

# F. Y. C.

**For Your Consideration**

❖ JANUARY 2020 ❖

## Words Wished Not Uttered

Once spoken, there is no way to recall them. There is no way to escape the consequences.

Regret and tears cannot change anything. Oh, the heartache caused by speaking rashly.

Think Before Talking

Here are some classic Bible examples.



### Abraham

"She is my sister."

### Haman

"Whom would the king desire to honor more than me?"

### Esau

"Behold, I am about to die; so of what use then is the birthright to me?"

### Moses

"Listen now, you rebels; shall we bring forth water for you out of this rock?"

### Peter

"I do not know the man."

After "Oops" Comes  
Regret

How to Save Face



### Sapphira

"Yes, that was the price."



### The Jews

"His blood be on us and on our children!"

### The Israelites

"We are not able to go up against the people,  
for they are too strong for us."



**But everyone must be quick to hear, slow to speak and slow to anger.**

James 1:17

**Regret is a bitter pill to swallow.**

**2019 ◀ A NEW DECADE ▶ 2020**

This issue, the first for 2020, contains a collection of "editor's choice" articles. They were published during the years 2012-2016. It was hard to select the ones for this edition. (I enlarged this issue to 8 pages.) Enjoy the reprints as we begin a new year and a new decade.

– THE EDITOR

# A More Excellent Way

*But earnestly desire the greater gifts. And I show you a still more excellent way.*

1 Corinthians 12:13

*“...in your faith supply moral excellence...”*

2 Peter 1:5

Where is the line between **virtue** [Moral excellence and righteousness; goodness] and **vice** [A degrading practice or habit; a serious moral failing]?

It's sometimes difficult to determine when a virtue has turned into a vice. However, every virtue must be seasoned with moderation or it may become a vice.

The following list is given to illustrate where the line is crossed. Christians should be:

- energetic . . . . . but not self seeking
- firm . . . . . but not dogmatic
- steadfast . . . . . but not stubborn
- tactful . . . . . but not timid
- serious . . . . . but not sullen
- stable . . . . . but not immovable
- gentle . . . . . but not hypersensitive
- tenderhearted . . . . . but not touchy
- conscientious . . . . . but not a perfectionist
- disciplined . . . . . but not cloned
- meeek . . . . . but not spineless
- humorous . . . . . but not a buffoon
- concerned . . . . . but not a busybody
- holy . . . . . but not “holier-than-thou”
- discerning . . . . . but not hypercritical

***We need to cultivate virtues,  
and to be careful not to let them  
degenerate into vices.***

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**IF ONLY WE COULD SEE OURSELVES  
If our daily activities  
were video recorded,  
watching the replay  
just might be an  
eye-opening experience.**

***(It's what others and God sees.)***

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*For if anyone is a hearer of the word and not a doer, he is like a man who looks intently at his natural face in a mirror. For he looks at himself and goes away and at once forgets what he was like.*

James 1:23-24



## The Three Most Important Words

The three most important words in real estate are “location, location, location.” Where the property is located is critical. A beautiful dwelling in a crime-infested area has little appeal or value, while a modest house in a quiet and secure neighborhood is very appealing and has great value.

Likewise, the three most important words in Christianity are “application, application, application.” Knowledge of God’s Word is imperative, but without application it is of little value. Unless one applies the morals and principles taught in the Scriptures, one is a Christian in name only. Knowledge is not an end in itself, but a means to an end.

In Luke 19:30-37, the account of the “Good Samaritan” illustrates this very principle. Jesus’ parting words to the listeners who understood His message were “... go and do ...”

*The things you have learned and received and heard and seen in me, practice these things; and the God of peace shall be with you.*

Philippians 4:9

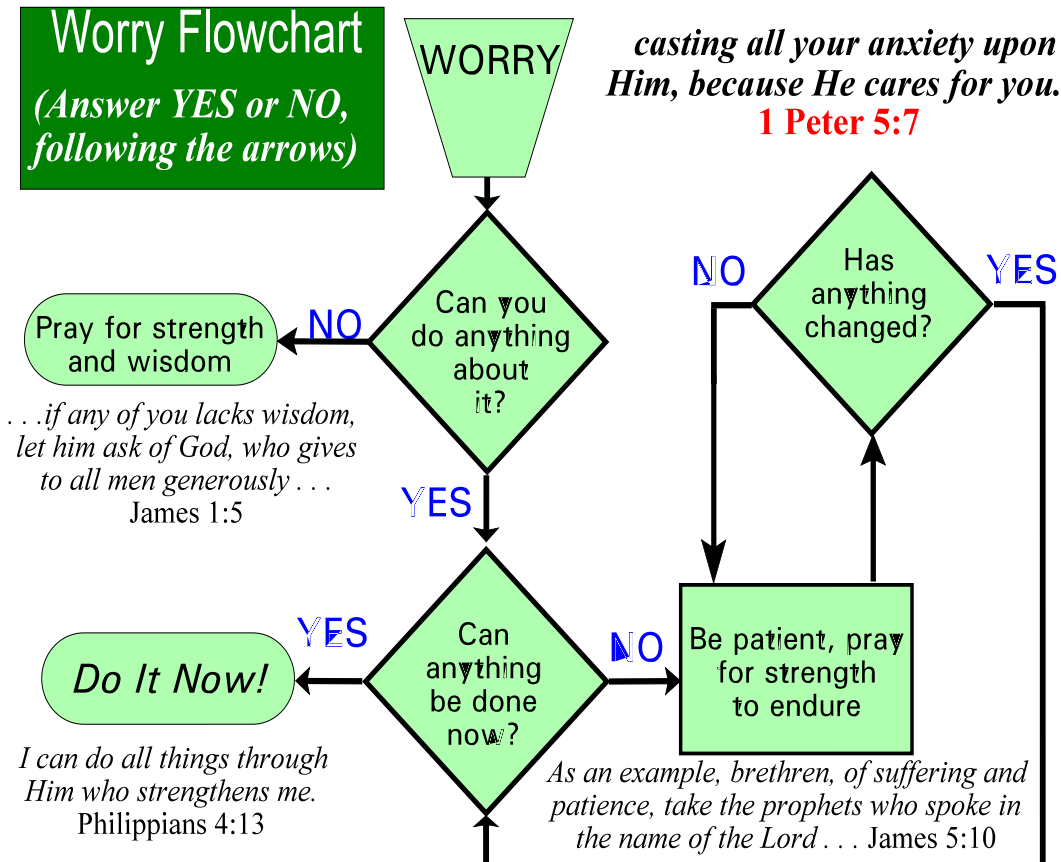
## Jesus taught ...

"Do not worry then, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear for clothing?' For the Gentiles eagerly seek all these things; for your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you. So do not worry about tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own." Matthew 6:31-34

## Worry and Anxiety

Things happen over which we have little or no control. And they cause us to have concern which can escalate and turn into worry and anxiety.

Some years ago a member ask me for some Biblical references that would help her deal with a problem that was causing her to have sleepless nights and stressful days. I designed this flowchart based on principles taught in the New Testament to aid her in dealing with her anxiety. She said it helped her greatly. I have reproduced it here with the thought that others may find it helpful.



# Removing Obstacles

In the children's section of a zoo is a display of eggs being incubated. Under the warm lights the fertilized eggs reach the hatching stage. Visitors can watch the chicks as they peck open the eggs, and struggle with all their might to free themselves. Many of them have to pause and rest part way. Afterwards, they are exhausted from the struggle.

If it weren't for the glass enclosure, some observers would surely try to help the struggling chicks. What a favor could be done by breaking open the shell and lifting the new born out. What an opportunity to help. But it would not be beneficial.

## NECESSARY ACTIVITY

Pecking out of the egg is a necessary part of life for the chick. During this process the chick develops the stamina needed for what lies ahead. Scientists have discovered that chicks aided in extricating themselves from the shell are much weaker and have a higher mortality rate.

Similarly, people often seek to help others by removing obstacles and trials from their lives, believing that they are doing a favor. But frequently this makes the other person weaker and less able to handle what lies ahead.

## HARD, BUT NOT TOO HARD

Our first reaction to trials is that they are hard, difficult, often painful, and need to be avoided. But we must note that they serve a very useful purpose in our spiritual development.

James puts it this way, "*Consider it all joy, my brethren, when you encounter various trials,*

*knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing.*" James 1:2-4

The Apostles didn't relish being arrested and threatened. However, the experience strengthened their faith. After their second encounter with authorities, wherein they were beaten and ordered not to preach any more, "*they went on their way from the presence of the Council, rejoicing that they had been considered worthy to suffer shame for His name.*" Acts 5:41

Paul, given a 'thorn in the flesh,' surely would have been better off without it (according to what he thought, and what we might think). The Lord knew better. Paul's affliction was necessary to make him better equipped. Realizing this he concluded, "*Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ's sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong.*" 2 Corinthians 12:9-10

## BRINGING IT HOME

The lessons we learn are: **[1]** Do not pray that all trials be removed from your life. **[2]** Do not attempt to remove all obstacles from the paths of others—they may well need the test to strengthen their faith. **[3]** Face each trial with determination, resolve, and much prayer. Meet it head-on, thereby gaining perfection (completeness).

There are many situations wherein God's wisdom is far above ours. This is especially true in the struggles of chicks and in our encountering various trials.

**FOOD FOR  
THOUGHT**

**Being ignorant is not shameful but being unwilling to learn is.**

*Listen to counsel and accept discipline, that you may be wise the rest of your day.*

Proverbs19:20

# Justice, Mercy, Grace

## JUSTICE

### When you receive what you deserve.

*“All have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.”*

Romans 3:23

*For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

Romans 6:23

## MERCY

### When you don't receive what you deserve.

*But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved).*

Ephesians 2:4-5

## GRACE

### When you receive what you didn't deserve.

*“For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should.”*

Ephesians 2:8-9

## JUSTICE – MERCY – GRACE

*“But the tax collector, standing some distance away, was even unwilling to lift up his eyes to heaven, but was beating his breast, saying, ‘God, be merciful to me, the sinner!’ I tell you, this man went to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted.”*

Luke 18:13

### The publican deserved JUSTICE.

### He asked for MERCY.

### He was justified by GRACE.

## How Could God?

Allow Cain to kill righteous Able?

Allow John the Baptist be beheaded?

Allow James the Apostle be killed?

Allow Herod to kill innocent baby boys?

Allow the tower of Siloam to fall on innocent people?

To attempt to answer these questions is a fruitless endeavor. Unless and until we are informed, we cannot and will not know.

## Speculation Is Futile

One thing we do know for certain is that “allowing” and “causing” are two different actions. God may choose not to intervene and thereby “allow.” God may choose to act and thereby “intervene.” He has done both as recorded in the Old and New Testaments. Why and how He acts is beyond our comprehension.

*“For My thoughts are not your thoughts, Neither are your ways My ways,” declares 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 55:8-9

Job demanded answers from God. God's only answer was that He was the Almighty One and Job was in no position to make demands.

We are not counselors of God, nor has anyone instructed Him. Mankind's only option is to trust in Him for help and salvation.

*Who has directed the Spirit of the Lord, or as His counselor has informed Him? With whom did He consult and who gave Him understanding? And who taught Him in the path of justice and taught Him knowledge, and informed Him of the way of understanding?*

Isaiah 40:13-14

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SUCCINCTLY  
PUT

The one who wants to do something looks for a way.  
The one who doesn't want to do something looks for an excuse.

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# Deja Vu (All over again)

“On Monday, the tactics were exactly and intelligently handled by [King] James to put the burden of proof on the Puritans. Unless they could show that there was something in scripture **explicitly condemning** the bishops’ administration of confirmation, or the use of the cross in baptism, or of the ring in a wedding service, or kneeling to receive communion, or the wearing of the surplice, or about the institution of episcopacy itself, he would not interfere with the accustomed ceremony or government of the church. That church, for all its abuses, was a comfortable bed in which to set a monarchy.”<sup>1</sup>

The above quotation of King James in 1604 brings to light a position that has been held over and over during religious discussions or debates: “*Unless there is something in scripture that **explicitly condemns (or forbids)** a particular action, there is to be no objection.*”

Today we are hearing once again this sentiment among churches, preachers, and elders. It’s not a new argument. It’s old. Very old! When scriptural authority cannot be found, it is sought in the silence of the scriptures, or in the obscure recesses of a “general command.”

For a moment, consider how exhaustive the scriptures would be if everything forbidden was explicitly condemned. The Index would be larger than our Bibles. And God would have had to include every devise of men that would be conjured up until Christ comes again.

King James is quoted as saying, “We have kept such a revell with the Puritans heir these two days”<sup>2</sup> after he had dismissed all the Puritan arguments. The Puritans were humbled trying to prove their objections simply because the Bible is not a complete set of “thou shall nots,” but rather a book of facts to believe, commands to obey, and promises to cherish. What specific scripture **explicitly condemned** the Church of England’s actions?

When challenging those who object to innovations with “**where is it explicitly condemned or forbidden?**” objectors will fare no better today. Why?

There is something inherently wrong with the position of King James and of those today who find liberty in the silence of scripture. To wit: (1) Authority must be found in what is written in scripture, not what is not written. (2) Authority based on the silence of the scriptures is an open door that allows anything and everything not explicitly forbidden.

Many of those who champion this view today would object to “confirmation, or the use of the cross in baptism, or kneeling to receive communion, or the wearing of the surplice [a loose-fitting, white ecclesiastical gown with wide sleeves, worn over a cassock], or about the institution of episcopacy.” But on what grounds? They are not **explicitly forbidden!**

Let’s take the “**unless explicitly forbidden**” position to it’s logical conclusion. Here’s a sampling of things that are not explicitly forbidden: prayer books, creed books, clerical robes, instrumental music, choirs, burning of incense, altars, animal sacrifices, confirmation, baptizing of infants, metropolitan bishops, *ad infinitum*.

The folly of such thinking becomes evident. The wisdom of “scriptural authority based on what is written” also becomes evident. Don’t be silenced by those who challenge with “Where is it explicitly forbidden?”

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<sup>1</sup> GOD’S SECRETARIES: THE MAKING OF THE KING JAMES BIBLE by Adam Nicolson, pg 53 (emphasis mine, Ron)

<sup>2</sup> [Ibid, pg 54]

# Cited by the 'Politically Correct' Police

## JOHN

**Called some people "liars."**

*P.C.: He should have given them the benefit of the doubt.*

**Warned the disciples about not having fellowship with false teachers.**

*P.C.: He should have been more understanding –realizing that such ostracizing is painful to the one shut out.*

**Told Gaius that he'd deal with the bad behavior of Diotrephes "when I come."**

*P.C.: He should have been forgiving, and should have instructed Gaius to be more tolerant.*

## PAUL

**Warned that some members were in danger of "falling from grace" and being "severed from Christ."**

*P.C.: He should have stressed the loving and forgiving spirit of God.*

**Taught that the goddess Diana (Artamus) was nothing, upsetting the Ephesians.**

*P.C.: He should have been more understanding of their long held veneration of Diana. He should have been aware that beliefs are a personal matter and are sacred to the individual.*

**Preached that the Greek's wisdom was foolishness in contrast to the wisdom of God, upsetting the Greeks.**

*P.C.: He should have praised the Greeks for their ability to think and reason. He had little regard for their self-esteem.*

**Confronted Peter face-to-face before all, after Peter had acted improperly.**

*P.C.: He should have avoided confrontation and been more understanding and forgiving.*

**Condemned those who were "preaching another gospel."**

*P.C.: He should have allowed for some diversity. Not all people think alike.*

**Believed he had an obligation to preach the "whole counsel of God."**

*P.C.: He should have known that such preaching would not be well-received, and turn some away.*

## PETER

**Preached that the Jews were responsible for demanding an innocent Jesus be put to death.**

*P.C.: He should have left off "blame." No one likes to be blamed. It makes one feel bad and sad.*

**Declared that he (and the other apostles) ought to obey God, not man, upsetting the rulers.**

*P.C.: He should have tried to find some "common ground" through compromise.*

**Charged men to speak "as the oracles of God."**

*P.C.: He should have made allowances for personal interpretation of Scriptures.*

## JAMES

**Chastised those who said but didn't do.**

*P.C.: He should have understood that many have good intentions and probably have good reasons for not doing.*

**Charged some members with "spiritual adultery."**

*P.C.: He should never have used such strong terminology. He should have been more positive, not negative.*

## JESUS

The most flagrant abuser of political correctness.

**Healed on the Sabbath and upset the Jews.**

*P.C.: He should have done it on another day and avoided the confrontation.*

**Called the scribes and Pharisees "hypocrites,"condemning their false piety.**

*P.C.: He should have refrained from such condemnation: no one likes to be called names. It hurts one's feelings.*

**Condemned the scribes and chief priests.**

*P.C.: He should have had more respect for the spiritual leaders, even if they were less than perfect.*

**Criticized the Pharisees and Sadducees, calling them an evil and adulterous generation.**

*P.C.: He should have known that such a combative spirit only turns off those you are trying to reach.*



## WORD STUDY

enhance your  
Bible knowledge

### JUBILEE

**A time or season of rejoicing.**

The roots of “Jubilee” can be traced to Leviticus chapter 25. Because of poverty, bad management, or circumstances one may have been forced to sell his property. But no sale of property or enslavement was permanent. The law was based on the premise that the land belongs to the Lord and people are only tenants; and the people belong to God, and can only be temporary slaves. The Year of Jubilee brought about a fresh start every 50 years.

### A NEW YEAR

A new year is symbolic of new beginnings. With a new year, there is a sense of a new beginning, a chance to start fresh. There is the rash of resolutions, however, most are soon broken. Say to say, but many will find themselves agreeing with this saying..

**Despite my resolutions  
made with bold authority,  
My good intentions yield  
to habits with seniority.**

(Selected)

Resolutions are of none effect unless there is a resolute heart. New beginnings require change. Don't be afraid of change, It is the only way “new beginnings” come about.

**May the remainder of this year  
be a year of rejoicing for you.**

## Exercises in Futility

Futility: The quality of having no useful result; uselessness.

### Jumping to conclusions.

*“But I thought . . .”*  
~~~~~

### Sidestepping responsibilities.

*“Somebody (else) needs to . . .”*  
~~~~~

### Dodging the issues.

*“I’m still studying the matter . . .”*  
~~~~~

### Passing the buck.

*“He made me do it . . .”*  
~~~~~

### Rejecting accountability.

*“Am I my brother’s keeper?”*  
~~~~~

### Pressing your luck.

*“I’ll just hope no one finds out.”*  
~~~~~

### Ignoring Problems.

*“Maybe it will go away.”*  
~~~~~

### Trying to Undue a Mistake.

*“If only I could go back.”*  
~~~~~

### Trying to make God disappear!

*“The fool has said in his heart,*

*‘There is no God.’”*

Psalms 14:1  
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**Be Effective**

**Be Fruitful**

**Be Useful**

**Avoid these futile exercises.**

F.Y.C. is a monthly publication by Ron Adams.

Bible references are from the NASB except where another translation is referenced.

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