



"I will stand upon my watch, and set me upon the tower, and will watch to see what he will say unto me, and what I shall answer when I am reproved." Hab. 2:1

September 30, 2011

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Feature Article – The Importance of Reproof - Part 2

Last week's issue of Heads Up addressed one of the popular myths we often hear regarding reproofs. (Myth #1 - "Reproving others is unspiritual, unloving and unkind.") The Bible teaches exactly the opposite. Love often reproves those who are loved. (If you missed last week's article and would like to read it please write and I will send it to you.- Ed.)

Myth #2 - It is wrong to reprove anyone outside your local church. This myth is generally interpreted by pastors to mean, "If you are not a member of my church, you cannot reprove me."

The Myth Answered Biblically - One of the key texts that addresses the subject of reproofing others is Gal. 2:11- 17 "But when Peter was come to Antioch, I withstood him to the face, because he was to be blamed. For before that certain came from James, he did eat with the Gentiles: but when they were come, he withdrew and separated himself, fearing them which were of the circumcision. And the other Jews dissembled likewise with him; insomuch that Barnabas also was carried away with their dissimulation. But when I saw that they walked not uprightly according to the truth of the gospel, I said unto Peter before them all, If thou, being a Jew, livest after the manner of Gentiles, and not as do the Jews, why compellest thou the Gentiles to live as do the Jews? We who are Jews by nature, and not sinners of the Gentiles, Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified. But if, while we seek to be justified by Christ, we ourselves also are found sinners, is therefore Christ the minister of sin? God forbid."

As much as we believe in the autonomy and importance of the local church, and as much as we want to exercise a gracious care in the way we treat our ministers, the fact is that they are not above the need for scriptural reproofs. The Holy Spirit, in Galatians 2:11-17 records for us the reproof of an apostle. Even apostles needed reproofing. They were not infallible.

Note the following facts:

1. **Peter's fear of man led him to practice hypocrisy.** He "fear(ed) them which were of the circumcision." Peter's fear of man had gotten him into hot water before, when he denied Christ three times. Now it leads him into hypocrisy. The words, "dissembled" and "dissimulation" are both from the word "hypocrisy".
2. **Peter's hypocrisy led others astray, including Barnabas.** We see here how a spiritual leader's sin, left unreproved, tends to start a movement. Entire denominations have been spawned from just such actions. A high profile leader goes astray and takes all who admire him with him.
3. **Paul, the least and youngest of all the apostles, out of love for the Gentile Christians, out of love for Peter, out of love for the revealed truth of the church being one body composed of Jew and Gentile, and out of love of the gospel which saves Jew and Gentile by the grace of God, reproves Peter.** In fact, he withstood him. He resisted and opposed his actions. He also exposed and opposed Peter's doctrinal error by rehearsing publicly the wonderful gospel truth that Jews and Gentiles are not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ.
4. **Peter was not a member of the church at Antioch. Surely he was a member of the church in Jerusalem, but he does not refuse Paul's reproofs.** When he speaks of Paul in II Peter, he calls him "our beloved brother Paul," and speaks of the wisdom God had given him, and refers to his writings as being Scripture. That doesn't sound like he rejected or resented Paul's reproofs, does it?

In addition to the passage in Galatians, we must remember that the Holy Spirit reproves the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment. Who does He reprove? The world, not just a local church. And so must we, if we would preach the Word of God. We must see it as our mandate to reprove the world. After all, the second great purpose of Holy Scripture is that of reproofing sin (II Tim. 3:16). Amos, the farm boy prophet was sent to the king's court to reprove Israel's sins, and he did. But he also dealt severely with the sins of the nations all around Israel. There is a simple, but profound truth here. Sin is to be reproofed wherever it is found.

Because of the internet, the ministries of many churches have become public property. Pastors post their sermons on YouTube, and thousands watch them. It is rather strange then for them to expect praise for the good they do, and yet reject reproof for the errors they make. Peter made a mistake and Paul corrected it publicly, and Peter took it on the chin, and loved him for his reproofs. What great maturity they both displayed in the way they gave and received and responded to reproofs.

[An example of reproofing another church's message or ministry.](#)

In Acts 15 the Holy Spirit has recorded for us an example of one church reproofing another church. When itinerant teachers came to the Antioch church from the Jerusalem church with a twisted gospel, Paul and Barnabas were sent to Jerusalem to speak to the apostles and elders about it. Many strange theories have been spun by devious men from this chapter, such as the necessity of holding ecumenical world councils, but the simple fact is that Acts 15 describes a local church business meeting that had to deal with doctrinal error that another church called to their attention. As we read over the chapter, we glean the following facts regarding receiving reproofs from those outside one's own church.

1. The doctrines of a church soon become public property (v.1). The error of requiring circumcision for salvation was tolerated (swept under the carpet?) in the church in Jerusalem, but it was soon preached abroad. The very nature of the New Testament local churches made them "evangelistic." Their message was disseminated far and wide. The modern day fallacy that a church's doctrines and practices are nobody else's business is paradoxical. Of course, what they believe is that church's business, but as they preach their doctrines abroad they become everybody's business. As an individual Christian, and as a member of a local church I am affected by what other local churches believe and practice. My business is your business and your business is my business. What you believe influences me and vice-a-versa.
2. Error from one church must not be permitted to leaven the doctrine of other churches (v.2). Paul and Barnabas reproofed the false teachers openly. Pragmatism among Independent Baptist churches in our day has built a religious empire with many strange dogmas. And one of those is the error that, if a pastor's church is large enough or if his Bible college has enough students, then he and his church become "infallible" and "above reproof." If this pastor or Bible college promotes incremental surrender of the faith, or if he leads the brethren to use music that would make the Devil blush, all the other churches are expected to follow meekly along with never a word of protest or reproof. It was not so in Acts 15!
3. Love for truth requires that every local church is accountable, not only to God, but to every other local church (v.2c) A false gospel is not to be tolerated, but must be exposed and opposed. The Antioch church was a newcomer, a baby church, but they knew their responsibility to defend the gospel when it came under threat, so they sent men to

Jerusalem who were brave enough to confront the oldest and largest church if need be, and offer reproofs, loving and respectful reproofs to the oldest apostles.

4. One church's reproofs of another church's error must be heard. The apostles and elders of the church in Jerusalem, did not foolishly reject the reproofs of the church at Antioch, but instead called all the church together to evaluate the issue at hand. We must admire the willingness of the senior apostles to hear the reproofs of brethren with less "seniority." This chapter ought to serve as an enormous reproof to arrogant and imperious pastors and churches who absolutely reject any word of reproof from outside (or inside!)
5. When one church is reprovved by another, the issue MUST be examined and dealt with thoroughly, not superficially! A striking truth in this chapter is how openly this matter was dealt with. First, the apostles and elders came together to consider the matter (v.6). Then, the multitude (of members?) respectfully listened to Paul and Barnabas as they recounted the triumphs of the gospel (v.12). The reputation of the "PASTOR" was not the issue, but the TRUTH of the GOSPEL! Note how carefully the church there considered the evidence and reviewed the nature of the gospel of the grace of God and its fruits.
6. Public error was remedied publicly! The apostle/pastor James made it clear that he personally opposed the false gospel that had gone out from them (vv. 13-21) Then the apostles and elders agreed, and the whole church concurred, and penned a letter to clarify and correct their error. And then they sent a letter and messengers to go with Paul and Barnabas so that the saints in Antioch would have no doubt that the reproof had been received and the matter resolved.

What a contrast this chapter reveals when compared to the errors being propagated from churches today. Reproofs? From one church to another? Surely you jest! And yet the Scriptures are clear. We are duty bound to reprove one another in love for the truth's sake. And good will come out of it.

Buddy Smith

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Methodical Love

They loved her. The rest of the world remembers Frances Ridley Havergal for writing such great hymns as "Take my Life and Let it Be," "Like a River Glorious" and "Count Your Many Blessings," but to her fourteen students, she was just Miss Havergal, the dear woman who taught their Sunday school class.

Though Frances taught her class as a group, she thought of them as individuals, and it made all the difference. She created a register with a page for each of her students. She kept track of their attendance, noted and acknowledged their birthdays and faithfully recorded their prayer requests. She often wept as she prayed for her students, begging God to convert them and for Him to help her to teach. She visited her charges in their homes and invited them to hers. She talked with them about their souls and about their everyday life. She methodically invested in the lives of her students, and they loved her for it.[1]

I don't think anyone handed Miss Havergal a Sunday school teacher job description on her first day that included bullet points like "weep over their souls" or "send birthday notes." She just loved her students. That love was expressed through simple, practical means, like remembering a birthday, or noticing an absence.

You don't have to be a teacher or church leader to methodically express love in your own situation. Pick a small group of people, and look out for them. Decide what you are going to do, start small and consider using a checklist to help your memory.

Peter tells us to "love one another with a pure heart fervently" (1 Peter 1:22). Are you methodically planning to do it? Can you imagine what your church would be like if everyone did?

Susan Verstraete.

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Blinded Minds -

Police Tell U.K. Cafe Owner:
Stop Showing Bible DVD's, "Or We Will Have to Arrest You"

By Ross Slater and Jonathan Petre

Mail Online [UK] - 25 September 2011

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2041504/Police-tell-cafe-owner-Stop-showing-Bible-DVDs-arrest-you.html>

Inquisition: Jamie Murray, owner of Salt and Light Cafe, has been threatened with arrest, for displaying passages from the Bible on a TV screen.

U.K. Police have threatened a Christian cafe owner with arrest –for displaying passages from the Bible on a TV screen.

Jamie Murray was warned by two police officers to stop playing DVD's of the New Testament in his cafe following a complaint from a customer that it was inciting hatred against homosexuals.

Mr Murray, 31, was left shocked after he was questioned for nearly an hour by the officers, who arrived unannounced at the premises. He said he had turned off the Bible DVD after an 'aggressive inquisition' during which he thought he was going to be arrested and 'frog-marched out of the cafe like a criminal'.

But he added: 'I have now checked on my rights and I am not going to be bullied by the police and the PC lobby out of playing the Bible silently in my cafe. It's crazy. Christians have to stand up for what they believe in.'

The Salt and Light cafe in Blackpool has for years repeatedly played the entire 26-hour-long Watchword Bible, a 15-DVD set produced in America in which a narrator reads the whole of the New Testament, on a small flatscreen TV on the back wall.

The cafe, which opened eight years ago, also prides itself on being an oasis of calm in a high-crime area of Blackpool. Mr Murray said the two uniformed officers from Lancashire Constabulary arrived at lunchtime on Monday, the cafe's busiest time of day. WPC June Dorrian, the community beat manager, told him there had been a complaint and he was breaching the Public Order Act 1986.

Mr Murray said: 'I told them that all that appeared on the screen were the words of the New Testament. There is no sound, just the words on the screen and simple images in the background of sheep grazing or candles burning. I thought there might be some mix-up but they said they were here to explain the law to me and how I had broken it.

'I said, "Are you really telling me that I am facing arrest for playing the Bible?" and the WPC fixed me with a stare and said, "If you broadcast material that causes offence under the Public Order Act then we will have to take matters further. You cannot break the law."'

Mr Murray, who worked in a homeless shelter for five years before taking over the cafe three months ago, said he realised the only way to appease the police was to pull the plug on the Bible.

'I was worried about being handcuffed and led out of the shop in front of my customers. It wouldn't have looked good so I thought it was better to comply. It felt like a betrayal. They left the shop and told me they would continue to monitor if we were displaying inflammatory material. At no stage had they spoken to me like I was a law-abiding citizen trying to earn a living. I felt like a criminal.'

Mr Murray said he had been given no indication of who had complained or which verses of the New Testament had caused the offence, but he guessed it may have been a reaction to the Book Of Romans that had been playing the week before.

Lancashire Police said they had received a complaint on Saturday afternoon from a female customer who was 'deeply offended' by the words she had seen on the screen.

It is a problem right across the country that the police are under huge political pressure to be seen to respond to anything homophobic. A spokesman said they were 'duty bound' to respond to the complaint and had concluded the cafe could be in breach of Section 29E of the Public Order Act, which warns that people who play images or sounds that stir up hatred against homosexuals could be guilty of an offence.

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Cartoons for the Wise - A photo you'll love!

From Andrew Bolt's blog, Saturday, 24 September, 2011.

(It appears that somebody thinks that greens are more handicapped than the handicapped, and so they have given them the very best parking spaces, even better than some poor chap on crutches or whatever. Ed.)

Andrew Bolt comments: "Reader Waxing Gibberish wonders why greens are considered more crippled than the disabled: 'I parked underneath the Darling Harbour exhibition center the other night and noticed that you can park closer to the exit if you're 'green' than if you're disabled.'"

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Links in the Media Chain -

President Obama lowers sea level- <http://www.climatedepot.com/a/12910/Planet-Healer-Obama-Calls-It-In-2008-he-declared-his-presidency-would-result-in-the-rise-of-the-oceans-beginning-to-slow--And-By-2011-Sea-Level-Drops>

A neutrino travels faster than the speed of light? <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-15017484>

Night aerobatics at OshKosh <http://www.eaavideo.org/video.aspx?v=1103012503001>

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Loyalty to the Pope -

(Pastor Jesse Smith sent me this quote today from a Berean Call mailout. A reader asked Dave Hunt and Tom McMahon how anyone could stay in the Roman Catholic cult when they hold to so many grievous errors? Sadly, the same loyalty to fallible men is seen in many Baptist churches. In fact, our whole denomination is riddled with the error that we must be loyal to our leaders, even when they exhibit the grossest carnality, ignorance of Scripture, the rudest manners, and open disobedience to God. We need to remember that not all popes are found in the Roman Catholic cult. There are Baptist popes as well. In regard to staying in these groups, Charles Spurgeon had this to say, "As soon as I saw, or thought I saw, that error had become firmly established, I did not deliberate, but quitted the body at once. Since then my counsel has been 'Come out from among them'. I have felt that no protest could be equal to that of separation." C.H.S., The Sword and Trowel. - Ed)

HOW COULD ONE STAY IN SUCH A GROUP?

[TBC: A reader ran across the following quote and sent it on to us, asking "how could one stay in such a group?"]

"Even if the Pope were Satan incarnate, we ought not to raise up our heads against him, but calmly lie down to rest on his bosom. He who rebels against our Father is condemned to death, for that which we do to him we do to Christ: we honor Christ if we honor the Pope; we dishonor Christ if we dishonor the Pope. I know very well that many defend themselves by boasting: "They are so corrupt, and work all manner of evil!" But God has commanded that, even if the priests, the pastors, and Christ-on-earth were incarnate devils, we be obedient and subject to them, not for their sakes, but for the sake of God, and out of obedience to Him." - St. Catherine of Siena, SCS, p. 201-202, p. 222, (quoted in Apostolic Digest, by Michael Malone, Book 5: "The Book of Obedience", Chapter 1: "There is No Salvation Without Personal Submission to the Pope")."

This illustrates the folly of 'blind following.' Many Baptist are quick to condemn this and rightly so, but are unable to see themselves doing the same. Many of the 'fundamentalist brethren' would do anything their pastor says without regard to scripture's declarations on the subject.

We met a 90 year old lady on visitation this week. She is in a Congregational Church. She 'professed' to be born again, believe the Bible, and love the lord Jesus. When I asked her about the 'position' of her Church in welcoming open and practicing Sodomites, she hated that BUT, she had been a Congreagationalist for 89 years and wasn't likely to change. She pleaded her 'tolerance, and goodness' to people but recognized God calls that behavior an abomination. Still she seemed very unwilling to 'vote against the practice with her feet, and leave'. Far too many 'professing Christians' would simply stand dumbfounded if asked, "Do you love the Lord more than your friends, family, church, or money. They would see NO contradiction in their life or practices when compared to scripture. It would seem most of these couldn't find the truth for the same reason a thief couldn't find a Cop... They're not looking for it!

Pastor Jesse Smith

Jn.17:17; Jn.7:17

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Deacon True Sez -

My cousin says he is a member of a denomination that is a "Broad Church." It seems to me that them "broad churches" don't know anything about the Narrow Way.

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Looks Like a Liberal to Me. -

By Clay Nuttall

Talks, Writes, Speaks Like A Liberal

Hardly a day goes by without my hearing something from the liberal mentality. This is what I would expect from a crowd that is about to deconstruct our society. The mainstream media greases its wheels on liberalism, and the education monopoly continues to turn out liberal clones at an awesome rate. The court system has set its face to destroy any vestige of conservative thought; but then, you already knew all of that.

The shock, however, does not come from the expected purveyor of non-truth. I am talking about the liberal thought, speech, publication, and public discourse in Evangelicalism and Fundamentalism. In front of me are a number of articles that in some way represent a liberal mentality. Some of them are written by our crowd. While this may sound offensive, it is true; and those who practice this compromise shouldn't be upset when their feet are held to the fire. If a Fundamentalist talks, writes, or speaks like a liberal, he should expect to take it on the chin.

One can only wonder from whence this liberal infection has been passed on. From my perspective, the main source has been education. In an attempt to write, talk, and communicate like liberals, some have succeeded in mimicking their ideas and positions. This can be observed among those who are responsible for what I call the "theological error of the month". Just how close do you want to get to these self-reliant individuals who depend on human reason for their authority? The old adage says that "if you lay down with the dogs, you will get up with the fleas".

The Right Way To Do It

Scripture leaves no doubt about whom we are to follow and how we are to think. When it comes to the mind, the Bible tells us to "let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 2:5). This guideline extends to every thought we may have: "Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ" (II Corinthians 10:5). God even gives us warning about this: "Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ".

Liberalism is the exact opposite of all that God instructs us to be and do. So why do we want to think and talk like liberals? This horrible drive to be like them appears to be an affront to all that we know about loving and obeying God. I do know that all men have factual information that is valuable, no matter who has it. On the other hand, we must be able to tell the difference between fact and fiction. Evolution is part of religion, not factual science; and much of what liberalism teaches is what they believe, not what they know.

So why are today's young fundamentalists enamored with these self-acclaimed intellectuals and scholars? The answer may lie in the fact that Evangelical and Fundamentalist leadership individuals have become their pattern. This wild desire to copy the liberal mind and language is simply rooted in pride. The idea is to be recognized, accepted, respected, and included in the intellectual community. The younger men may not have any idea what they are doing as they race away from biblical authority. They have been taught how to make a theological pretzel out any text they choose so that they, too, can be dubbed "scholars". This makes me ask a question about the mature leadership. Is this a deliberate decision? Are they so taken with the liberal mind that they will leave the imperative behind?

Disclaimers

First, let me say once again that I am not opposed to honest scholarship or natural intelligence. I am opposed to letting human reason be the standard. I am opposed to acceptance of any compromise that denigrates scripture, just so we can be placed alongside the elite who have a low view of scripture. I am not opposed to education; I have spent most of my life in this field, at one level or another. I am not opposed to true academic excellence or rigor in any discipline. I am opposed to any thinking or teaching that leaves the authority and sufficiency of scripture behind.

Over the past few years, educational institutions in our circles have been caught in one flap after another. It is amazing how liberal thought and communication has been a part of these. I don't name names in this journal, because it is about principles, not liberal mental gymnastics. You may remember the issue of "certainty" that has risen in several schools of late; that one is straight out of the liberalism playbook.

Now we are embroiled in a new game – football, on an ice-covered field. It is called "Who can we 'hug' over the liberal line?" I have made it plain that, if theology is the test on this issue, we are safe; if we are going to use philosophy, the battle is lost.

Don't Whine

Any agencies or institutions that make the mistake of having professors who teach suspect theology in their classrooms, or speakers in their chapels, shouldn't whine when they are caught. There is no such thing as an independent error. If reformed theology is taught, that is who you really are. If progressive dispensationalism is taught, that is who you are. If liberal kingdom theology is taught, that is who you are. The list is too long for this article but, like it or not, these things are all on the road to liberalism, because they have to use the liberal hermeneutic to reach any of their flawed conclusions.

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Why I Am Not on Facebook –

"Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity." (First Timothy 4:12)

About a year ago I was on a social network called Facebook. I saw no harm in it and felt that it was a great way to stay in touch with friends and family. Even though I felt that it was no harm, every time I was on I had this awful feeling inside of me. I had seen some of the bad advertisements and pictures on Facebook and I knew it was not right. I prayed to God about it and felt that God wanted me off of that site. In the end I am glad that I did it because a lot more of the garbage from Facebook was brought to my attention. While I was still on a verse was brought to mind. *"The eyes of the LORD are in every place, beholding the evil and the good."* – Proverbs 15:3.

It has been stated, "It is never right to do wrong to do right." We, as Christians, many times quote this; however, do we really carry it out in every aspect of our lives? God commands us to do what is right and pleasing in HIS sight. Not in our friends sight, not in our pastors, not in our parents or teachers – but God's! Galatians 1:10 states, *"For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ."*

Having that said, please consider the following. Facebook is one of the most popular sites in the world. It is a way for people to keep in contact with their friends and family, to share photos, chat, and much more. Facebook has more than 400 million active users. Moreover, an average user spends more than 55 minutes per day on Facebook. The problem with Facebook as I see it is, it does not honour God.

Perhaps, we go on Facebook to promote one thing or another, socialize with friends and family and mean no harm by it, but on the contrary, our pages are filled with sin and immorality. An individual cannot look at a person's website for less than a minute without girls half naked, gambling advertisements, wicked promotions, and much more popping up on the screen.

The Psalmist states in Psalm 101:3, *"I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes: I hate the work of them that turn aside; it shall not cleave to me."* Our attitudes should be just like the Psalmist's – I love God, therefore I will set NO wicked thing before mine eyes. Jesus said in John 14:15, *"If ye love me, keep my commandments."* It does not get any clearer than that.

If we truly love Jesus, will we not do as His Word says? It is not enough to say we do a certain thing because everyone else does it or because our pastor and church does it. The Bible says in First Peter 3:15, *"But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear."* For every decision that we make, we should always be ready with an answer that is firmly based upon the Word of God. Any other such reason is not "acceptable unto the Lord."

In conclusion Facebook is just another worldly distraction created to grab our attention. What is more important, Facebook has no aspects to it that honour our Lord, Jesus Christ. Much on Facebook advertises wickedness and using that site to promote our churches and colleges is simply wrong.

In these last days should Christians be going with the tide or taking a stand against it? Again, "It is never right to do wrong to do right!" At the end of our lives may we all be able to say like Paul, *"I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith."* - Second Timothy 4:7.

Melisa Galgalan

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Therapy For The Funny Bone -

A lawyer runs a stop sign and gets pulled over by a sheriff's deputy. He thinks that he is smarter than the deputy because he is a lawyer from New York and is certain that he has a better education than any cop from Oklahoma. He decides to prove this to himself and have some fun at the deputy's expense.

The deputy says, 'License and registration, please.'

'What for?' says the lawyer...

The deputy says, 'You didn't come to a complete stop at the stop sign.'

Then the lawyer says, 'I slowed down, and no one was coming.'

'You still didn't come to a complete stop, Says the deputy. License and registration, please.'

The lawyer says, 'What's the difference?'

'The difference is you have to come to complete stop, that's the law. License and registration, please!' the Deputy repeats.

Lawyer says, 'If you can show me the legal difference between slow down and stop, I'll give you my license and registration; and you give me the ticket... If not, you let me go and don't give me the ticket.'

'That sounds fair. Please exit your vehicle, sir,' the deputy says.

At this point, the deputy takes out his nightstick and starts beating the lawyer and says, 'Do you want me to stop, or just slow down?'

I wondered why the baseball kept getting bigger. Then it hit me.

Funny epitaphs -

In Mexico -

The first one says: "Tomas Jimoteo Chinchilla, 1967-1989, Now with you Lord, be careful of your wallet, Lord".

The second one says, "Here rests Pancrazio Juvenales, 1968-1993, good husband, good father and bad household electrician".

The third one says, "Gustava Gumersinda Gutierrez Guzman, 1934-1989, Remembered by your children (except by Ricardo who didn't contribute)".

Finally the last one says, "Here rests my beloved wife Brujilda Jalamonte, 1973-1997, God take her with the same joy that I am sending her to you".

And in Georgia: a tombstone was found that read, "I told you I was sick."

(In Australia we are having a lot of illegal immigrants coming by boat from Mid-Eastern countries. Here is a politically incorrect joke a friend just sent: - Ed.)

What do you call the first Afghan off the boat?

Amhere

What do you call the second Afghan off the boat?

Amhere Azwel

What do you call the third Afghan off the boat?

Amhere Azwell Azhim

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Some Guidelines To Use When Seeking the Will of GOD -

1. Can you ask GOD to bless it? Prov.10:22
2. Can you thank HIM for it? Col. 3:17
3. Is it to the Glory of GOD? I Cor. 10:31, or is it of the world? I John 2:15
4. Is it a stumblingblock to others? I Cor.8:9
5. Will it be a weight? Heb.12:1
6. Is it to please GOD rather than man? Col.3:23
7. Do I realize the consequences? Gal.6:7&8
8. Is it expedient? Does it edify? I Cor. 10:23
9. Will it serve the Right Master? Matt.6:24
10. Will HIS indwelling presence permit it? I Cor.6:19&20
11. Will I want to be doing this when CHRIST comes again? Matt.24:44
12. Does it promote love? Rom. 13:8, 10
13. Is it specifically forbidden in the Word of GOD?" I Sam.15:22&23.

contributed by evangelist Warren Roy

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Notable Quotes and Quotable Notes -

- I find television very educating. Every time somebody turns on the TV, I go into the other room and read a book. - *selected*
- In Hollywood, brides keep the bouquets and throw away the groom. - *selected*
- If you're going to be a true Christian, I'll tell you one thing amongst others: it'll be a lonely life. - *Leonard Ravenhill*.
- There is a namby-pamby effeminate kind of Christianity...telling the sinning world that they are not to be blamed....“Don't tell the drunkard that he's guilty, he's just got a disease.” A disease that he purposely and deliberately drank out of a bottle...knowing what it would do to him.... ...The modern gospel doesn't say too much about sin. It makes an awful lot about a whimpering Savior who whimpers over people...excuses them, tells them, “Hush, hush, don't mention your sin. I died for you upon the tree....” This is not the [Christianity] of the New Testament,....It's a...watered-down, perfumed kind of Christianity, that parades a pathetic...Christ up and down in front of people who scorn Him....Sin is your own fault, and it's my own fault if I sin, it's not an excuse so I can say it was an accident or it's a disease,....I can't help myself, I'm a poor weak man. The cynical irony of the sinful life is that the ones who get us into our difficulties...prevent us from seeing...the executioner on the way...the black hole...that leads to hell below....Remember, young man, the ones that lead you into sin can never lead you out.... *A.W. Tozer*, “*Four Seasons of Life*”

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The Heroes of CCM Musicians -

In a recent interview with CCM musician Matt Redman he made the following statement when asked who were his musical influences, "All sorts! But all time favorite must be The Beatles. I love it now that my five kids even get into their music. That's quite amazing, so many decades after it all happened."

<http://www.louderthanthemusic.com/document.php?id=2526>

(I can't help wondering how many Christian parents ever stop to consider that their children are soaking up the immoral, anti-God rebelliousness of the Rock and Roll superstars secondhand as they listen to the "Christian" Rock musicians. Someone told me some years ago about a wild looking teen who went into a real Christian bookshop and asked where their Christian Rock music was displayed. The owner replied, "Right over there next to the Christian drugs and alcohol and porn." - Ed)

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Sermon Seeds on Having A Vision -

Thoughts on having a vision:

1. People are naturally 'eye-minded'.
2. We all tend to think in pictures.
3. God communicates in picture language to us. An example: God's design for the Tabernacle was revealed to Moses as a picture: "And look that thou make them after their pattern, which was shewed thee in the mount." Exodus 25:40.
4. The necessity of having a vision - "Where there is no vision, the people perish: but he that keepeth the law, happy is he." Proverbs 29:18.

Having a vision from God protects us.

A true vision agrees with God's Word.

A true vision involves obedience to God's Word

Consider Abraham's vision:

Gen. 12:1-3 - A vision in seven parts:

- God promised him a land
- God promised to make of him a great nation.
- God promised to bless him.
- God promised to make his name great.
- God promised he would be a blessing.
- God promised to protect him.
- God promised to bless all the families of the earth through Abraham.

Each part of the vision was brought into focus more clearly the longer Abraham walked with God.

" But the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day." Prov. 4:18

Buddy Smith

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Eddy-Torial -

(There is a great dearth of worshipful preaching in our churches. The pastor who stands in the pulpit with the glory of God on his brow is almost unknown today. Whenever I speak to other pastors about this vital aspect of the ministry of the Word of God, I receive the

strangest looks in return. May I charge all who read the following essay by A.W. Tozer to ponder deeply the need for worshipful preaching? - Ed.)

Are We Losing Our- OH!?

We who speak the English language have in that language a most remarkable instrument for the communication of ideas. Emerson said of Shakespeare that he more than any other man had the ability to say anything he wanted to say; any idea his mind could entertain his mouth could utter. What Emerson did not remember to say (if my memory serves me) was that Shakespeare's genius was indebted greatly to the fluidity and fullness of the English tongue. Without such a free and abundant vocabulary as English affords, even the mighty Bard of Avon could not have risen so high nor soared so far. However great his mind, he required a language capable of receiving and expressing what his mind conceived. And that he had in his beloved English.

Webster's Unabridged Dictionary lists 550,000 words. And it is a solemn and beautiful thought that in our worship of God there sometimes rush up from the depths of our souls feelings that all this wealth of words is not sufficient to express. To be articulate at certain times we are compelled to fall back upon "Oh!" or "O" - a primitive exclamatory sound that is hardly a word at all and that scarcely admits of a definition.

Vocabularies are formed by many minds over long periods and are capable of expressing whatever the mind is capable of entertaining. But when the heart, on its knees, moves into the awesome Presence and hears with fear and wonder things not lawful to utter, then the mind falls flat, and words, previously its faithful servants, become weak and totally incapable of telling what the heart hears and sees. In that awful moment the worshiper can only cry "Oh!" And that simple exclamation becomes more eloquent than learned speech and, I have no doubt, is dearer to God than any oratory.

It is not by accident that the idiom of the Christian religion abounds with exclamations. Christianity contemplates things transcendent and seeks to engage the infinite and the absolute. It approaches the Holy of Holies and looks with astonished wonder upon the face of God; then language, no matter how full or how facile, is simply not adequate. "O the depths of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out" (Rom. 11:33). The exclamation "O" could not be omitted from that rhapsody. It is the fountain out of which everything else flows.

Many of our Christian hymns reveal this same exclamatory quality, chiefly because they embody an intensity of feeling that rises above rational meanings and definitions into the realm of the numinous. The Moravian Hymnal, for instance, lists about three hundred verse lines that begin with "O." While it would not be wise to press this too far (since literary custom may dictate the use of emotional language where no particular emotion is present) still the fact that there is such a large number of exclamations among the hymns surely does have real meaning for us.

In the inspired Scriptures, where no imperfection is to be found, the exclamatory vocable occurs consistently. Prophets and psalmists continually find themselves on the brink of the infinite gazing into an abyss of divinity that quite overwhelms them and squeezes from their hearts such bursts of feeling as mere words cannot express. It is then that "Oh!" and "Ah!" come spontaneously to their lips, as when Jeremiah, upon hearing the voice of the Lord,

responds, "Ah, lord God! behold, I cannot speak: for I am a child" or when Ezekiel standing in the valley of bones cries out, "O Lord God, thou knowest."

In theology there is no "Oh!" and this is a significant if not an ominous thing. Theology seeks to reduce what may be known of God to intellectual terms, and as long as the intellect can comprehend it can find words to express itself, When God Himself appears before the mind, awesome, vast and incomprehensible, then the mind sinks into silence and the heart cries out "O Lord God" There is the difference between theological knowledge and spiritual experience, the difference between knowing God by hearsay and knowing Him by acquaintance. And the difference is not verbal merely; it is real and serious and vital.

We Christians should watch lest we lose the "Oh!" from our hearts. There is real danger these days that we shall fall victim to the prophets of poise and the purveyors of tranquility, and our Christianity be reduced to a mere evangelical humanism that is never disturbed about anything nor overcome by any "trances of thought and mountings of the mind." When we become too glib in prayer we are most surely talking to ourselves. When the calm, listing of requests and the courteous giving of proper thanks take the place of the burdened prayer that finds utterance difficult we should beware the next step, for our direction is surely down whether we know it or not.

Churches and missionary societies should keep always before them the knowledge that progress can be made only by the "Ohs" and "Ahs" of Spirit-filled hearts. These are the pain cries of the fruitful mother about to give birth. For them there is no substitute; not plans nor programs nor techniques can avail without them. They indicate the presence of the Holy Spirit making intercessions with groanings that cannot be uttered. And this is God's only method in the local church or on the mission field.

A. W. Tozer - 1959

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