



# F. Y. C.

**For Your Consideration**

❖ DECEMBER 2015 ❖

## MISTAKES

**A man must be  
big enough to admit his mistakes,  
smart enough to profit from them,  
and strong enough to correct them.**

## POTPOURRI OF POIGNANT PONDERS

It's a mistake to love things and use people—one should use things and love people.

Making mistakes isn't stupid—disregarding them is.

When a friend makes a mistake, don't rub it in, rub it out.

Three of the most difficult words to be spoken: "I was mistaken."

Learn from the mistakes of others.

It's the highest form of self-respect to admit mistakes and make amends for them.

*If we say that we have no sin, we are deceiving ourselves, and the truth is not  
in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive  
us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

1 John 1:8-9



### **The Perfect Gift**

One size fits all.

More precious than silver or gold.

Wrapped with lots of love.

To be given in person.

Those who receive it will be forever grateful.

# How Am I Doing?

Having seen signs like this on a number of commercial vehicles, my first thought was that the owner wanted to know if the operator was driving in an unsafe manner. The reason the sign was placed on the vehicle was so that a reckless and discourteous driver may be reported. But is this the only reason? Could there be another purpose?

After considering it for a while, I thought: "What if the driver is being extremely courteous? Would the employer appreciate someone taking the time to write down the number and call to report good driving?"

On one occasion I place a call to commend an especially courteous driver. The person who answered the phone said, "What is your complaint?" Complaint? I said I was calling to express my approval. After a few moments of silence, a shocked, but pleased, employee took my statement.

Then I pondered, "Are we more prone to report bad behavior than good behavior?" It certainly seems easier to spot poor behavior and complain about it, than to notice good behavior and commend it.

## CONDEMN AND COMMEND

Condemn and commend sound alike but are worlds apart in meaning: one deprecates, the other appreciates. While both are needed at the appropriate times to achieve the desired results, commendation is often omitted. At times we simply fail to express approval and appreciation.

Maybe it's because it takes effort to see the good in others. Maybe it's because we have a fear that such praise will produce arrogance in another (or in ourselves). Or, maybe, it is because we misunderstand or misapply the teaching of Jesus in Matthew 6:1, "*Beware of practicing your righteousness before men to be noticed by them; otherwise you have no reward with your Father who is in heaven.*" Do we feel that in receiving praise (even if unsolicited) we may jeopardize our salvation?

Good deeds are not to be done for the praise of men. But words of praise, credit, and appreciation reinforce good behavior. They acknowledge the great value of such actions. (It must be noted that self-deprecation is a form of false humility. Running oneself down in order to feel humble is not a Bible concept.)

Paul, in his letters to churches and individuals, wrote words of praise and commendation, even to a church that had numerous problems. Not that he overlooked their problems – he addressed them as well he should. In his first letter to the church at Corinth, in one chapter he wrote, "*Now I praise you...*" (11:2) and shortly thereafter he wrote, "*I praise you not.*" (11:22). In some things they did well, in others they did not. Paul mentions both.

Paul, in writing to the church at Rome, commended Phoebe, and many others. John, in recording what he was told to write to the seven churches of Asia, penned words of praise as well as criticism.

## COMMENDATION

Commendation is sorely needed for one to maintain a proper balance in life, and to maintain a proper view of oneself. This especially applies to those who are trying to live for the Lord. When one fails to do what is right or sins, his or her actions need to be denounced. Conversely, when one does succeed in living righteously, such actions need to be recognized and appreciated.

The Lord knows the makeup of his crowning creation: mankind. He knows that poor behavior needs to be addressed, and changes need to be forthcoming. He also knows that those who strive to do right, and labor to maintain a good conscience, need words of commendation and approval. Let's imitate our Lord. Let's be as quick to commend as condemn. As ready to show our appreciation as our disapproval. As ready to praise as censure.

**By all means, let's be as quick to commend as to condemn!**

**HOW AM I DOING? CALL 1-800-555-1234**

# 'Be Your Own Boss'

"Be Your Own Boss." The promotional pitch came blaring over the television. It continued with the extolling of the benefits of owning your own business. Not having to answer to a boss again. Doing things the way you think they ought to be done. Being free from the tyranny of "higher-ups." This message has appeal because it offers freedom, and freedom is a cherished commodity.

Anyone who has decided to be their own boss soon realizes that with all the independence and freedom to control your own business comes the responsibility of making it profitable. (This fact was omitted from the commercial, intentionally or unintentionally, you decide.) But it is a fact that cannot be ignored. Many an entrepreneur has failed because the weight of responsibility was too heavy to bear.

## **After thinking about it, the same pitch is being broadcast concerning living.**

It is being advertised (promoted) "*Be the boss of your life: Don't let others control you life, take charge. Don't let others tell you what to do. Rules, regulations and morals are the 'tyrannical taskmasters' that make life a chore, if not downright miserable. The confining aspect of such 'suffocate' one's free spirit, taking the fun out of life.*"

The message is clear: Be free from restrictions. Do your own thing. Be one who "did it my way." It is your right to be free. Think of it, not answering to anyone for anything anymore.

**To be free has great appeal.** Any pitch that offers freedom will find eager listeners. But this pitch, like that of owning your own business, leaves out the one important fact: if you are in charge of your own life, then you are responsible for what you do with it.

**Freedom and responsibility are Siamese twins.** To have one you must accept the other. If you

are the boss of your business, or the "boss" of your life, you are the responsible party. You are the one who will be held accountable for decisions made and actions taken. As "boss" of your own life, if you hurt others, you are responsible. If you make a mess of your life, you are the one at fault. If your soul is lost, you are the one held accountable. The "buck stops with the head guy—you."

## **Young people need to hear this early in life.**

As they assume more control over their lives, they must accept responsibility for their actions. They must understand that as they leave home and live their own lives and attain personal freedom, with it comes a great weight of responsibility. They are responsible for their actions and will have to live with the consequences, good or bad.

## **God created man with the ability to make his own decisions.**

Free-will it's called. We as the offspring of Adam have the same free-will. We may choose to live anyway we want to live. Do anything we want to do. But as Adam and Eve were held accountable for their actions, so will we. There is no way of escaping accountability.

We need to make wise choices and exercise sound judgment, for as "boss" of our lives we will be held accountable by our peers in this life, and answer to God in the judgment.



Be your own boss—**act responsibly.** This is the message that needs to be heeded!

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*For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.*

2 Corinthians 5:10



## Ponder This

## Circumstantial Evidence

Upon rising one morning a camper said to his friend, "There was a bear outside our tent last night." The friend inquired, "What did it look like?"

"I didn't see it" came the reply.

"Well then, you heard it, right?"

"No" came the answer.

"Did you smell it?"

"No."

"How can you say there was a bear in our camp last night?" asked the puzzled camper.

"By the fresh bear tracks on the ground!" was the reply.



*The heavens are telling of the glory of God; And their  
expanse is declaring the work of His hands.*

Psalms 19:1

*For since the creation of the world His invisible  
attributes, His eternal power and divine nature,  
have been clearly seen, being understood  
through what has been made...*

Romans 1:20



No one witnessed the formation of the heavens and the earth. How do we know God created them? The heavens declare the glory of God, and the firmament shows His handiwork. The evidence is found in the universe: from the smallest particle of matter to the expanse of space; from the tiniest living things to man himself; from the precision of planet movement to the vibrations of atoms. These are too great to grasp; too wonderful to comprehend; too complex to be accidentally or incidentally caused.

We didn't see Him do it, nor can we see Him working now, but we can clearly see the evidence.



## A Personal Note

This month brings to a close the fourth year of publishing **For Your Consideration**. It has been my pleasure to have the opportunity to share some thoughts with you the readers. My hope and prayer is that in some small way **F.Y.C.** has made a difference.

Thanks to those of you who have shared your comments. I look forward to publishing **F.Y.C.** in 2016. Remember, all back issues are available on the web site: <http://ra10ar.com>.

Speaking of my web site, **Bible Resources**, traffic has grown and continues to grow. There are over 450 pages of resource material. At last count, there have been over 48,000 visits and over 200,000 page views from 109 countries.

I mention these statistics for one reason only — to share with you how many lives are being touched. The message is about God and His Son Jesus, I'm only the messenger. And, I'm thankful to have had the opportunity to do my small part in helping others.

— in His service,

*Ron Adams*

## FINAL THOUGHT

Trust in Him who will not leave you,  
Whatsoever years may bring,  
If by earthly friends forsaken  
Still more closely to Him cling.  
Covet not this world's vain riches  
That so rapidly decay,  
Seek to gain the heav'nly treasures,  
They will never pass away.

— Hymn—Hold to God's Unchanging Hand

**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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