

Styles and Fashions

"In like manner, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefastness and sobriety ... which becometh women professing godliness" (I Tim. 2:9, 10).

The above instruction on dress is just as vital to a woman's spiritual welfare as is baptism, communion or any other commandment of the Lord. Yet many women in the Lord's church allow the styles and fashions set by sinners to determine their apparel. Many of the creations of the fashion salons are not that which becometh women professing godliness. Instead, they are the productions of men whose minds are filled with corruption and think of the woman's body as being built for display and seduction. Women who are Christians should consider carefully any attire they adorn. The standards of the Christian should be much higher than the standards of the world. Women's dresses of today are so short, tight, low cut and revealing that it is impossible for them to avoid revealing more of their body than is becoming to women professing godliness. Such attire may be perfect for women without morals or conscience, but not for children of God. Even in the assembly of saints, some women dress in this ungodly fashion. This is not to say that such attire would be proper in other places as long as it was not worn to the assemblies. Of all the women on the earth, members of the Lord's body should be modest, not only in the assembly, but at all places and at all times.

The women of the world are not ashamed to reveal their nakedness. Instead, they glory in their shameful practices. No woman is complimented when men look and lust upon her. Let all such lasciviousness be put away from the Lord's people.

- by Bill Echols

Will Only 144,000 Be Saved In Heaven?

Among the many false doctrines taught by these who call themselves Jehovah's Witnesses is the one that only 144,000 will be saved in heaven. They cite Rev. 14:3: "And they sung as it were a new song before the throne and before the four beasts, and the elders: and no man could learn that song but the hundred and forty and four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth."

A study of the text and context will show the fallacy of their strained interpretation. The passage does not say that only 144,000 will be saved in heaven. Verse 4 says they were the firstfruits, indicating there would be others. After John saw the 144,000 he said, "After this I beheld, and lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb . . ." (See Rev. 7:1-17).

In Rev. 7:4 we learn the 144,000 were Jews; and they were men who were virgins (Rev. 14:4). According to the Witnesses' theory, therefore only Jewish men who were virgins will be in heaven. There can be no women, not even the mother of Jesus, nor any married man not even the married apostle Peter!

The Witnesses err in limiting the number for heaven to 144,000, for the Bible does not teach that limitation. After John saw these 144,000 Jewish virgin men, he plainly says that he saw a great multitude that no man could number (Rev. 7:9), who were of all nations. The Witnesses ignore this and try to number those who will be before the throne of God in heaven.

Be not deceived by this false doctrine of False Witnesses. All who obey God's commandments will have a right to enter the city (Rev. 22:14). Eternal salvation is promised to all who obey Christ (Heb. 5:9). You can be among that great multitude which no man can number, whether you be man or woman, Jew or Gentile, married or unmarried. Be not misled by the false prophets (preachers) who are determined to be cast into the lake of fire and brimstone to be tormented day and night forever and ever (Rev. 20: 10). If you blindly follow leaders you too will fall into the ditch with them (Matt. 15:14). "Beware o: false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves" (Matt. 7: 15).

- by Earl Fly

Sacrificing Ourselves to Reach the Lost

"I will most gladly spend and be expended for your souls" (2 Cor 12:15). How much of ourselves are we willing to invest in the saving of souls? How much time, energy, and resources are we willing to sacrifice that the lost may hear the gospel? Paul the Apostle stopped at nothing to reach the world with the good news of Jesus Christ. He was willing to live in poverty and discomfort, suffer persecution and disgrace, and put his life in constant peril to ensure the spiritual wellbeing of those around him (2 Cor 11:23-29).

What sacrifices are we making to reach the lost around us? Are we willing to surrender our recreation or relaxation time to study the Bible with our neighbors? Are we willing to let our own personal goals and dreams take a back seat to the work of the Lord in our lives? Are we willing to exceed the limits of our comfort zone to speak to our friends or even strangers about Christ?

- by Grady Huggins

An Offer You Shouldn't Refuse

Daily we are confronted with a variety of "special offers". Many techniques are used to encourage our favorable response. Often we are urged to buy with the suggestion that this product fills some great need, or that it will only be offered for a limited time. Others tell us of new products, or special deals. Sometimes we are told that we have been specifically chosen for the privilege of participation. All of this is intended, of course, to get us to make some positive commitment.

There is another offer that comes to us which is different from those previously described. But with this offer, every incentive is really true. It fulfills a great need, it speaks of opportunity both special and for a limited time, and it involves that which is always new. But, perhaps most importantly, it provides a truly genuine privilege of participation. The offer of which we speak is that which has been extended by our Lord Jesus Christ:

Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light." (Matthew 11:28-30)

This offer concerns that which is of the greatest value - your eternal soul (Mark 8:36,37). It is certainly worthy of your most careful consideration.

- by Greg Gwin