



"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 2, 2011

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Feature Article -

Oh Mammon, Hear Us!

“One hundred fifty years ago Jeremiah Lanphier was a city missionary supported by the local churches of New York City. His calling was to evangelize the sinners of the city. He became so burdened for his mission field and so concerned over their lack of response that he invited the businessmen of the city to meet weekly for prayer. They met to pray for

the lost and for revival to be sent from God. Only half a dozen men came to the first meeting.

Very soon the numbers grew until they needed more than one church to pray in. The prayer meetings soon spread to other cities in the USA and overseas. Some have suggested that the revivals which followed the 1859 Welsh Revival Moody's preaching were the outgrowth of those prayer meetings in New York City.

In the recent Global Financial Crisis there were businessmen praying again in New York City. The pain in their pocketbooks brought it on. I wonder which god they prayed to? And what did they pray about? Did they pray to the Eternal God whose Son poured out His blood upon the cross to ransom lost men from an eternal Hell? Did they pray that precious souls would turn from their idols to Christ? Or did they pray to Mammon to restore the fortunes they gambled and lost? Were the prayer meetings led by broken and contrite sinners who sought Eternal Life from the Life Giver? Or were they led by bankrupt Midases who grieved over treasures laid up on earth, treasures stolen by thieves in high places, treasures so quickly moth-eaten and cankered?

Israel's worship became so polluted with idolatry that they prayed to Baal in the name of Jehovah. Today men all over the world pray to Mammon in the name of Jesus. If they were to pray to the god they really worship they would cry, 'Oh Mammon, hear us!!!'

No wonder the heavens are silent.

Now again, in 2011, we see the world teetering on the brink of financial disaster. It will come as no surprise if the worshippers of Mammon call out again to their priests on Wall Street to intercede for them lest they lose all the idols they bought on credit.

"Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts" (James 4:3).

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55 Years of Marital Bliss - Richard and Kathleen Hester

(I am so privileged to live in the same country as the Hesters. A couple of years ago Bro. Hester celebrated 50 years ministry as a missionary. He and Mrs. Hester are a continual encouragement to pastors and missionaries all over the world. Here is an excerpt from one of their newsletters, written to mark their 55th wedding anniversary. - Ed)

July 26 celebrated 55 years since our 1956 wedding day. I chose to work the morning before our early evening wedding ceremony. Times were hard financially for the young pastor of a new church. We promised to love each other forever and to put the other first.

A dear friend recently mentioned us when she wrote in her column: "I myself have seen very few happy marriages in my lifetime. Those that I have seen (such as the marriage of friends of mine who are missionaries to Arabs living in Australia) have been the result of both husband and wife choosing to put the other person's happiness first!"

Many times daily gratitude wells up in my heart and I blurt out to my wonderful Kathleen, “I love you” or “I’m so thankful for you.” The years have cemented those promises we made that evening before God and witnesses. Our relationship is so precious and comforting!

In our sunset years we are growing more dependent on each other and the Lord. Kathleen has been driving me everywhere now for 21 years and helping me with sight and hearing limitations. The list is endless: reading letters, magazines, labels, taking the phone to understand and take down details, addresses or names. All these things exhibit her devotion to her husband. Now she is becoming very dependent on the memory of her devoted husband: to accompany her to appointments, to direct her in driving to many destinations, and to remember many little details in public and in the home.

We want to be trusting of our wonderful Lord in our limitations. We want to be loving and patient with each other’s frustrations and fears as taken-for-granted abilities slowly fade. Before the wedding I wrote an idealistic piece: *“You’re what I want. I want you to always be sweet and understanding, never irritable and gripey. You are just wonderful!”*

The discovery of some misplaced old love letters a week ago sprinkled some spice on our anniversary celebration with our grandchildren. In the letters I told Kathleen that she was the most genuine and sweetest girl I had ever met. I loved the way we could talk about the Bible and spiritual things. I wrote: *“I have 1 plate, a knife, spoon and fork and only 1 cooking utensil. But I’ll make out. It doesn’t take much equipment to make vegetable soup. One can costs 27 cents; one can makes 2 meals (14 cents each). The theme for our marriage should be, ‘Eat, drink and be merry, for tomorrow we shall not eat!’”*

I never called her by phone which was a party line in her community: *“I’d like to call you but there are 10,000 ears on that line, and I am broke anyway!”* We courted every Thursday evening in her parents’ living room and she cooked me a big steak. Thursday was a wonderful diversion from the soup and baked beans! I wrote: *“Let’s pray that the Lord will send us a cow, a fat one. I wish I knew some butchers personally. Somebody who would cut up this cow for us.”* An interesting sidelight: *“The bottom fell out at Sunday School this morning. The attendance was 45 and the offering was \$23. I don’t know where the people were!”*

Shortly before our wedding I wrote: *“I’m making a bed with a headboard that will have a place for a radio and a few books. Then we’ll put drawers on the bottom sides of the bed. It may not look like a million dollars but it ought to work like a charm. Whatever that is? I’m going to fix a place under the stairs where the owners park their 2 cars, next to our bathroom to hang some of our clothes (it was a one room apartment above an unheated garage). Everything won’t be too stylish but I hope you’ll like it. I really do. I have so little to offer you but I hope you’ll be happy with it.”*

Again: ***“I fear I have little to offer you in life being a preacher and having little money. So I hope you realize what you’re getting into. I have nothing to offer but hard work and bushels of love. Very true, you can’t eat it for dinner, though it would make dinner more pleasant if you had some (dinner). There are lots of heartaches and disappointments along with the blessings. I’ve never had to go hungry, or if I did it was because of something foolish-like that car (bought on payments). But we live and learn. Mostly learn. So we’ll suffer together. But I’ll enjoy it much more with you around,***

sweetheart. That is, if you'll let me kiss you. I think it is by far the best that we have decided to wait for kissing each other until marriage."

We were so happy then. We're no less now. Many things have changed during these 55 years. We've collected stacks and stacks of blessings to share and remember together for time and eternity. "Happy anniversary, Kathleen, you've been the best and more than I ever dreamed of!" God is good and all thanks to Him for an exceedingly happy marriage!

The grandchildren loved the evening and the entertainment of the love letters. We wish all of you a happy home!

Sincerely happy,

Richard and Kathleen Hester

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Under His Wings –

(A photo I received from Pastor Jesse Smith)

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Complicity With Error - *by David Cloud*

COMPLICITY WITH ERROR DESTROYS THE POWER OF PROTEST

Some have asked me why "so and so" and "so and so" don't speak out plainly against the errors and compromises I have warned about within the Independent Baptist movement. I think Charles Spurgeon, pastor of the Metropolitan Tabernacle in London, England, nailed it about 100 years ago. Though misunderstood and misrepresented even by his own brother and some of his former students, Spurgeon did not draw back from separating from the Baptist Union of Britain because of the false doctrine that was being countenanced.

He said: "COMPLICITY WITH ERROR WILL TAKE FROM THE BEST OF MEN THE POWER TO ENTER ANY SUCCESSFUL PROTEST AGAINST IT. It is our solemn conviction that where there can be no real spiritual communion there should be no pretense of fellowship. Fellowship with known and vital error is participation in sin. **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 distinct separation from known

evil. That I might not stultify my testimony I HAVE CUT MYSELF CLEAR OF THOSE WHO ERR FROM THE FAITH, AND EVEN FROM THOSE WHO ASSOCIATE WITH THEM."

This position is ridiculed today as "secondary separation," but it is actually obedience to God's Word (2 Thess. 3:6) and it is the path of wisdom, because "evil communications corrupt good manners" (1 Cor. 15:33). (Friday Church News Notes, August 26, 2011, www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

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Deacon True Sez -

"I heard on the radio the other day that light travels faster than sound. If that's so, it would explain why some folks look pretty bright till they open their mouth!"

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Westcott and Hort's Diaries -

(It puzzles me no end how men who profess to be sound in doctrine can be impressed with B.F. Westcott and F.J.A. Hort. Here are a few excerpts from their diaries. A good question to ask their admirers is, "Do you respect ministers today who believe as Westcott and Hort did? If not, why do you respect Westcott and Hort so highly? - Ed)

Dec. 23rd - Westcott: "My faith is still wavering. I cannot determine how much we must believe; how much, in fact, is necessarily required of a member of the Church." (*Life, Vol.I, p.46*).

1847 Jan., 2nd Sunday after Epiphany - Westcott: "After leaving the monastery we shaped our course to a little oratory...It is very small, with one kneeling-place; and behind a screen was a 'Pieta' the size of life (i.e. a Virgin and dead Christ)...I could not help thinking on the grandeur of the Romish Church, on her zeal even in error, on her earnestness and selfdevotion, which we might, with nobler views and a purer end, strive to imitate. Had I been alone I could have knelt there for hours." (*Life, Vol.I, p.81*).

1848 July 6th - Hort: "One of the things, I think, which shows the falsity of the Evangelical notion of this subject (baptism), is that it is so trim and precise...no deep spiritual truths of the Reason are thus logically harmonious and systematic...the pure Romish view seems to me nearer, and more likely to lead to the truth than the Evangelical...the fanaticism of the bibliolaters, among whom reading so many 'chapters' seems exactly to correspond to the Romish superstition of telling so many dozen beads on a rosary...still we dare not forsake the Sacraments, or God will forsake us...I am inclined to think that no such state as 'Eden' (I mean the popular notion) ever existed, and that Adam's fall in no degree differed from the fall of each of his descendants" (*Life, Vol.I, pp.76-78*).

Aug. 11th - Westcott: "I never read an account of a miracle (in Scripture?) but I seem instinctively to feel its improbability, and discover some want of evidence in the account of it." (Life, Vol.I, p.52).

1860 Apr. 3rd - Hort: "But the book which has most engaged me is Darwin. Whatever may be thought of it, it is a book that one is proud to be contemporary with. I must work out and examine the argument in more detail, but at present my feeling is strong that the theory is unanswerable." (Life, Vol.I, p.416).

Oct. 17th - Hort: "I have been persuaded for many years that Mary-worship and 'Jesus'-worship have very much in common in their causes and their results." (Life, Vol.II, p.50).

1890 Mar. 4th - Westcott: "No one now, I suppose, holds that the first three chapters of Genesis, for example, give a literal history - I could never understand how any one reading them with open eyes could think they did - yet they disclose to us a Gospel. So it is probably elsewhere."

1851 Dec. 29,30th - Hort: "I had no idea till the last few weeks of the importance of texts, having read so little Greek Testament, and dragged on with the villainous Textus Receptus.. Think of that vile Textus Receptus leaning entirely on late MSS.; it is a blessing there are such early ones" (Life, Vol.I, p.211).

May 18th - Hort to Lightfoot: "It sounds an arrogant thing to say, but there are very many cases in which I would not admit the competence of any one to judge a decision of mine on a textual matter, who was only an amateur, and had not some considerable experience in forming a text." (Life, Vol.I, p.425).

1861 Apr. 12th - Hort to Westcott: "Also - but this may be cowardice - I have a sort of craving that our text should be cast upon the world before we deal with matters likely to brand us with suspicion. I mean, a text, issued by men already known for what will undoubtedly be treated as dangerous heresy, will have great difficulties in finding its way to regions which it might otherwise hope to reach, and whence it would not be easily banished by subsequent alarms." (Life, Vol.I, p.445).

<http://www.bearingreproach.org/?p=260>

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Notable Quotes and Quotable Notes -

* The English language has some wonderfully anthropomorphic collective nouns for the various groups of animals. We are all familiar with a Herd of cows, a Flock of chickens, a School of fish and a Gaggle of geese. However, less widely known is a Pride of lions, a Murder of crows (as well as their cousins the rooks and ravens), an Exaltation of doves and, presumably because they look so wise, a Parliament of owls.

Now consider a group of Baboons. They are the loudest, most dangerous, most obnoxious, most viciously aggressive and least intelligent of all primates. And what is the proper collective noun for a group of baboons?

Believe it or not a Congress!

I guess that pretty much explains the things that come out of Washington.

* “We women ought to put first things first. Why should we mind if men have their faces on the money, as long as we get our hands on it?” *Ivy Baker Priest, U.S. Treasurer.*

* Conspiracy theorists are people who believe that September eleveneth the whole lump - *G. Shaw and B. Smith.*

* Calories are the little beggars that get into your wardrobe at night and sew your clothes tighter...MY CLOSET IS full of them.

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Homosexual Marriage? - *by Pastor David Kemplay Hill*

Marriage is defined in the Webster's Dictionary as:

- “The act of uniting a man and a woman for life;
- wedlock; legal union of a man and woman for life.
- Marriage is a contract both civil and religious, by which the parties engage to live together in mutual affection and fidelity, till death shall separate them.
- Marriage was instituted by God himself for the purpose of preventing promiscuous intercourse of the sexes,
- for promoting domestic felicity,
- and for securing the maintenance and education of children.”

The Word of God says:

- Lev 18:22 Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it is abomination.
- Rom 1:24 Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves:
- Rom 1:25 Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen.
- Rom 1:26 For this cause God gave them up unto vile affections: for even their women did change the natural use into that which is against nature:

- Rom 1:27 And likewise also the men, leaving the natural use of the woman, burned in their lust one toward another; men with men working that which is unseemly, and receiving in themselves that recompense of their error which was meet.

Christ when teaching on marriage said,

- Mat 19:4 And he answered and said unto them, Have ye not read, that he which made them at the beginning made them male and female,
- God made homosexual activity a capital offence and that would include so-called homosexual marriage.
- Lev 20:13 If a man also lie with mankind, as he lieth with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination: they shall surely be put to death; their blood shall be upon them.

There is no doubt as to the Bible's position on the question.

As far as God's people are concerned there should, therefore, be no question either.

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How To Reach The Masses -

While D.L. Moody was attending a convention in Indianapolis on mass evangelism, he asked his song leader Ira Sankey to meet him at 6 o'clock one evening at a certain street corner. When Sankey arrived, Mr. Moody asked him to stand on a box and sing. Once a crowd had gathered, Moody spoke briefly and then invited the people to follow him to the nearby convention hall. Soon the auditorium was filled with spiritually hungry people, and the great evangelist preached the gospel to them.

Then the convention delegates began to arrive. Moody stopped preaching and said, "Now we must close, as the brethren of the convention wish to come and discuss the topic, 'How to reach the masses.'"

Moody graphically illustrated the difference between talking about doing something and going out and doing it.

Source unknown.

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Dueling With Demons -

(From time to time I would like to publish excerpts from faithful missionaries who are presently serving our dear Lord Jesus on the mission field. One of them is Bro. Jerry Wilhite in South Africa. Here is a note I received from him recently:)

Early yesterday Joe and I went to the funeral of Elias (41) with whom I had had a Bible study several years ago. The “apostolic” church was in charge with several “pastors” (dressed in blue) and a “bishop” (dressed in white). Being cordial they asked me to say a few words about how I knew the deceased.

The apostolic church is unwittingly under demonic control; any young discerning believer can tell this.

Just before it was my turn to say something, the bishop arose, held up his hand, stopped the proceedings, and said, “I’m confused...” An entourage of witchdoctors had just come on the scene provoking his response. He told the people that if the witchdoctors were going to “do their thing” then the church service was over. The witchdoctors said, “There will no preaching.” (I did not know what was being said in the native tongue until later.) Then the bishop and the head witchdoctor went outside the tent around back and had a little pow wow (which must have entailed some sort of compromise, for the witchdoctors did play a role at the end of the service and at the graveyard).

During the next song I was suddenly approached and told that I was to bring the sermon. (So glad the Lord woke me early that morning and gave me some thoughts which I happened to have in my Bible.) Joe interpreted the 10 minute message, the service closed, the graveside service transpired, the witchdoctors sang songs to the ancestors and beat their drums along with the apostolics beating their drums, 300+ gospel books were distributed, and two men asked Joe about doing Bible studies with them.

So you had the demons controlling the apostolics and the demons wanting their way with the sangomas/witchdoctors leading to confusion and a potential knock down, drag out fight. I wonder if the demoniac of Gadarra (and others) exhibited erratic behavior due to inner demons at war with each other.

Why did the witchdoctors say, “No preaching” and the “church” then ask me to preach? I can only surmise. Did the witchdoctors threaten to curse the bishop? Did the bishop then ask me to preach because “curses have no power on the white man”?

All I know is that in a minute’s time God opened the door for me to preach from the glorious Word rather than simply giving a personal testimony of knowing the deceased.

Joe claims it is a miracle. Maybe.

Bro Wilhite

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Move over, Paul -
by Buddy Smith

Dear Paul,

As Convener of the Greater Corinth Ministers Fraternal, I have been asked to write you regarding your coming visit to our fair city.

Since you were here last we have made impressive gains in many vital areas. The greatest advances are in our Ministerial Training Programme. Ten years ago the Corinth Bible Institute was upgraded to Bible College status. Then, just five years later we added Seminary level courses. And two years ago we received accreditation from the Department of Higher Education in Athens. This is a gold leaf in our laurel wreath. We have gained several new professors for our faculty (three Stoics and two Epicurians) who remember you from Mars Hill. The graduating class this year will have more than fifty men and women whose accredited degrees will be recognised throughout the Mediterranean nations, and will open doors of ministry for them.

This brings me to the purpose for this letter. We want you to know we appreciate your previous ministry in Greece. After all, the gospel might never have come to us if you had not heard “the Macedonian Call”. But I must be very candid and tell you that we have reservations about you speaking at our annual Minister’s Retreat. This event is one of the highlights on our religious calendar. Someone even said the other day, “We retreat every chance we get!” (Ha, ha, I am sure you will enjoy the little play on words.) You would be aware that our Retreat draws men from a wide range of denominational and theological backgrounds.

And this is where the rub comes in. I was given this week a copy of your recent letter to the church at Corinth. And I must say I was shocked at what you said to our dear brethren.

Let me be specific,

You wrote, “Christ sent me not to baptise, but to preach the gospel, not with wisdom of words, lest the cross of Christ should be made of none effect.” And then you went on to say, “God will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent.” I feel that I must convey to you the fact that the Board of Regents at our Seminary was deeply offended by your criticisms of their wisdom. How could you insult these learned men by statements such as “The world by wisdom knew not God?” Don’t you realise that a good minister must avail himself of the wisdom of the ancients? You know our motto for the seminary, “**Totus verum est God’s verum**” (“**All truth is God’s truth**”) Our seminarians study the writings of Plato, Aristotle, and Socrates, and are delivering very well reasoned and sophisticated sermons. We are so proud of the honours they receive from the literati and intelligentsia of the land.

Everyone knows the days are past when a minister could say,

“Not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble are called...” or “God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise...” Those sentiments may have been appropriate for the old days, but these days *we simply must have more dignity in the ministry*. Dear brother, if you were to stay in your office more and not be forever going on those preaching tours, you could keep up with the latest developments in the religious world. You really should read Dr. Diotrephes’ glowing description of the Mensa club in the seminary, of our Olympian athletic programme, and of the patrician scholars that fill our classrooms. Incidentally, I have enjoyed immensely Dr. Diotrephes’ new book on leadership (You Can Control Your Church !) It is a runaway best seller.

Brother Paul, it pains me deeply to say it, but I feel I must tell you that your preaching is just too simplistic. You are reported to have said, "I came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom...I determined not to know anything among you save Jesus Christ and Him crucified...and my speech was not with enticing words of man's wisdom...that your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God." Such words are naïve and lack sophistication. How will we ever be able to reach the people who matter if we use words that pre-schoolers can understand? *We do live in an age of technology, you know.* We simply cannot reach doctors, lawyers, scientists, and philosophers with such a simple message. (And I would remind you that *they are the ones with all the money!*)

We have found that our psychology courses in seminary equip our students so much better than the courses in theology. Surely you realise that we cannot abandon our counselling courses just because you despise the non-biblical origins of Dr Galen's Four Temperaments course. Why must you be so narrow? You really ought to adopt our denominational motto, "**terminus justifies opes**" ("**The end justifies the means!**") You would not believe how much income is generated for the Seminary by our graduates who specialise in dealing with repressed memories and multiple personality disorders.

Bro. Paul, I am sorry, but we must withdraw the invitation for you to speak. At our last Fraternal luncheon it was decided that we should invite Dr. Sigmund Dobson instead. All the churches in Corinth are using his videos and books. If you would still like to attend the Retreat, you are certainly most welcome, and I am sure Dr. Dobson would be able to spend a few moments with you to help you overcome your neuroses. I have recently had a counselling couch installed in my office and you are welcome to use it if it will help. We might even consider an emeritus professorship for you at the Seminary if you could just pull in your horns a bit.

Sincerely,

The Rt. Rev. Dr. Demas

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Busy Waiting – *by Joye Binstead*

The whole idea of waiting on God is not a new one to me, but one that I constantly need to be reminded of. There are so many verses alluding to, even commanding, patience in trials. I sometimes get the idea that waiting is a static state, and does not require any effort or action on our part. That we enter the 'waiting room', and we take our seat and pick up a magazine, and zone out till our name is called, and our turn comes. This is just about the farthest thing you can get from the biblical idea of waiting. Isaiah 64:4-5 is a perfect example of how waiting should be practiced.

"For since the beginning of the world men have not heard, nor perceived by the ear, neither hath the eye seen, O God, beside Thee, what He hath prepared for him that *waiteth* for

Him. Thou meetest him that rejoiceth and worketh righteousness, those that remember Thee in Thy ways.”

1. Waiting should be a joyous process - and that can only be achieved by complete trust in the sovereign rule of God. If we truly believe that God is in control of every circumstance of our lives, the infinitesimal to the earth-shaking, then we can be joyful in our waiting, knowing that things are working towards His purpose and plan, and that allowing myself to be clay in the Masters hands is just the best place I can possibly be. What is *not* to be joyous about? It is important to remember that as the clay, we need to be malleable. We can't be stiff and hard, and expect to be molded. That situation calls for tougher measures, ones that I think we would all wish to avoid. Be tender and flexible - understanding, perhaps not His purposes, but His loving desire for our good. Relax in His hands, and rejoice!

2. Waiting should be a busy process - it sounds like an oxymoron - busy waiting - but that is God's plan. Why should we sit back and grow mold just because we are waiting in one area of our life? We are not waiting in every area! Go forward in the areas that you can. In particular, we must go forward in righteousness. There is always room for improvement here, and there is never a waiting period involved! Often we wait for prayers to be answered, for situations to change, for a myriad of buzzing questions to be answered but in the question of personal holiness there is always forward progress to be made. This is one place in our lives that if, and when, we wait - we are in the wrong. Pursue righteousness while you are waiting. Work it out in your life. It always starts on the inside, and then begins to glimmer through to the outer workings of our beings - our words and actions, our attitudes. When this occurs, sometimes the waiting is over. God was waiting on us to show Christlikeness, and the answer came when we started living right!

3. Waiting should focus on God and His ways - I think we get ourselves twisted around in our beliefs of who God is, and what He thinks. We put our words and thoughts into our idea of Him, and to us that is who God is. An Almighty God who somehow says just what I think He should say! How is it possible that we could suffer such delusions of grandeur? God wants us to remember Him as He really is! There is only one way to do this, and that is by carefully and quietly listening to His voice, as it comes to our ears in so many ways - through daily time in His Word, through the preaching of the Word, through the thoughts and counsel of godly brothers and sisters in Christ. Who is He? Take us back to the Book! God is not of common clay as we are, His thoughts and plans are far, far beyond our faintest inklings.

There is a trap we can easily fall into while waiting, and it starts like this... *God is going to answer my prayer, and I know exactly how He will do it, and if it doesn't happen like this, then I will know that it isn't from God.*

We have certain expectations of how God will behave in any given situation but we are foolish in our thoughts. I have noticed that God doesn't always give us the complete answer to our prayer all at one time. I have received small pieces of answers, like puzzle pieces, that I believe God will fit together for me sometime, when He is ready. Until then, and after then, it is my responsibility and privilege to grow to know Him as He reveals Himself. I have found that God reveals facets of His character to me as I am ready for them. I have found that He will create a breach or a void in my life, so that He can fill it. Isa 58:12 says that He is the repairer of the breach, and I can testify that He will fill any breach

you have, with Himself. In your waiting, He will begin to show you anew just who He is. Be ready, it's going to be good!

Did you see the promise at the beginning of Isa 64:4? Here is another insight into God's character - He has prepared something so unimaginable, so wonderful and amazing that we will have never seen or heard anything like it, no matter how broad our experience! But remember, it is for those who wait!

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Therapy for the Funny Bone -

For the Irish:

* Paddy was waiting at the bus stop with Mick when a truck went by loaded up with rolls of turf.

Paddy said, "I'm gonna do that when I win the lottery."

"What's that?", says Mick.

"Send me lawn away to be cut." says Paddy.

* Paddy says to Mick, "Christmas is on a Friday this year".

Mick says, "Let's hope it's not the 13th."

* Paddy & Mick find three hand grenades, so they take them to a police station.

Mick: "What if one explodes before we get there?"

Paddy: "We lie and say we only found two."

For everybody else:

* Two beggars are sitting side by side on a street in Rome. One has a Cross in front of him, the other one the Star of David. Many people go by and look at both beggars, but only put money into the hat of the beggar sitting behind the Cross.

A priest comes by, stops and watches throngs of people giving money to the beggar behind the Cross, but none give to the beggar behind the Star of David.

Finally, the priest goes over to the beggar behind the Star of David and says, "My poor fellow, don't you understand? This is a Catholic country; this city is the seat of Catholicism ... People aren't going to give money if you sit there with a Star of David in front of you, especially when you're sitting beside a beggar who has a Cross. In fact, they would probably give to him just out of spite."

The beggar behind the Star of David listened to the priest, turned to the other beggar with the Cross and said: 'Moishe, look who's trying to teach the Goldstein brothers about marketing!'

* A man walking down Main Street saw a man wearing dark glasses with a sign saying, "Help the poor blind man."

The kind man dropped a coin into the beggar's tin cup and walked on. He turned to see the beggar raising his glasses and looking into his cup.

The donor walked back to the man and angrily said, "You're not blind" to which the "blind" man said, "No, sir. I'm not. The blind man's on vacation in Hawaii and I'm just taking his place this week. I'm usually the deaf and dumb man on the next street."

* President Obama goes to a primary school to talk to the kids to get a little PR. After his talk he offers question time. One little boy puts up his hand and Obama asks him his name.

"Walter," responds the little boy.

"And what is your question, Walter?"

"I have 4 questions: **First**, why did the USA Bomb Libya without the support of the Congress? **Second**, why do you keep saying you fixed the economy when it's actually worse? **Third**, why did you say that Jeremiah Wright was your mentor, then said that you knew nothing about his preaching's and beliefs? **Fourth**, why are we so worried about Brazil drilling for oil, but we aren't allowed to?"

Just then, the bell rings for recess. Obama informs the kiddies that they will continue after recess.

When they resume Obama says, "OK, where were we? Oh, that's right: question time. Who has a question?"

Another little boy puts up his hand. Obama points him out and asks him his name.

“Steve,” he responds.

“And what is your question, Steve?”

“ Actually, I have 6 questions. **First**, why did the USA Bomb Libya without the support of the Congress? **Second**, why do you keep saying you fixed the economy when it’s actually worse? **Third**, why did you say that Jeremiah Wright was your mentor, then said that you knew nothing about his preachings and beliefs? **Fourth**, why are we so worried about Brazil drilling for oil, but we aren’t allowed to? **Fifth**, why did the recess bell go off 20 minutes early? And **sixth**, what happened to Walter?”

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Eddy-Torial - The Proper Use of Ears

The ear is a marvelous creation of God. These curiously shaped appendages of ours receive an amazing diversity of sound. A perpetual cacophony of life is funneled by our ears to the auditory nerves and transmitted to the brain for sorting and interpreting. One of the key Bible verses about ears is “He that hath ears to hear, let him hear.” We find the words, “ears to hear” 8 times in the gospels, and twice in the Old Testament. Ears to hear! That’s what they were designed for, hearing!

These words of Christ, “He that hath ears to hear, let him hear...”, teach us that 1) all men have ears, but 2) not all ears are used for hearing. Pondering the alternate uses of ears reminds us that many ears are used for decorating with jewelry. Not only with women’s earrings, but for “men” as well. Sometimes they serve a utilitarian purpose, like keeping my glasses in place. In Bible times ears were often used to 3) reveal if a man or woman was a bonds slave.

But the proper use of ears has always been for hearing.

So, consider with me for a moment the history of ears. What did Adam hear first when God formed him of the dust of the ground? Was it a breeze stirring the leaves of the trees in the garden? Was it the melody of birdsong? Or was it the voice of God speaking aloud to innocent ears? I suspect that God spoke to Adam as soon as He breathed into Adam’s nostrils the breath of life and he became a living soul. The command to dress and keep the garden and to refrain from eating the forbidden fruit, and then the voice of the Lord God walking and talking with Adam in the cool of the day, all these were the earliest sounds for Adam’s ears. But if ears can be used for hearing the words of God, they can also be misused in hearing the whisperings of the serpent, as Eve learned. How sad to think that Adam’s ears so soon after creation should hear the command of God to leave the Garden, never to return.

Cain and Enoch and Noah heard the voice of God, Abraham heard the call and promises of God, Moses heard the voice of God at the burning bush, and Israel at Sinai heard the

words of the Law. It is noteworthy that the godly of all ages have loved that basic command of God about ears, "Hear, O Israel, the LORD our God is one LORD." (Deut. 6:4)

There is a corresponding insight into the spiritual deafness of lost men in Isaiah 6:9,10, "Hear ye indeed, but understand not... make their ears heavy... lest they hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and convert, and be healed."

Amos speaks of the worst famine ever recorded when he prophesies "Behold, the days come, saith the LORD God, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD." (Amos 8:11)

A famine of hearing! We preachers usually read this verse to mean "a famine of preaching the Word of the LORD," but that is not what it says. It distinctly says "a famine of hearing..."

No doubt there are famines of sound preaching, and most will agree we are in one at present. BUT I would be bold enough to venture that the famine of hearing precedes the famine of preaching.

Why would this be the case? Because of what Jesus said to His disciples in Matt. 13:9-16. After saying in verse 9, "Who hath ears to hear, let him hear," He says in verse 12, "For whosoever hath, to him shall be given, and he shall have more abundance: but whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken away even that he hath." and in verse 16, "But blessed are your eyes, for they see, and your ears, for they hear."

A careful reading of these verses will reveal to the reader that the amount of truth available is in direct proportion to our hearing. If I hear, not only with my ears, but with my heart, then God will provide more truth, usually through preaching, for me to hear. If I hear not, then the amount of truth will decrease. So a famine of hearing results in a famine of preaching.

The proper use of ears has always been for hearing. So, are you ready for a hearing test?

Well, try these three questions on for size:

- 1) What significance is there to the fact that the same Hebrew word (shema) is used for hearing and for obeying? See I Sam. 15:22,23.
- 2) How does hearing the Word of God relate to faith? See Romans 10:17.
- 3) Is it possible that the hearing of the Word of God generates faith so that the more I hear, the more faith I will have?

It would be good for the Lord's people to go back to using our ears for their intended purpose.

Bro. Buddy Smith

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