



DILIGENCE

Earnest and persistent application to an undertaking; steady effort.

Marked by persevering, painstaking effort.

– American Heritage Dictionary

PRACTICE IT

Therefore, brethren, be all the more diligent to make certain about His calling and choosing you; for as long as you practice these things [moral excellence, knowledge, self-control, perseverance, godliness, brotherly kindness, love], you will never stumble.

2 Peter 1:10

MAINTAIN IT

Therefore, beloved, since you look for these things [new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells], be diligent to be found by Him in peace, spotless and blameless.

2 Peter 3:14

SHOW IT

And we desire that each one of you show the same diligence so as to realize the full assurance of hope until the end, so that you will not be sluggish, but imitators of those who through faith and patience inherit the promises.

Hebrews 6:11-12

USE IT

Watch over your heart with all diligence, For from it flow the springs of life.

Proverbs 4:23

Give it due diligence. Always!

‘Painting With a Broad Brush’

This saying means “sweepingly general in scope or thrust: an unfair, broad-brush indictment.”

It’s unfair to categorize people or things that may have only little in common. Such as people living in the same country, or of a particular race, or educational background, or people who complain.

I once heard a preacher say that members who complain are setting a bad example. Some may have frivolous complaints, but are all who complain setting a bad example? What about valid complaints?

A LITTLE BIBLE HISTORY

Now at this time while the disciples were increasing in number, a complaint arose on the part of the Hellenistic Jews against the native Hebrews, because their widows were being overlooked in the daily serving of food. Acts 6:1

Were the Hellenistic Jews wrong to complain? The Apostles addressed their complaint.

But when Cephas came to Antioch, I opposed him to his face, because he stood condemned. For prior to the coming of certain men from James, he used to eat with the Gentiles; but when they came, he began to withdraw and hold himself aloof, fearing the party of the circumcision. The rest of the Jews joined him in hypocrisy, with the result that even Barnabas was carried away by their hypocrisy. Galatians 2:11-13

Would the Gentile Christians be wrong to complain? The Apostle Paul addressed the problem.

I wrote something to the church; but Diotrefes, who loves to be first among them, does not accept what we say. For this reason, if I come, I will call attention to his deeds which he does, unjustly accusing us with wicked words; and not satisfied with this, he himself does not receive the brethren, either, and he forbids those who desire to do so and puts them out of the church. 3 John 1:9-10

Would those who were mistreated be wrong when they complained? John wrote he would confront the troublemaker when he came.

Let not many of you become teachers, my brethren, knowing that as such we will incur a stricter judgment. For we all stumble in many ways. If anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able to bridle the whole body as well.

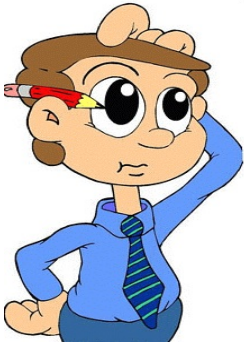
James 3:1-2

A LESSON FOR ALL

To “paint with a broad brush” is not in keeping with “love one another.” We are to treat others as we wish to be treated. Remember, when you “point the finger at another, three fingers are pointing back at you.”

AFTERTHOUGHT

Was it a subtle complaint by the preacher against those who complained?



Ponder This

THEY THOUGHT ... WRONG!

One's thought process is based upon one's perception, reasoning, and/or beliefs. When one of these is wrong one's thinking and conclusion(s) will be wrong.

Here are five examples found in the New Testament of people who thought wrong.

THE EARLY WORKERS THOUGHT THEY WOULD BE PAID MORE.

"When those hired first came, they thought that they would receive more; but each of them also received a denarius."

Matthew 20:10

Thinking based on human reasoning.

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### **THE APOSTLES THOUGHT LAZARUS WAS ASLEEP.**

*Now Jesus had spoken of his death, but they thought that He was speaking of literal sleep.*

John 11:13

***Thinking based on a misperception.***

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SIMON THOUGHT HE COULD BUY THE POWER OF LAYING ON OF HANDS.

But Peter said to him, "May your silver perish with you, because you thought you could obtain the gift of God with money!"

Acts 8:20

Thinking based on the belief that money can buy anything.

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### **THE ATHENIANS THOUGHT THEIR IDOLS REPRESENTED DEITIES.**

*"Being then the children of God, we ought not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone, an image formed by the art and thought of man."*

Acts 17:29

***Thinking based on the current culture and beliefs of the Greeks.***

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SAUL THOUGHT THE FOLLOWERS OF JESUS WERE GUILTY OF HERESY.

"So then, I thought to myself that I had to do many things hostile to the name of Jesus of Nazareth."

Acts 26:9

Thinking based on the beliefs and teachings of the Pharisees.

LESSON

Perceiving it to be right doesn't make it so.

Believing it to be true doesn't make it so.

Thinking something to be correct doesn't necessarily make it so.

Yes, it's possible for one to think wrong and draw the wrong conclusion.



WORD STUDY

enhance your
Bible knowledge

Mizpah

Years ago, while entering Riverside, California, from the east on old US Highway 60, a sign hung over the road that read "Welcome to Riverside." In leaving the city, one saw the word "Mizpah" on the back side. As a lad I was puzzled by this word.

Actually it's a Bible word. It means "a watch-tower." It describes several places in Palestine. The earliest of all is the heap of stones piled up by Jacob and Laban on Mount Gilead, to serve both as a witness to the covenant they entered into and as a landmark of the boundary between them (Gen.31:25,48-52).

Jacob said, "May the Lord watch between you and me when we are absent one from the other." Jacob's words are sometimes repeated as a parting blessing. Yes, the Lord is a witness to our behavior. He sees all, knows all, judges all.

For the ways of a man are before the eyes of the Lord, and He watches all his paths.

Proverbs 5:21

For it is written, "as I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to Me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." So then each one of us will give an account of himself to God.

Romans 14:11-12

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**May we ever be aware of the Lord's watching and conduct our lives in a way approved by Him.**

*Listen, my son, and be wise, and direct your heart in the way.*

Proverbs 23:19

## A Parallel Lesson

### Simon Says ...

The children's game, "Simon Says," is an activity wherein there is a group with a leader. When the leader says, "Simon says jump." Then you're supposed to jump. But if he says, "jump" without prefacing it with "Simon says" and you jump, then you're "out." And if you do something other than jump, you are "out." It's an interesting game used to train one to pay attention and to follow orders.

### The Bible Says ...

Similarly, in the game of life when the words "the Bible says" prefaces what one says is a command or precept, one needs to do what it says. But if the words "the Bible says" do not precede what is said to be a command or precept, one must refrain from following it. If one does it anyway, he will be "out." And if something else is done, he is "out" as well.

*"Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you who practice lawlessness [not ruled by law; contrary to law].' Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine and acts on them, may be compared to a wise man who built his house on the rock."*

Matthew 7:22-24

Harsh words? **No!** They are the words of a loving Savior spoken to keep us from being counted "out."

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

Articles written by others are duly noted.

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

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