrs. Carolyn Hobbs, Mr. Ludwig Opager, Mrs. Doris Peppard,
Mr. Curtis Sluss, Pastor Adam Watt
Contributing Editors
Layout—Mrs. Brenda Whitney
Published Quarterly by Grace Bible Church

6331 Chestnut Street, Milton, FL 32570
E-mail us at Issues@theprojector.org
Visit us on the Web at www.theprojector.org
Phone: (850)623-4671

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



(Continued from page 1 - Scriptural Generalizations)

Dr. Nuttall has been a college and seminary professor for nearly 50 years. He knows whereof he speaks. Did he have to name School A and College B to make his case for the secularization of Christian Education? I think not. His emphasis was on the principles involved because the cases of secularization in Christian Education (primary, secondary, higher education) are numerous in the public square. Simple investigation on the reader's part is sufficient.

Generalizations in the New Testament

Some years ago, I put together an answer to a reader who had taken me to task for the same accusation concerning generalizations. This answer has not been published before, but I trust it will be of help for those who espouse that specifics should **always** be included with generalizations of issues facing the church and Christian education.

1) Romans 16:17-18, "*Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offenses contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them. For they that are such serve not our Lord Jesus Christ, but their own belly; and by good words and fair speeches deceive the hearts of the simple.*"

Their doctrinal deviations identified them. Paul says they serve their own belly, no exceptions!

Some are offended by such generalizations of doctrinal deviators; however, the Bible examines and judges character, not the pacifying of our desires for specifics. Who were these individuals? Why did he not name those who were causing the divisions and offenses? **It was not necessary to name specific individuals; their divisions and offenses identified them.**

2) Galatians 2:3-5, "*But neither Titus, who was with me, being a Greek, was compelled to be circumcised: and that because of false brethren unawares brought in, who came in privily to spy out our liberty which we have in Christ Jesus, that they might bring us into bondage: To whom we gave place by subjection, no, not for an hour; that the truth of the gospel might continue with you.*"

Does the fact that Paul gives no specific names of these false brethren take away from his argument? The absence of identifying names makes no difference. Would we have liked to have their names and the synagogues from which they came? Or maybe a list of their home towns so we could have a geographical sense of the cultural influences on these men? Our quest for information must be tempered by what God withholds from us. **Information is not the end we seek; truth is the end!**

3) Galatians 3:1, "*O foolish Galatians, who hath bewitched you, that ye should not obey the truth, before whose eyes Jesus Christ hath been evidently set forth, crucified among you?*"

Think with me, were all of Paul's Galatian readers "foolish"? Did Paul paint with too broad brush a picture of the Galatians? By calling them all "foolish" did he weaken his case against the Galatian error because a few of them may not have been "foolish"? Absolutely not! Paul used his authority to expose the error that was permitted in the Galatian church.

4) Philippians 3:17-19, "*Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an example. For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ: Whose end is destruction, whose God is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things."*

Paul gives general qualities of those who are enemies of the cross without specific names, groups, churches, associations, etc. Since he gave no specific examples, is Paul wrongheaded? Is his argument invalid or weak? He said, "*For many walk...are the enemies of the cross of Christ.*" The Apostle Paul indicated a generalized quantity who were enemies of the cross of Christ, yet gave no specific examples. Their **error** would identify them as "*enemies of the cross of Christ.*"

5) 1 Thessalonians 5:6, "*Therefore let us not sleep, as do others, but let us watch and be sober.*"

Because Paul gave no further spe-

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THE EMPTY SEAT

by Walter Lewis Wilson, M.D

"Thou shalt be missed" (I Samuel 20:18).

The main thought of this message is found in these interesting words, **"Thou shalt be missed, because thy seat will be empty"** (I Samuel 20:18). These words were spoken by Jonathan to David on the occasion of a feast which King Saul held regularly, and to which he invited the immediate members of his family and the leaders of his forces. The feast was to take place on the day after this conversation was held. A seat would be placed at the banquet table for David, but knowing Saul's enmity against him, as indicated to Jonathan, Saul's son, David did not intend to be present. Jonathan's reply to David is found in the words just quoted.

The empty seat may tell a sad story. The vacant chair at Saul's table told of David's fear and of Saul's enmity against him. It revealed the hatred of Saul's heart against the man whom GOD had chosen to be king. The empty place at the table roused Saul's anger, and he inquired with much show of animosity concerning David's whereabouts.

Perhaps you have an empty chair at your table. It may be a high-chair where a little one once sat. That precious life has been taken and the vacant seat

brings a heartbreak and the tears. It may be a vacant rocking chair that stirs the heart and brings back the days of precious fellowship with an aged grandmother. Perhaps it is the swivel chair in the den which once was occupied by an honored father. It speaks mutely of former days of blessing when his radiance filled the home with sunshine.

Sometimes a throne is vacant. A rebellion has robbed the people of their ruler and death has overtaken him from wicked hands. It may be that that throne-chair will never again be occupied by an imperial ruler. The democracy has superseded the autocracy. Do you have a vacant chair in your home? Do the visiting friends ask about that little child's chair that stands in the corner unused, or the old, well-worn, reclining chair which silently testifies of its former occupants?

An Empty Seat Means Separation

David's chair at the feast would be empty because David was away from GOD's enemy and intended to stay away. He would not be found in the fellowship of those who were hostile to GOD's plans and enemies of GOD's people. He was away from the man who rejected



GOD's Word. He would not sit with him at the same banquet table. He was away with one who loved the Lord, for Jonathan was true to GOD. David was away getting his faith renewed and his heart comforted. The Lord does not want His child to sit with the scornful, nor to keep company with those who are enemies of His Word.

The empty chair that day at Saul's feast was a potent testimony to the decision which David had made. He had separated himself to GOD. He chose rather to wander in the fields with GOD than to sit at the feast with Saul. It is never the will of the Lord that the child of GOD should feel at home in fellowship with an enemy of GOD. David was a man after GOD's own heart, and took GOD's path in separation. Judas chose to vacate his place. He might have

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Proverb Practicals

by Ludwig Opager

Proverbs 14:10, *The heart knoweth his own bitterness; and a stranger doth not intermeddle with his joy.*

The Apostle Paul told the Corinthians a similar truth in 1 Corinthians 2:11, *For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.*

King Solomon and the Apostle Paul confirmed by inspiration of the Holy Spirit the individuality of man. With this comes the understanding of the inability of man to truly sympathize and empathize with another. It shows the weakness of the oft repeated phrase, *"I know how you feel."* Only the individual knows his own bitterness, only the individual knows his own joy for no individual on earth truly knows your heart! All we can do is look on the outward appearance, for knowledge of the heart is reserved only to God.

It has been written that *"Everyone is inwardly the only true and faithful judge of his own joys and sorrows, and none else can truly perceive them."* Another has written, *"Each mind has an interior apartment of his own, into which none but itself and the Divinity can enter."* The sufferings or joys that we most deeply feel cannot be fully known or understood by another, even by those who are dearest to us.

God has so made us that no two of us are alike and, therefore, there cannot be a complete understanding by humans of our inner state. We are truly individuals in that sense. Each of us as individuals walk alone, we all tread a solitary path when it comes to matters of the heart. No one, apart from God, on this earth truly knows us. We know

the outward to some degree, but the inward is shielded from others. Consider the timing of your last days on this earth, your last breath, your last heartbeat and ponder how alone you may be, for no one will know but you and God what you are going through.

Job felt so alone when his friends tried to comfort him for he, in Job 13:4 complained to them, *But ye are forgers of lies, ye are all physicians of no value.* And in Job 16:2 again he protested their ability to sympathize by saying, *I have heard many such things: miserable comforters are ye all.*

Likewise Hannah, the mother of Samuel, being afflicted in 1 Samuel 1:10 *...was in bitterness of soul, and prayed unto the LORD, and wept sore.* Hannah found no true comforters among her own.

We have no right to judge another's state by ours. We truly do not know how another feels nor do we know the inner workings of their soul in a given situation. We so lack the tools to know the bitterness or the joy of another. However, thanks be to our loving and caring LORD Jesus Christ, we are not without comfort or help. Hebrews 4:15 gives us hope, *For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.*

In Christ we cease to be an individual alone with our own bitterness, our own grief, even our own joy. We have Him fully, as if we were His only son or daughter. We have His full heart, His full

understanding of our grief and our joy. Under His wings, into His bosom, we may pour out every heartache or every joy which no other is able to receive.

Charles Bridges in his commentary on the Proverbs says, *"Has my heart a bitterness that thou dost not know, that thou dost not feel with me, and for which thou dost not provide a present cordial and support?"*

Knowing this, why do we go to the broken cisterns of man? How can we think that we can find help in the crafty inventions of the mind and the imaginations that man has conjured up? It is absolutely impossible for man to truly know our situation and need.

God has provided for all our needs and that provision is in Him alone. We are not to take this proverb lightly for remember what God tells us in Jeremiah 17:5, *Thus saith the LORD; Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the LORD.*

As believers we can indeed be fully confident to trust solely in the Lord for He is the living water, the fresh water that satisfies every need.

As Psalm 40:17 says, *But I am poor and needy; yet the Lord thinketh upon me: thou art my help and my deliverer; make no tarrying, O my God.*

Psalm 94:17 further admonishes, *Unless the LORD had been my help, my soul had almost dwelt in silence.* Ω



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had a throne with the other eleven men, for CHRIST had said in Matthew 19:28 - **"Ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel."**

- Judas chose a rope instead of GOD's robe.
- He chose hanging instead of reigning.
- He preferred money to the gifts of his Master.
- He hung from a tree instead of sitting on a throne.
- He became an enemy of CHRIST instead of ruling with CHRIST.
- He kissed the Saviour instead of crowning Him.
- His seat and his throne were taken by another.

We may wonder whether Judas is missed in glory by the other eleven disciples who are there.

Empty Seats in Heaven

How tragic it is that in Heaven there will be many empty seats! Perhaps they will not be empty. They may be occupied by others, but those who might have had them and should have occupied them chose rather to find comfortable seats in this world and forfeit a throne in the next. Let each one of us ask ourselves whether we have chosen a seat there, or whether we are content with what we have here.

There was an empty chair at Jacob's table - Joseph was missing. The other boys were there, but his was an empty chair. Joseph was gone. The empty place at the table held the secret of the desperate, dark deed which the other brothers had perpetrated against the younger one. The father looked at the empty chair and checked back the tears. He looked at the vacant place at the table and wept over the tragic loss. Will the circle be broken in Heaven? Will your chair be empty? Will your seat be vacant? Will you let another take your place there while you are shut out?

There was an empty seat at David's table - Absalom, his own son, had rebelled. He had turned his back on his father and left the palace. David, the sweet singer of Israel, could only look at the vacancy and seek to control the emotions of his heart. He loved Absalom greatly and grieved over his absence deeply.

Absalom chose a path of wickedness and sin, and his chair remained empty. The grave in the woods and the vacancy at the table scarred David's soul grievously and he carried the wound to his death.

An Empty Chair in Father's House

There was an empty chair one day in the home of a loving father. A prodigal son chose the gifts of his father, but rejected

and refused the father's love. Having received his inheritance, the son said good-bye to the one who had made the money, the one who had saved it for him, the one who loved him. He left an empty chair in the home, an empty bed upstairs, and an aching heart in the father's breast. How long that chair remained empty is not told. The vacant place at the table reminded the heartbroken father constantly of the absence of the boy he loved.

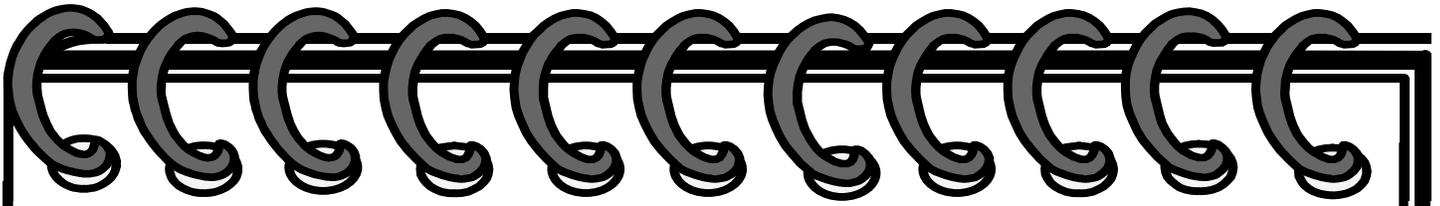
As the days went by, and the money was being spent by the prodigal, the call of the vacant chair became stronger and stronger. The father watched for that lad to come home - waiting, hoping, longing. Perhaps you are that boy. It may be you, too, have preferred the gifts instead of the giver, and the gifts have gradually or suddenly faded into oblivion.

The heavenly Father is watching and waiting for you to return and to occupy your seat at His table. It may be you would like to return just now. The chair is still there; a welcome awaits you. The Father desires to see your happy face again in the circle of His loved ones. Will you not come home just now?

The Wedding Robe Rejected

In Matthew 22:11 there is the beginning of a story which starts with another vacant seat. The friend in this passage had come in to occupy a chair, but

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Teaching Tips

by Doris Peppard

When Art Becomes Dangerous

God made us unique! There is such diversity in our look, build, size, tastes, and imagination that it is humbling to realize that even though God created us all in His image, we are so very different from each other. People work to develop their various talents in areas such as music, art, baking, academia, business, as well as many other forms of creativity to enrich our lives. The biography section of libraries covers a wide range of important men and women who have accomplished great things for us all to enjoy and benefit from in our daily lives! To God goes the credit for all things! Genesis tells us of a variety of talents and skills God gave man to develop from the very beginning of creation.

Man pollutes everything God created so perfectly! From our environment to our government, everything that man touches eventually goes to ruin. Our whole world is under the curse of sin due to man's desire to "become like God." As Christians, we must live in the world without becoming worldly. Teaching and training children and young people in our Christian schools must be carried out using God's principles and methods. Because today's society pushes worldliness and rejects the God of creation, Christian school teachers must be on guard to guide their students away from those areas that pose a direct threat to destroy the heart, mind, and soul of our students.

One form of destruction of mankind can be found in the area of art. There is a whole subculture built around the demonic fantasy world that began in the Far East. These drawings, cartoons, movies, video games, computer sites, etc. have come to America and even to the classrooms of Christian schools to further pollute our children. Watch out for the drawings that children make that have exaggerated features such as large eyes, tiny waists, hollowed out cheeks, high foreheads, and accentuated gender forms. This type of drawing comes directly from the demonic forces that Satan controls as "the prince of the powers of this world." Warn your students to "flee" the youthful lusts this type of art draws children toward. The pictures begin "harmless" enough – they can border on cute, - (toymakers have even developed a whole line of small toys utilizing these huge-eyed creatures); but, they lead young children and developing artists toward the dark, overtly sexual, grotesque, and violent lifestyles that will take possession as only Satan knows how. As usual, the drawings seem harmless at first, but they soon develop into full-blown, hard-edged depictions of violence and gore. This "art" form is from the pit of hell and Satan is using it to gain control over our young peoples' hearts and minds.

Christian teachers must accept responsibility to warn their students whenever these drawings begin to appear in their classrooms. We must take up the watchman role sending out the warning to our students. Scripture states, "So you, son of man: I have made you a watchman for the house of Israel; therefore you shall hear a word from My mouth and warn them for Me." (Ezekiel 33:7) We must love our students enough to be that watchman. It is likely that the student, and in many instances their parents, will not like to hear this message, but it is necessary for us to guard and warn anytime danger approaches our students. The Word of God does tell us what is appropriate for our drawings and expression in art. "Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are noble, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report, if there be any virtue and if there be any praise – think on these things" (Philippians 4:8). What a list! Drawing these types of things will lead our students toward God and not toward those things from the dark, satanic side of life.



(Continued from page 1 - Remembering Gator)

In 1950, at a revival service in Cantonment, Florida, Gator trusted Jesus Christ as his Savior after hearing the message of the Gospel. In 1955, he married his longtime sweetheart, Voncille Hobbs, whose brother was Dayton Hobbs, the founder of Grace Bible Church. Dayton's wife, Carolyn Hobbs, tells of Gator and Dayton "meeting every evening at a corn crib just off Hwy. 90 in Pea Ridge from 1956 to 1959 to pray for the people of the fledgling local church."

Gator was involved in many different ministries for the cause of Christ. He was not only a faithful leader and deacon of Grace Bible Church but also a charter member of the Board of Directors of Gospel Projects Inc. (1961) and Santa Rosa Christian School (1962). Additionally, he supported the Children's Bible Club ministry and served as a coach and sponsor for the Gospel Projects Youth Athletic Club community sports program.

A real character and charming extrovert beyond description, God broke the mold when He made Gator. When he walked into a room, it came alive with joy, humor, and encouragement; many people were able to witness this at his restaurant, Gator's Seafood Restaurant, which opened in 1975. He made it his mission to put a smile on any face and disarm even the crankiest curmudgeon.

Gator is survived by his two children, Lisa Jeffers (Keith) and Bill Farrington (Jennifer); four grandchildren, Jeffrey (Jackie) and Brandon Bennett, Zachary and Abigail Farrington; and two great-grandchildren, Allie Jae and Troy Bennett.

Remembering Gator, we agree with Jonathan who said of his dear friend, David,

Thou shalt be missed, because thy seat shall be empty (I Samuel 20:18). Ω

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he was not robed with the wedding garment. He had not complied with the requirements of the host. He had presumed to wear his own suit, instead of receiving the garment which the master of the feast had specified. He had rebelled in his heart against the robe which the others had received and substituted his own will and wish, instead of the will of the Lord of the banquet.

When the king entered the room, he questioned this friend about his impudence and his antagonistic attitude. No answer was received because the conscience of the friend reproved him and prevented the making of an excuse. The king ordered his servants to bind the man hand and foot and to cast him into outer darkness. The empty seat that remained was a mute witness to the severity of GOD against the one who rebels at His Word. Will there be an empty chair in glory because you would not bow to GOD's will and receive by faith the robe of righteousness obtained through the Lord JESUS CHRIST? Do let the warning of that empty chair prevent you from doing likewise!

Absent Ones Forever Missed

How sad is the cry, "He should be here!" How deeply grieved our hearts become

when we note the absence of a dear one and the empty seat! It is so difficult to go back into the home after a funeral and see the chair where father sat, and the bed where he slept, and the desk at which he worked, all vacant and silent. How much more so will it be in Heaven when we find that those we hoped would be there and expected would come, are absent!

The Lord does not tell us just how we shall feel about it. Of course, we shall have the mind of CHRIST. We shall think as He does about lost souls, but no doubt there will be a consciousness of the empty chair in the family circle, and the vacant seat which should have been occupied by a loved one who would not come.

Those words of Jonathan to David, "**Thou shalt be missed, because thy seat will be empty,**" should stir our hearts to gather in as many as possible to the great feast of our Lord.

Will you be there, my friend? Someone will occupy the seats in glory. Will you have one? Do not permit the precious blood of CHRIST to be shed in vain as far as you are concerned. Do make CHRIST JESUS your Lord and Saviour now and He will have a seat for you in the Father's house.

Ω



(Continued from page 3 - Scriptural Generalizations)

cifics, is his statement less true? The complete identity of the "others" is not the issue, it is their sleeping that should alarm us.

6) II Thessalonians 3:11, *"For we hear that there are some which walk among you disorderly, working not at all, but are busybodies."*

Paul again gives no names and no other specifics. His warning is general in nature.

7) I Timothy 1: 3, *"As I besought thee to abide still at Ephesus, when I went into Macedonia, that thou mightest charge some that they teach no other doctrine."*

Paul does name two men in verse 20, but were these the only two? The principles and standards were laid out in general form, and all those who were out of line were to be charged even though they are not named.

8) I Timothy 1:6, *"From which some having swerved have turned aside unto vain jangling; Desiring to be teachers of the law; understanding neither what they say, nor whereof they affirm."*

Again, no specific examples, but none the less a certain and truthful generalization.

9) I Timothy 5:15, *"For some are already turned aside after Satan."*

Can you imagine if Timothy responded, "Paul, who are those

who have turned aside after Satan? Who are you talking about? I want to know their names, Paul." Timothy was to apply the generality and align his thinking with Paul's that there were those who had turned aside after Satan, and to warn the brethren lest others follow. This was not a debate point; it was fact.

10) I Timothy 6:20, *O Timothy, keep that which is committed to thy trust, avoiding profane and vain babblings, and oppositions of science falsely so called: Which some professing have erred concerning the faith. Grace be with thee. Amen."*

Paul gives no names of those who erred concerning the faith. Does that make his argument weak because he chose to give no names at this juncture? Would it have made a difference if Timothy had a list of all the names of those to whom Paul was referring? I think not.

11) Titus 1:10, *"For there are many unruly and vain talkers and deceivers, specially they of the circumcision: Whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole houses, teaching things which they ought not, for filthy lucre's sake."*

Jews were in focus here, but Paul goes no further in his specificity. The reader has a responsibility to examine individuals with Paul's statement to see if they identify with the unruly and vain talkers.

12) Titus 1:12-14, *"One of themselves, even a prophet of their*

own, said, The Cretans are always liars, evil beasts, slow bellies. This witness is true. Wherefore rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith; Not giving heed to Jewish fables, and commandments of men, that turn from the truth."

Paul gives a generalization of the Cretans whom he calls "liars, evil beasts and slow bellies." Was he right? Was every Cretan really a liar, evil beast, or a slow belly? What if Titus had named a Cretan who was totally opposite from the generalization, would that make the generalization untrue? I trust you are getting my point.

13) Hebrews 10:25, *"Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is..."*

Paul the Apostle, who I believe penned Hebrews and wrote through the pen of inspiration, chose not to tell us "who" was forsaking the assembly.

14) I John 2:18-19, *"Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time. They went out from us, but they were not of us: for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us; but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us."*

Who were "they" who went out? Who were "they" who went out

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because they were not of us? John does not tell us other than to give their general qualities for identification purposes in Chapter 4:1-6. Would it have been helpful to John's readers to have a list of churches and names of the antichrists to warn the other faithful believers? The Lord chose not to share specifics, but principles and qualities of the antichrists that would span the ages.

15) II John 7, "*For many deceivers have entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist.*"

Where are the specific examples? Who were these deceivers? Why did the Holy Spirit refrain from naming these deceivers? Is the declaration that John is making false because the "deceivers" are not named?

16) Jude 4, "*For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.*"

Certain men? Again, why no naming of the specific men who were ungodly? Jude has many such generalized statements with no specifics as to the churches, education centers, associations, men, etc. Jude leaves the reader to reason from the generalization to the specific application.

Specific Principles over Specific People

It is obvious that God did not mention specific individuals because He wanted us to see the PRINCIPLE involved and for us to use Holy Spirit empowered discernment in our time to recognize the error and wickedness, recognize the offenders and the false doctrine in order to avoid the appearance of evil for His glory. Holiness is the aim!

God desires for us to investigate on our own the deviations from sound Biblical practices. The request for "specific examples" is often a ploy for some to excuse away the presented truth because they are more interested in the "dirt" on the specific example than they are the teaching to avoid the "dirt." In addition, the number of specific examples often plays strongly with the one who is trying to avoid the principle.

The Bible is the standard, the ruler, the measuring device by which we judge all things. Let us take the general truths of God's Word and hold them up to what we witness all around us. God's Word will reveal to us what is right and what is wrong, rather than our limited opinions and conjectures influenced by the desire for specific examples. Ω



**Pray for the ministry
of The PROJECTOR!**

SUPERSIZE IT? —Because travel is a necessity for this writer, I have often been asked this question when ordering from a fast-food restaurant. For pennies more I can go from a 32-ounce drink to a 64-ounce "supersize." This is happening throughout the U.S. and developing a people who also are supersized!

The supersizing practice reminds me of a little lad who one day showed up at an outdoor seminar held by the Son of God. The Bible records that there were five thousand men plus women and children (probably 10,000+) present, but someone forgot to line up the food vendors. Up stepped a boy who volunteered his sack lunch of five loaves and two small fishes. The Lord Jesus stepped to the scene and looking into heaven, blessed the lunch and supersized the boy's meal on the spot, feeding thousands. Now I like that! When the feast was over, the youngster netted twelve baskets of leftovers.

This miracle demonstrated a principle Jesus gave in Luke 6:38 that benefits me. "Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again." I have personally seen this work in my life. I have noticed that the little I have invested in the Lord's work got supersized. This provoked me to give more and more, not only of finances, but also in every area (time, talents as well as treasure). Would you like to see this happen for you? Only God can impact your life with a monumental blessing that has eternal value. Put your eyes upon the One described as being the "great" God (supersized) and our Saviour Jesus Christ (Titus 2:13). Ω

Copied: *The Cast Net*. Fishers of Men Ministries, Int., Wayne Mund, Ed.



Stars of the Morning

YOU CAN'T DO THAT! The Story of William H. Wilburn (Part II) by Aunt Carolyn

Another Blow

He had spent his early years reading and teaching himself as best he could with the great difficulty of reading. Then to his great joy one day, Father brought him a Latin grammar and reader. With great enthusiasm, he studied until he mastered them, and at last, Father arranged to hire a teacher to instruct him an hour or two a day. Now Greek was added to his learning. At last, they determined he was ready for college. He gladly walked four miles every day to a nearby college and reveled in this opportunity! It was wonderful to make friends with other young men and to learn from venerable professors. That opportunity closed abruptly though, when doctors determined that the reading and studying had taken too great a toll on his body. The position he had to take, almost doubled over, to hold the books so close to his eye to read was damaging his chest and spine, even threatening his life! His frail body was becoming wasted. He could not continue College. He could not graduate. What a crushing blow!

William worked at home and the store, and was faithful in his church. In their home in Philadelphia, his parents had entertained many guest preachers. Now in the West, as Father's business grew, he was able to buy a larger house with a spare room. That became their "prophet's chamber" and home to visiting and itinerant preachers when they were passing through. William took good care of their horses and other needs, and at night was captivated listening and learning from the experiences of these respected men of God. Some were old, some young, tested by wind and weather, but all moved with a deep sense of duty to the Word of God and the souls of men.

Who, Me?

One evening riding in a carriage with one of those preachers, above the noise of the wheels and the clatter of the horses' hooves, the stalwart, weather-beaten preacher suddenly asked, "William, did you ever feel that you were called to preach?" It was a "Who, me?" moment! How could he fulfill such a

calling? How could he take on such demands? He was young, inexperienced; his education was incomplete; besides he was blind!

Nay-saying and excuses were rejected, and soon William found himself with a license as an exhorter, a set of saddlebags stuffed with books, an overcoat, some food and other necessities, and a spirited black horse. The young man set out with the weather-tested preacher, Dr. Peter Akers, a presiding elder in the Methodist church, who would introduce William to the ways and wilderness of a circuit riding preacher. Of course, his fiery black steed sensed the fears of his young, inexperienced rider and took off headlong on a run-away speed! "Let him go," Dr. Akers shouted! Off they sped, but when the horse slackened his gait, William gave him the whip and he didn't slow down until they reached the opposite timber in shorter time than men often ride five miles! But the horse *never* ran away with him again, and in fact, became his dear friend and companion on the long silent treks between preaching stops. Over thousands of miles "Charlie" bore William on his travels through the West. He seemed to sense his master's infirmity and safely carried him through the dangers of the wilderness - woods, rivers, bridges, on ferries, and many hazards along the way. He faithfully perked up his ears at hymns "his preacher" sang and listened attentively to many a sermon preached as the two followed the plan that God laid out for them. William always appreciated Charlie, at times more than some of his parishioners, for Charlie never went to sleep during any of his sermons!

A Circuit Rider's Life

William's many experiences as a circuit riding preacher would be more than tongue could tell, but his first trip out gave some idea of what was to come. It took two and a half days on horseback to get to the first meeting. It was an important one, as it was a quarterly conference meeting. It was not like the conferences preachers attend today with meetings in a well-furnished church in the day and a

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