

## ***The Most Hated Book***

A principal in New York scolded a five year old for handing out gospel tracts. A teacher in another school rebuked a child for writing "I love God" on her hand. Some schools supply contraceptives to students but prohibit Bible studies on campus. Why do so many hate the Bible and what it stands for?

- 1) It speaks with authority from God (Heb. 1:1,2). While the Christian enjoys certainty in an uncertain world, the sinner despises authority that threatens severe punishment.
- 2) It speaks the same message to all without favoritism (Heb. 2:1-4). God is not impressed with our popularity, our bank accounts, or our social standing. All have sinned (Rom. 3:23). All must repent (Acts 17:30,31).
- 3) It knows what is in man (Heb. 4:12,13). The last thing a sinner wants is for someone to spotlight his transgressions (John 3:19-21).
- 4) It condemns the evil in man (Heb. 3:4). Our permissive society condones the worst crimes and winks at criminal behavior by blaming circumstances for the state of lawlessness.
- 5) It cuts to the heart (Heb. 4:12). A guilty conscience is an unpleasant companion.
- 6) It warns of judgment on the disobedient (Heb. 12:23; 13:4). Most people dislike the thought of being judged for their sins.

- by Rick Duggin

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## ***About Your Attendance***

Preachers should never have to preach on attendance. It should be obvious that when a Christian does not care to attend *all* the services, his interest is elsewhere. It is foolish to assert that we have a passage which pronounces anathema on those who don't come on Sunday and Wednesday nights. We don't need one. All we need show is that interest and attendance are connected and that a person who is truly interested will attend.

Now you can try to explain that away all you want and when you are finished it will still say the same thing: a ***person who is able yet does not attend the services is not interested in what is going on at the services.*** Bring your excuses, pronounce your justifications, rationalize all you want. And when you are done, the parable of the sower will still affirm the same thing: prepared soil is the only kind which results in good fruit.

- by Dee Bowman

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## ***Something Learned From Mules***

A mule can't pull while he's kicking, and when he is pulling he won't be kicking. It is the same in the church. When saints have their feet in the sand pulling hard to do the will of God, there is no time for kicking, nit-picking and complaining. To the contrary, when we are given to kicking, gossip, and idleness we never move the gospel chariot forward. Also, when one has two or more mules hitched together they have to pull at the same time to move the load. This is also true in the Lord's church. Pulling "together" accomplishes great things.

- by W. R. Jones

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## ***You Say You Are Satisfied?***

So what?

- The rich man was satisfied, but God called him a fool and took his life and condemned his soul. (Luke 12:20)

- The whole church at Laodicea was satisfied, but Jesus said they did not know that they were actually wretched, and miserable and poor and blind and naked.

That's about how wrong a "satisfied" person can be.

Satisfied? Are you, now? The Pharisee that went into the temple to pray was satisfied with himself, and even glad he was not as the Publican. But Jesus said that the satisfied Pharisee was not as justified as the sin-conscious Publican. As a matter of fact, the Pharisee wasn't justified at all; the sin-conscious Publican was!

The wise man warned: "There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death." (Prov. 14:12).

- by Jere E. Frost

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## ***We Can't Overcome Your Bad Example***

As God's people in this local community we have the duty to "*let (our) light so shine before men, that they may see (our) good works, and glorify (our) Father which is in heaven*" (Matthew 5:16). The awesomeness of this responsibility is realized when we recognize that the thousands of lost folks all around us will likely go to hell if we are not effective in getting God's message out to them.

**YOU** play an important role in this process of evangelizing our immediate community. Day by day you are in contact with others: at school, at work, in the neighborhood, etc. Your conduct, your speech, how you dress, what you do, where you go, are all being observed by those around you. If your example is good, they will be favorably impressed with God's way, and they may choose to pursue it themselves. Many people have been converted because of Christians who displayed good examples in their presence.

On the other hand, if your manner of life is not what it ought to be, the Lord's cause **WILL** suffer. If others can see that you are not serious about your service to Him, then why would they give even a moment's thought to such things? In this matter, actions clearly speak louder than words. No matter how hard other Christians may be working to teach and influence people, they will not be able to overcome the bad example you have set before your acquaintances and peers. All the best Bible classes, sermons, bulletins, meetings, advertisements, and programs, will not offset the damage you have done by your negative influence.

And, we should remind you that you will be held accountable by God for the harm you do by your flawed example. Jesus said: "*It is impossible but that offences will come: but woe unto him, through whom they come! It were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and he cast into the sea . . .*" (Luke 17:1-2).

Your good example is essential to the success of the gospel right here in our community. Think!

- by Greg Gwin