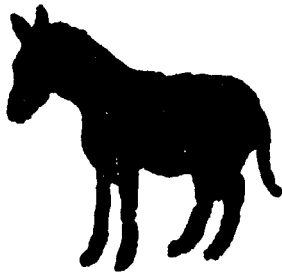


F. Y. C.

For Your Consideration

❖ JULY 2015 ❖

Pleasing Everyone



There is an old parable about a man, a boy, and a donkey. They were all three walking down a dusty road on a hot summer day. They overheard some passer-by say, "Look at those foolish people walking when they could be riding." So they both climbed on the donkey.

They had ridden only a short distance when another passer-by exclaimed, "Look at that poor donkey carrying those two people. Aren't they heartless?" Whereupon the son climbed down from the donkey and walked beside the father on the donkey.

Then some said, "Look at that inconsiderate man making that poor little boy walk while he rides."

Upon hearing this the father and boy exchanged places and still they had not satisfied the fellow man who said, "Look at that young man riding and that poor old man walking in the heat of the day."

So the boy climbed down. They tied the feet of the donkey to a pole and proceeded to carry the donkey. Everyone exclaimed, "Look at those foolish people."

The lesson is obvious, isn't it? We spend a lot of time worrying about people being pleased about us. We are continually perplexed because we can never please everybody. Don't try!

We should strive to please God and do unto others as we would have them do unto us and not worry about someone thinking us foolish. There is a lesson here for all of us. We will be happier if we learn it.

– Author Uncertain



Finally then, brethren, we request and exhort you in the Lord Jesus, that as you received from us instruction as to how you ought to walk and please God (just as you actually do walk), that you excel still more.

1 Thessalonians 4:1

For am I [Paul] now seeking the favor of men, or of God? Or am I striving to please men? If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a bond-servant of Christ.

Galatians 1:10

Six Ways Satan Gains the Advantage

. . . *in order that no advantage be taken of us by Satan; for we are not ignorant of his schemes.*

2 Corinthians 2:11

Whenever churches fail to act as the Lord directs, they become vulnerable to Satan's schemes which are many (Ephesians 6:11). Our adversary realizes that a direct attack on the church usually fails, therefore he works to sidetrack and destroy the church and its members from within. How do churches become vulnerable?

BY CONFORMING TO THE WORLD

Rather than require men conform to God's ways.

It's appealing because it offers large church memberships.

Romans 12:1-2, Ephesians 4:17-24

BY BEING BUSY WITH EVERYTHING BUT SAVING SOULS

Political, social and environmental issues taking precedent.

Involved in everything from day-care to entertainment to recreation.

It's appealing because it addresses the current wants of society.

But to neglect the greatest need is to fail!

Matthew 16:21-26

BY CHURCHES BEING LAX IN DOCTRINE

Doctrine is not considered important.

Some churches "test the wind" to set forth teachings.

They adjust their teachings to reflect the state of society at the present time.

Without sound doctrine, churches are "build on sand."

2 Timothy 1:13, 3:16-17, 4:1-3; Matthew 7:26

BY MEMBERS BECOMING DOGMATIC IN THEIR OPINIONS

Being radical about a position or a belief considered "standing firm for the truth."

Preferring a "split" over "fellowship"—dividing over opinions.

Misguided attempts to keep the church pure, end up sterilizing it!

Ephesians 4:1-3, Romans 14:1, 10-12, Philippians 4:2

BY MEMBERS QUARRELING AND FIGHTING

Confuse contention with "contending for the faith."

Ephesians 4:26-27, James 4:7-12

BY MEMBERS BEING UNWILLING TO FORGIVE

Refuse those seeking forgiveness, thereby making sure that a barrier remains.

Matthew 6:14-15

YES, SATAN GAINS THE ADVANTAGE

When the church is polluted by worldliness.

When members are busy with other things than His.

When churches seek to attract people by "glitter" rather than the Gospel.

When "thus says the Lord" is considered radical and narrow-minded.

When members fuss, fight and splinter the body while demanding their way.

When members refuse to maintain the spirit and attitude of Christ.

The advantage is ours; the playing field is tilted in our favor **if** we faithfully follow the Lord and heed His commandments. *For if God is for us, who can be against us?* Romans 8:31

Jesus Christ

"I said therefore to you, that you shall die in your sins; for unless you believe that I am He, you shall die in your sins." John 8:24

And He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" And Peter answered and said, "The Christ of God." Luke 9:20

JESUS

יְהוֹשֻׁעַ Yehoshua or יְהוֹשֻׁעַ Yehoshua ; "the LORD is salvation.," Jeshua (28), Joshua (219).

Ἰησοῦς Iēsous Of Hebrew origin; Jesus (that is, Jehoshua), the name of our Lord. The name "Jesus" is from the Greek (and Latin) for the Hebrew Jeshua (Joshua), which means "the Lord is salvation."

CHRIST

Χριστός Christos khris-tos'; anointed, that is, the Messiah, an epithet of Jesus.

ANOINTED

Anointed, the Greek translation of the Hebrew word rendered "Messiah", the title of our Lord, occurring five hundred and fourteen times in the New Testament. It denotes that he was anointed or consecrated to his great redemptive work as Prophet, Priest, and King of his people. He is Jesus the Christ (Acts 17:3; 18:5; Matthew 22:42), the Anointed One. He is thus spoken of by Isaiah (Isaiah 61:1), and by Daniel (Daniel 9:24-26), who styles him "Messiah the Prince."

MESSIAH

The Messiah is the same person as "the seed of the woman" (Genesis 3:15), "the seed of Abraham" (Genesis 22:18), the "Prophet like unto Moses" (Deuteronomy 18:15), "the priest after the order of Melchizedek" (Psalm 110:4), "the rod out of the stem of Jesse" (Isaiah 11:1, 10), the "Immanuel," the virgin's son (Isaiah 7:14), "the branch of Jehovah" (Isaiah 4:2), and "the messenger of the covenant" (Malachi 3:1). This is he "of whom Moses in the law and the prophets did write." The Old Testament Scripture is full of prophetic declarations regarding the Great Deliverer and the work he was to accomplish. Jesus the Christ is Jesus the Great Deliverer, the Anointed One, the Saviour of men.

SAVIOR

This name denotes that Jesus was divinely appointed, commissioned, and accredited as the Saviour of men (Hebrews 5:4; Isaiah 11:2-4; 49:6; John 5:37; Acts 2:22).

CONCLUSION

To believe that "Jesus is the Christ" is to believe that he is the Anointed, the Messiah of the prophets, the Savior sent of God, that he was, in a word, what he claimed to be.

– ISBE

The problem with a half-truth is the other half.

Abraham said of Sarah his wife, "She is my sister." So Abimelech king of Gerar sent and took Sarah.

The Whole Truth

"...she actually is my sister, the daughter of my father, but not the daughter of my mother, and she became my wife."

Genesis 20:2, 12

SUCCINCTLY

PUT



Ponder This

'As Is, Where Is'

"As is, where is," is a term used at auctions. It means that when

you bid on an item and make the winning bid, it's yours "as it now is, where it is now." Life is a lot like that.

We must take it as it is now, where we are now. We are not given the option of refusing to accept it until it is changed to our liking.

It is apparent that the Apostle Paul understood this concept when he wrote in Philippians 4:11: *"Not that I speak from want; for I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am. I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having an abundance and suffering need. I can do all things through Him who strengthens me."*

There are many things which happen about which we have nothing to say. We had no voice in deciding when we were born, the family into which we were born, or the social, cultural and economic status of that family. There are many things which we have little control over: how others treat us, what kind of diseases we will contract, our length of life, etc.

Since we exert so little control over such external things, we must learn to accept life "as is, where is." This is what produces contentment. Not that we wouldn't like it to be different. Not that we shouldn't try to improve our lot in life. It is accepting our present circumstances for now.

When we accept ourselves "as we are, where we are," we are able to face today, and gain strength to change things for tomorrow.

Singing with the Understanding . . .



#394 **Love One Another**

(The Admonition)

Angry words! O let them never,
From the tongue unbridled slip,
May the heart's best impulse ever,
Check them ere they soil the lip.

(The Reason to Love)

Love is much too pure and holy,
Friendship is too sacred far,
For a moment's reckless folly,
Thus to desolate and mar.

(The Hurt That Is Done)

Angry words are lightly spoken,
Bitterest thoughts are rashly stirred,
Brightest links of life are broken,
By a single angry word.

(The Solution)

Love one another thus saith the Savior,
Children obey the Father's blest command,
Love each other, love each other,
'Tis the Father's blest command.



Since you have in obedience to the truth purified your souls for a sincere love of the brethren, fervently love one another from the heart.

1 Peter 1:22

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

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