

Preaching and Science

Do not worry about science. It has its legitimate field, and in its field it has done wonderful things. We reap its benefits and are glad. The average preacher knows little about science, and the average scientist knows less about the Bible.

The claim that science and the Bible do not agree should disturb no one. What is called "science" is not static. Each generation brings new light; most of the old theories have been exploded by scientists themselves. Yet, each generation of scientists boldly announces that science has disproved the Bible.

But it can as easily be proved that science has disproved itself. With all their dogmatism about the Bible and science, there are few theories that real scientists are willing to take their stand on and say: "Here is the ultimate truth; no future discoveries will contradict this." So long as they cannot afford to affirm that they have arrived at ultimate truth, how can they with honor say that science disproves the Bible?

Besides if the Bible fully agreed with the scientific theories of one age, it would not agree with theories of the next age. The Bible is unchangeable and cannot keep up agreement with that which constantly changes.

Some of the foremost scientists recognize the limitations of science and are firm believers in the Bible. Preach the word! No known truth contradicts the Bible.

- by R. L. Whiteside

"I'm Too Tired"

I could have come to worship services this morning. I'm not sick. I'm not incapacitated. My alarm clock works fine Monday through Friday; it would've worked today. It's just that I worked too hard last week. I stayed up too late last night relaxing from my hard week. I'm too tired.

I could have come to Bible class this morning. I could have taken my children. Then there might have been two or three in their classes instead of one or two. Of course, we haven't worked on their Bible class lesson this week. (I haven't worked on mine, either.) I suppose we could have gotten up fifteen minutes early and still gotten their lessons done - maybe mine, too. But I'm too tired.

I could have gone to Bible class on Wednesday. I could have made sure we had a quick dinner. We could have left the dishes for later that night, I suppose. But it was an especially tough day at work Wednesday, I seem to recall. I just wasn't ready to get back in the car again. I was too tired.

I could be making plans to attend our gospel meeting, just like I made plans six months in advance to go on vacation. The kids will get plenty of sleep, since it's summer. And I stay up way past 10 every night anyway. But I like to save my evenings for myself. Five days in a row of worship is a lot to ask. I have a feeling I'll be too tired.

I could put Jesus first. I could teach my children to make time for God, no matter what is going on in our lives. I could be in my place whenever possible so I could give as much glory to God as I could manage. I could set a good example for my brethren so that they, too, would be motivated to put their priorities in order. I could encourage and instruct the ones who come so often and yet are not members of Christ's body. I could show them what a Christian really looks like. I could lift up my spirit by singing familiar songs of praise and instruction, as well as learn new ones. I could be available to assist in the worship. I could be there to hear about who needs my prayers and visits. I could show God how much I love Him. -- But I'm too tired.

- by Hal Hammons

Use It or Lose It

This expression is often heard in regard to physical exercise, when the idea is being promoted that muscles have to be used in order to insure greater use of them in the future. To fail to do so, will tend to slowly lead to muscular atrophy, a loss of what strength you presently have. But the same principle applies to things spiritual as well.

In Mark 4:24-25, Jesus says, "Take heed what you hear. With the same measure you use, it will be measured to you; and to you who hear, more will be given. For whoever has, to him more will be given; but whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him." When it comes to hearing God's word, understanding it and then applying it, God warns in so many words, "use it or lose it."

We all have some ability to get to know God and His will. We all have opportunities to fulfill the desires of our heart religiously, but if we neglect to use them, we may end up losing even that which we have. Conversely, the more we put into seeking after God, the more we will get out of it and the more we will be equipped for future success.

Ecclesiastes 12 warns mankind to remember the Creator in the days of youth, before the evil days come and there is no interest. We go through changes in our lives, and some not for the better. One such change may be a degenerating interest in spiritual concerns. Don't let this happen to you. Use it, so you don't lose it.

- by Whit Sasser

Three Reactions to the Truth

When Paul preached his famous sermon on Mars Hill, in Athens, his teaching received three distinct reactions. "And when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked: and others said, We will hear thee again of this matter. So Paul departed from among them. Howbeit certain men clave unto him, and believed..." (Acts 17:32-34). Do you see it? Some rejected the teaching immediately. Others procrastinated or withheld judgment, and did nothing. But some enthusiastically accepted the truth and acted upon it.

The same three reactions are in evidence to this day - even among members of the Lord's church. Consider this scenario: The preacher preaches a 'hard' sermon that exposes sin and worldliness. It's one of those sermons that "steps on toes" and hits "close to home." Some Christians will grow angry. The things taught suggest the need to change, and they are not willing to do so. They are happy to hear preaching on things they already agree about, but if a lesson contradicts their existing views or practices, they get mad. They are like those in Athens who "mocked."

Some other brethren hear this same sermon and, while it plainly shows that there are things they need to change in their life, they postpone any action. These are the ones who commend the preacher as they go out the door: "I really needed that!", or "You really stomped on my toes today!" And, yet, they do nothing. They continue in their former ways. In effect they are saying: "We will hear thee again of this matter."

Thank God that there are those who are tenderhearted; those who are always looking to bring their life into closer harmony with the will of God. These are the folks who, upon hearing the truth, respond by putting it into practice in their lives. If it means changing from what they previously believed, they will do so. Their commitment is to the Lord. Serving Him is their first priority. May their tribe increase!

- by Greg Gwin