

"Our Christianity"

The quote for today is: "A man who lives right, and is right,
has more power in his silence than another has by his words." --- Phillips Brooks

but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior; because it is written, "YOU SHALL BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY."
(1 Peter 1:15-16 NASB) taken from O.T. [Lev 11:44]

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Perks of being over 65 - "Your supply of brain cells is finally down to manageable size."

Ten Signs you are Getting Older - By Dewey E. Fox



1. When young ladies start opening the door for you at the post office.
2. When younger people start calling you sir.
3. When the mother looks better than the daughter.
4. When enjoying a romantic candle light dinner, you can't see to eat.
5. When you are over weight, but who cares.
6. When you believe anything you wear matches.
7. When you drive slower than the speed limit.
8. When due to your aches and pains, you realize you are no longer immortal.
9. When you realize life is fragile and you are only put here for God's purpose.
10. When you try to live each day, realizing there may not be a tomorrow.

"My business is not to remake myself, but to make the
absolute best of what God made." Robert Browning

I'm like Paul and what he said in I Corinthians 15:9; *For I am the least of the apostles, and not fit to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.* (1Co 15:9 NASB) He viewed himself as the least of the apostles and I'm probably the least of you here today. Just because I'm up here doesn't mean anything. God uses us all in all kinds of different ways. We just need to continue and seek the Lord's will in our life. (1Co 15:10) *But by the grace of God I am what I am:*

Christianity in the Work Place



As a follower of Jesus Christ we are to continuously allow Him to work in our life. And that means at home, vacation, traveling and especially in our jobs and professions, since you spend so much time there; eight hours a day minimum or if you own your own business it probably is more like 10 or 12 hours a day; well it would work out to 1/3 of your life at your job or profession. Others should be able to see Jesus in us without us saying a word, no matter where we are. (See Phillips Brooks, page 1) Following Jesus is a lifestyle; you don't turn Jesus (Yeshua) on or off depending on where you are. Let His light shine in us continuously.

I'm self-employed and have a business dealing with the public. I usually keep spiritual booklets, pamphlets on my desk and in the office to give to clients. I also give them Christian literature to take home with them.

I received the following email from one of my clients several months ago. Let me read it to you.

When I got home, and reviewed my tax return, I found several religious papers and fliers inside my tax booklet. I don't want to seem callous, what people want to believe is their own business, but when it comes to my taxes I find the fliers that were in my folder to be pushy, and a blatant disrespect of my personal views. I came to your establishment to buy a service, not to be preached to. I hope that every customer that comes into your establishment doesn't get treated with the same attitude.



K. M.

I was shocked, here in the Bible belt and I received an email like this. My first impression was, where did I go wrong? I had never had this to happen before. I thought everyone loved Jesus like I did.

(2Ti 4:2) Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine.

(2Ti 3:12) Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution.

(2Ti 3:16) All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:

What do you do with these type people? I first thought, I guess I will quit putting Jesus information in my packets and remove the religious materials from the office so I could stay neutral. Then I thought; I have my opinion just like he has an opinion. But, I have the Savior, Jesus Christ and I shouldn't be ashamed of the Gospel. (See Romans 1:16)



It reminds me of that old quote, “Don't worry about the blind mule; just load the wagon.” And that is what we are doing, pouring out ourselves for the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

We are just to load the wagon. God will take care of the rest of it.

It's up to us to proclaim the Message to everyone we come in contact with. How will people be converted to Christ if we are afraid to say anything to the unconverted? I keep hearing, “well I'll offend somebody.” “Or you offended me with that statement.” Let us take note, the sharp “Words of Jesus,” will always offend someone. Look what the Pharisees and the Sadducees did to Him, they set out to kill Him and they eventually did. But, He proved them all wrong and rose from the grave. From cross to the grave.

Jesus was showing and telling them of their wrong ways, rules, laws and traditions. I would say they were offended. And like I said, “They were so offended they developed a plan to kill Jesus (Yeshua.)” We are probably not offending people that much now-a-days, but maybe we should be offending people with the Gospel; that they want to get rid of us. We have to take a stand. You remember that saying, “If you don't stand for something, you are standing for nothing.” “Stand-up for JESUS.”

“World will give you up”



A man once said to D. L. Moody, “Now that I am converted, must I give up the world?” “No,” answered the evangelist, “you need not

give up the world; if you give a ringing testimony for the Son of God the world will give you up pretty quick. They will not want you around.”

“We must be firm in our convictions and our actions!”

You Can't Please Everyone

An old man, a boy and a donkey were going to town. The boy rode on the donkey and the old man walked.

As they went along they passed some people who remarked it was a shame the old man was walking and the boy was riding. The man and boy thought maybe the critics were right, so they changed positions. The old man rode the donkey and the boy walked.



Later, they passed some people that remarked, “What a shame, he makes that little boy walk.” They then decided they both would walk!

Soon they passed some more people who thought they were stupid to walk when they had a decent donkey to ride. So, they both rode the donkey.

Now they passed some people that cast their eyes on them and was telling them how awful it was to put such a load on a poor donkey.

The boy and man said they were probably right, so they decided to carry the donkey. As they crossed the bridge, they lost their grip on the animal and he fell into the river and drowned. The moral of the story is, if you try to please everyone, you might as well kiss your donkey good-bye.

— author unknown

You can't please everyone. The only one to please is Jesus Christ. It doesn't matter about what the world or tradition says. Follow the Bible.

But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. (Jas 1:6)

For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord. (Jas 1:7)

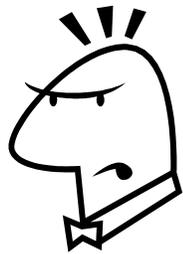
A double minded man is unstable in all his ways. (Jas 1:8)

Telephone Conversation

You will be misunderstood by the world if you are living the Christian Life. Let me tell you another true story.

I had a telephone call a few months ago concerning a solicitation of business or some type of advertising that they wanted to sell me, I don't remember exactly. But the lady offered me what she had to sell. I advised her that I wouldn't be interested in her product. So she came back with the question; Mr. Fox, where do you get your clients? I answered; "God sends them to me!" There was a moment of silent on the phone and then she said, "Can you repeat that Mr. Fox? And I answered her again and said; "God sends them to me!" There was another moment of silent and then a click on the other end -- She hung-up the phone. She didn't have a response to that answer. She probably thought, "What a crack-pot this guy is or maybe she didn't have the answer on her queue sheet. If you want to get those solicitors off the phone, just start talking about God or Jesus. I do this at home; they are short lived.

I've had people to come to my office and I asked them why and they would make some comments like; I was passing by or may have been passing by your office and God said to go in, that's the place I need to go.



You see you will be misunderstood or left out in the open where others are probably thinking this guy is crazy. They just don't understand. When you mention the name of Jesus, it divides a room and His Word will always offend someone. If you don't believe it just go to your next social or secular meeting and get up and mention the name of Jesus. So don't get up tight about talking about

Jesus! It's never going to be easy; the world is pushing or working against you. You are in battle with the evils of this world.

~**What are we doing?** ~

What are we doing anyway? We are just wondering around in this world and talking with God about what He wants us to do, and we are to do it.

What is our purpose in life? To glorify, honor, worship and to do God's will in our life and to spread the Good News Gospel. The book of Matthew gives us a little insight into what our efforts may be, so let us look at Matthew chapter 13.

The same day went Jesus out of the house, and sat by the sea side. (Mat 13:1)

And great multitudes were gathered together unto him, so that he went into a ship, and sat; and the whole multitude stood on the shore. (Mat 13:2)

And he spake many things unto them in parables, saying,

Behold, a sower went forth to sow; (Mat 13:3)

And when he sowed, some seeds fell by the way side, and the fowls came and devoured them up: (Mat 13:4)

Some fell upon stony places, where they had not much earth: and forthwith they sprung up, because they had no deepness of earth: (Mat 13:5)

And when the sun was up, they were scorched; and because they had no root, they withered away. (Mat 13:6)

And some fell among thorns; and the thorns sprung up, and choked them: (Mat 13:7)

But other fell into good ground, and brought forth fruit, some a hundredfold, some sixtyfold, some thirtyfold. (Mat 13:8)

Who hath ears to hear, let him hear. (Mat 13:9)

Don't expect everything you do for Christ to be visional and immediately seen by us. Remember the parable above. We are to spread the seed, the Good News Gospel. Now what is the answer to this parable? Jesus explains.

~What are the Results? ~

Hear ye therefore the parable of the sower. (Mat 13:18)

When any one heareth the word of the kingdom, and understandeth it not, then cometh the wicked one, and catcheth away that which was sown in his heart. This is he which received seed by the way side. (Mat 13:19)

But he that received the seed into stony places, the same is he that heareth the word, and anon with joy receiveth it; (Mat 13:20)

Yet hath he not root in himself, but endureth for a while: for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended. (Mat 13:21)

He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful. (Mat 13:22)

But he that received seed into the good ground is he that heareth the word, and understandeth it; which also beareth fruit, and bringeth forth, some a hundredfold some sixty, some thirty. (Mat 13:23)

You see; everyone that we talk to about Christ will not become a believer. Some will not hear the Word, some will hear some of the Word and then others will see the Gospel and become believers.

~Open Doors~

When God opens a door, we are to go through that door and then He will open another door and we go through that one. God has a plan for each one of us and we have to go through His doors to work His Plan. When opportunity knocks; take advantage and open the door for Christ's work!

Clean-up any Guilt

Before we can minister to other people, we need to clean-up any guilt you may have in your heart. Ask the Lord as well as the other person for forgiveness. Let me tell you the story about one of my Christian brothers and what he did. I think it is a moving testimony of God's love. Again, it goes with, "what God tells you to do, do it."

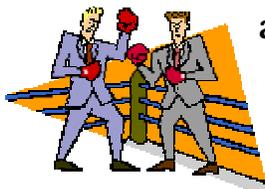
This Christian friend of mine stole a fire extinguisher from



his place of employment many years ago. After keeping it for several years the Lord convicted him to return that fire extinguisher. He took it, had it serviced and cleaned-up; put it back in good working order. He went to the company; walked in the office and told the lady at the desk that he wanted to return a fire extinguisher he had stolen years earlier. The receptionist didn't know what to do; this had never happened to her before. She called the manager, which by the way was this Christian Brother's ex-brother-in-law. He didn't know what to think either. But the manager thanked him, and then took the fire extinguisher back into the plant. My friend had that burden lifted from him by the blood of Jesus Christ. Folks, as we have all said and know, "It's a matter of the heart."

If you don't have your heart right with God, you can't minister to others in a godly way.

This was just one small thing, but God convicted him of this one sin



and he obeyed God and followed through on the conviction. I'm sure it was hard to face this wrong with these people, but he did the honorable thing. But, oh what a joy he had in his soul! You know we may be saved, but we do things at times that we need to repent of.

And I have no clear knowledge of what I am doing, for that which I have a mind to do, I do not, but what I have hate for, that I do. (Romans 7:15 BBE)

Don't take God out of your life or your business. He's a 24 hour God. There is not a quitting time or a beginning time. For God is the one that gives you riches. *"It is the blessing of the LORD that makes rich, And He adds no sorrow to it."* (Proverbs 10:22 NASB)



I'm not sure the psalmist and other writers of the Bible are talking about money when they mention riches; there are more important things than money and material things. It is the blessing of the Lord that makes us rich and I'm going to say with spiritual blessings. And sometimes we can only see the material or financial blessings, not thinking about your spiritual blessings. You know this is a materialistic world and we think materialistically.

The Richest Man in the Valley

A rich landowner named Carl often rode around his vast estate so he could congratulate himself on his great wealth. One day, while riding around his estate on his favorite horse, he saw Hans, an old tenant farmer. Hans was sitting under a tree when Carl rode by.

Hans said, "I was just thanking God for my food."

Carl protested, "If that is all I had to eat, I wouldn't feel like giving thanks."

Hans replied, "God has given me everything I need, and I am thankful for it."

The old farmer added, "It is strange you should come by today because I had a dream last night. In my dream a voice told me, 'The richest man in the valley will die tonight.' I don't know what it means, but I thought I ought to tell you."

Carl snorted, "Dreams are nonsense," and galloped away, but he could not forget Hans' words: "The richest man in the valley will die tonight."

He was obviously the richest man in the valley, so he invited his doctor to his house that evening. Carl told the doctor what Hans had said.

After a thorough examination, the doctor told the wealthy landowner, "Carl, you are as strong and healthy as a horse. There is no way you are going to die tonight."



Nevertheless, for assurance, the doctor stayed with Carl, and they played cards through the night. The doctor left the next morning and Carl apologized for becoming so upset over the old man's dream.

At about nine o'clock, a messenger arrived at Carl's door. "What is it?" Carl demanded.

The messenger explained, "It's about old Hans. He died last night in his sleep."

If you take God out of your business, or your job, or your profession, or your lifestyle, it will be the same as what happened to public education when we took God out of the schools. And I'm not just talking about the 60s and 70s where they took God and the name "God and Jesus," out of the schools.



Back in the early history of the school, several centuries ago; the Bible and the Scriptures were required reading. Let us look at what one reformation minister wrote about taking the Holy Scriptures out of the class room.

Remember this writing was over four centuries ago.

Sometime after the year 1517 Martin Luther wrote;



"I am much afraid that schools will prove to be the great gates of hell unless they diligently labor in explaining the Holy Scriptures, engraving them in the hearts of youth."

Back in these days, the Bible was the required course.

"Remember the day you stood before the LORD your God at Horeb, when the LORD said to me, 'Assemble the people to Me, that I may let them hear My words so they may learn to fear Me all the days they live on the earth, and that they may teach their children.' (Deuteronomy 4:10 NASB)

You see what it says, *"They may learn to fear Me all the days they live on the earth, and that they may teach their children."* I often see all those logos or

signs out here on vehicles, "no fear." I don't know what this "no fear" logo means, but I do know that this generation has "no fear of God." Many times in the Bible it talks about fearing God. There are many verses; but let us look at two.

"So the LORD commanded us to observe all these statutes, to fear the LORD our God for our good always and for our survival, as it is today.

(Deuteronomy 6:24 NASB)



"Assemble the people, the men and the women and children and the alien who is in your town, so that they may hear and learn and fear the LORD your God, and be careful to observe all the words of this law.

(Deuteronomy 31:12 NASB)

Silver Makes the Difference



One day a wealthy old miser visited a rabbi who took him by the hand and led him to a window. "Look out there," he said, pointing to the street. "What do you see?" "I see men and women and little children," answered the rich man. Again the rabbi took him by the hand and led him to the mirror and said, "What do you see now?" "Now I see myself," the rich man replied. Then the rabbi said, "Behold, in the window there is glass, but the glass of the mirror is covered with silver, and no sooner is the silver added then you fail to see others, but see only yourself." If you see self and all the respect and honor others ought to give you, you are on dangerous ground. You won't be able to see others if self is in the image you hold in front of you. Amen!

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