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Heads Up!

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FEATURE ARTICLE - MAKE BRIGHT THE ARROWS - BY PASTOR BUDDY SMITH



f all the passages in the Bible that speak of arrows, there are only two that compare arrows to people.

"As arrows are in the hand of a mighty man; so are children of the youth. Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them: they shall not be ashamed, but they shall speak with the enemies in the gate." Psalm 127:4,5.

"And he hath made my mouth like a sharp sword; in the shadow of his hand hath he hid me, and made me a polished shaft; in his quiver hath he hid me;" Isaiah 49:2.

All God's Arrows Are Wisely Crafted By The Master Fletcher.

THE MAKING OF AN ARROW

- Every part of an arrow is necessary for it to be useable.
- The shaft is straight and strong.
- The head, or point is shaped carefully and fitted wisely.
- The fletches or feathers are chosen carefully and attached firmly.
- The nock is shaped to fit the bowstring.

THE OLDEST ARROWS EVER FOUND -

The oldest arrows ever discovered were found with the mummified body of Otzi, the Iceman. His body was discovered in 1991 in a glacier on the border

between Austria and Italy. The artifacts found with his body gave several clues about life in the Alps just after Noah's flood. (The date given for Otzi's death, based on carbon dating techniques, are doubtful. Nevertheless, we are safe in saying that his body has lain there, entombed in the ice for more than 4000 years!) The shafts of his arrows were made from a species of European lantana that grew from Britain to Asia. Fourteen of them were in his quiver, including two finished arrows that were ready to be used. Birch tar was used to glue three feathers to each one, bound into grooves on the shaft with very fine hair. A notch was cut to receive the string. Leaf shaped flint arrowheads were fitted using wood pitch and bound in place with a thin thread of animal sinew.

THE MAKING OF AN ARROW FOR GOD

Every part of the Christian's life must be shaped by God for him to be one of God's arrows.

THE SHAFTS GOD USES -

No man is aware at first that God, the Master Fletcher, is making him an into an arrow for His quiver. Ancient fletchers chose their shafts from a common wayside shrub, just like the Lord makes His arrows from the commonest of men and women.

"For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen, yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: That no flesh should glory in his presence." 1 Corinthians 1:26-29.

No one is ever straight enough to be God's arrow, so He straightens us. He saves and uses the least likely people, the ones with the twisted lives and then regenerates and sanctifies them by His Spirit and His Word with the result that our lives are made righteous and straight by the power of God to His own glory. God Will have straight arrows for His quiver!

THE FEATHERS GOD PROVIDES -

Fletchers use feathers from the left wing of a particular species of goose. No other feather will guide their arrows as well. Just so, God provides the very best guides for His arrows. He gives them the Holy Spirit who guides them into truth, and calls to their remembrance the truths He has taught them. He gives them the Bible to guide them daily. He brings into their lives pastors and godly friends, and finally their own spouses and children. How urgently

they need God to attach His chosen feathers so they can fly straight!

A dear friend once told me that he made a new hunting arrow, but didn't want to take the time to fit the feathers on it before he tried it out. The shaft was straight, and the head was in place, so he nocked the arrow, drew the bowstring, and loosed it at the target. The arrow never even reached the target, but suddenly turned straight up and flew out of sight. He was terrified because he lived next door to a school and there were always children playing there. He ran to the fence to look, fearing that he would see a child with his arrow stuck fast in him. God was merciful, and there was his arrow standing upright in the middle of an empty playground. He told us he never did THAT again!

IT IS SO DANGEROUS TO LIVE WITHOUT GOD'S GUIDANCE!

How many times have I said, "No worries, Lord. I'll be right this time without any guidance from You. I won't need to pray or read my Bible or wait on the Lord. I won't need to listen to my parents or my pastor. It won't hurt for me to launch out into this new job, or friendship, or uni course, or 'service for you' without your guidance."

"Every disaster in life can be traced back to a previous rejection of godly guidance when it was offered." Look at the lives of the disaster prone Christians you know, and ask yourself the question, "What would have happened if they had followed the Guide of their youth?" Broken bodies, and damaged minds could all have been avoided if they had welcomed the feathers the Master Fletcher provided for them.

So how about you? Are you cutting off the guides God has given you or are you allowing Him to glue and bind His feathers to your arrow? You never regret using the guides God provides.

WHY THE NOCK IS SO IMPORTANT -

What about the nock, that little notch at the tail of the arrow? The nock makes it possible for the archer to fit the arrow to the bowstring so the power of the bow is applied to the arrow and sends it far, far off to do its work. If you ever tried to shoot an arrow without a nock then you know how hard it is to do anything useful with a Christian who is not in his place under God-appointed authority. Just so, God's power is only ever available to the Christian who is in right relationship with God, with his parents, and with his pastor. He must be under the authority of the Archer to be in his place of service.

Paul and Barnabas were two of God's arrows. When God loosed them to carry the gospel to the Gentiles in Acts 13,

they were arrows in His hand, His quiver, and His bow. But it never would have happened without the nock to bring the arrow into right relationship with the bow and the archer.

WHAT ABOUT THE QUIVER?

"Happy is the man that hath his quiver full of them:" Psalm 127:5

Archers used a quiver for several reasons. They protected the arrows from breakage or loss by keeping them in a quiver. They kept them close at hand in case they were needed suddenly in battle. They were visible at all times so the archer knew how many arrows remained. The text above describes children who are in their place in the family, but the same is true for the Lord's arrows in the local church, protected, available for service, accountable, ready to do the will of the Archer.

WHAT THE ARROWHEAD STANDS FOR -

So what significance does an arrowhead have for the Christian? The arrowhead is the most important part of the arrow. It is the business end of the arrow; it is the cutting edge. It is reason why the archer uses a bow, why the arrow has a shaft, feathers and a nock. They do their lesser work so the arrowhead can do its greater work. An arrow without an arrowhead is like a Christian without a purpose. It is a toy, a plaything that will never accomplish anything worthwhile.

The arrowhead pictures the Christian's calling, his gifts, and his ultimate lifework. He was made for battle, for fighting the Lord's enemies, and is happiest when he is about that business for his Archer.

You don't think so? Read [Psalm 127:5 again](#), *"...they shall not be ashamed, but they shall speak with the enemies in the gate."*

These are the arrowheads doing their work, unashamedly speaking with the enemies in the gate. This is no friendly or casual conversation. This is a sharp, swift, confrontational, head on clash, it is verbal and deadly, and is done by the arrows of the Lord.

Albert Barnes said this about the arrows of the Lord,

"(They) shall subdue, or destroy." The Hebrew word, however, means "to speak;" and the meaning is, that they would "speak" to their foes in the place of conflict - for a battle occurred often in the gate of a city, as the possession of a gate, or an entrance to a city was of so much importance to those who attacked, and those

who defended it. The idea is, that they would speak with effect; they would distinguish themselves; they would let their presence be known.... The meaning is, that they would do honor to the family, and gratify the heart of the parent, by their valor in defending their city and home, or in attacking the cities of the enemies of their country." (Albert Barnes' Commentary on Psalm 127:5)

MAKE BRIGHT THE ARROWS -

There is one other text that refers to arrowheads. It is *"Make bright the arrows; gather the shields: the LORD hath raised up the spirit of the kings of the Medes: for his device is against Babylon, to destroy it; because it is the vengeance of the LORD, the vengeance of his temple."* Jeremiah 51:11.

Arrows are to be sharpened and made bright. Picture an archer preparing for battle. He inspects his bow to make sure it will not fail him in battle, He examines the bowstring for soundness and strength, and then he closely inspects each arrow. Is each arrow's shaft perfectly straight? Are the feathers all secure in their places? Is the head tightly bound in place? And is it sharp? Really sharp? Just to be sure, he whets it on a stone so that its edges are bright. He feels the razor sharp edge with his thumb and whets it again.

Make bright the arrows! The word is also translated "pure" and "polished". Here an exhortation for every Christian who would be an arrow for God. Sharpen your gifts! Study to shew yourself approved! Clarify your calling. Neglect not, but stir up your gift! Memorise more verses! Draw nearer to God! Pray much! Rusty arrows are useless in battle. There is no time to make bright the arrows once the battle begins!

One of the old generals of the past said, "The battle is won the day before!" Why? Because that is the day the archer makes bright his arrows.

Every godly Christian must strive to be a sharp arrow in God's quiver, in His hand and upon His bowstring! If he would be an arrow that fulfills its purpose, then he must be prepared for battle, willing to defend truth and right, and not wait until he is far from home to do so. His desire must be, "Let the Archer send me where he will. Let Him use me in whichever battle He sees fit, near or far!"

Remember, many great battles have been won by a well aimed arrow. Bright arrows. Pure arrows. Polished arrows. God's arrows.

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DEACON TRUE SEZ -

Our preacher got an invite in the mail last week, and when he opened it he laughed and passed it to me and said, "I'm a bit too busy to answer this, Deke, you mind writin' 'em a note for me. You'll know what to say."

Well, I stuck it in my pocket and forgot about it till just before bedtime when I was emptyin' out my shirt pockets. It was from the biggest IB church in our state, an' it told about the conference they're puttin' on for kids. From the pictures on the ad, what with the drums and 'lectric guitars an' all, it 'pears to be one of them there rock music concerts.

So I wrote 'em the followin' reply,

"Dear Larry,

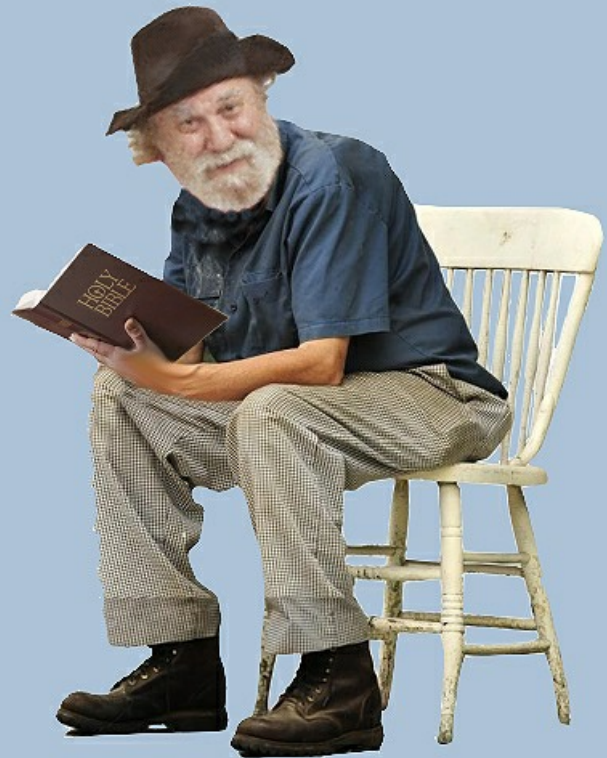
Nice of you all to invite us to your youth shindig, but we is unable to attend due to health reasons.

You see, our little church has a bad allergy to hearin' the Devil's music played in church. The whole congregation suffers a violent reaction ever' time we hear it. We all find ourselves jumpin' up an' shouting things like, "Repent!" and "Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God!"

That kind of nightclub racket you are usin' to lead our kids astray provokes a real strong reaction in our little congregation. Oh, there ain't none of us hit nobody yet, but I have to confess that I do clench my fists a bit, and grit my teeth when I see them "stage cuties" smoochin' up on them microphones in a church.

The last time I heard that kinda music in a church service I pointed my finger at the weak kneed excuse for a preacher that brung in the world's music to the church, and I jumped up and down a few times and got a bit red in the face.

That pretty boy preacher said I needed medical help so I went to the doctor. He checked me over and said it wasn't a nervous disorder or anything, but the symptoms are caused by a longstanding condition of the heart. He called it "old paths syndrome of somethin' like that." He hasn't seen a case as good as mine for twenty years or so. I told him I know where there's a whole church full of folks with OPS. He was real surprised so he dug out his doctor



book and looked up OPS and found out that lots of old fundamentalists suffer with the same symptoms. He reckons there ain't no pills you can take for OPS, but you can quieten it down some by regularly sitting under lots of good preaching and doin' heaps of old fashioned hymn singing, mixed in with fervent praying and maybe shouting "Amen" once in a while.

He also warned me that my condition would worsen if I practice hypocrisy in any form. When I asked what this meant, he said that if I try to listen to good preaching combined with lousy music, my condition would only get worse, and he wouldn't want to predict what will happen if I go to a meetin' where they use Hillsong or what the ushers would do to me as a result.

So I reckon goin' to see the doctor helped me a lot. He explained to me why I have been kicked out of them there conferences before and told not to come back.

It also explained how come our church's name oughta be removed from mailing lists like yours.

Which is not a bad idea at all."

When I showed the letter to our preacher, he smiled real big and shook my hand.

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Since you asked... **What Is Wrong With Hillsong?** By Hughie Seaborn

WHO ARE THE PEOPLE? WHAT DO THEY BELIEVE?

Hillsong had its beginnings in 1986 and was the inspiration of Mark and Darlene Zschech and Geoff Bullock. Bullock was a leader in the “music ministry” of Brian and Bobbie Houston’s Hills Christian Life Centre at Castle Hill, Sydney. Along with Pat Mesiti who eventually founded Youth Alive, the Zschech’s were formerly part of a band that outreached to high school kids. (Pat Mesiti eventually rose to the exalted position of National Director of Australian Christian Churches.) The Zschech’s were introduced to Hills CLC by Mesiti and were soon thrust into the “music ministry” alongside Bullock. When Geoff Bullock “resigned” from Hillsong, Darlene Zschech stepped into his position and became “worship pastor” of Brian and Bobbie Houston’s growing Hillsong Church.

Brian is the son of Frank Houston, an ex-General Superintendent of the AOG in New Zealand. Frank Houston moved to Australia from NZ in 1977, in controversial circumstances of a sexual nature, and established Sydney Christian Life Centre. Despite the covered-up sexual offences committed in NZ, Frank Houston rose to a position of eminence and great respect in the Pentecostal churches, as well as to the most senior position in the AOG in NSW. In 2000, Frank Houston was exposed as a repeat paedophile offender, both in NZ and Australia.

When questioned by a Sydney Morning Herald news reporter (27/03/2002) about the prevalence of sexual misconduct in high places in the AOG, Brian Houston, speaking as General Superintendent of the movement, informed the reporter that, of the AOG’s 2000 Australian ministers, no more than five in any year were exposed and disciplined for sexual misconduct. He went on to defend the former AOG New Zealand General Superintendent, Jim Williams, who served as an AOG pastor in Brisbane but whose licence in New Zealand was permanently revoked for his involvement in “adulterous offences and other indiscretions involving different women over an extended period of years.”

If you are like me and the SMH reporter, by this time you will probably be asking also, “Why is there so much sexual misconduct among the leaders of these highly popular and famous organisations, which confidently profess to be Australia’s representatives, with a clear mandate from God Himself, to lead the nations into His presence in holy worship?”

WORSHIP OF THE WORLD

The Bible clearly teaches, in 1 John 2:15-16, that people who profess to be Christians are to be separate and distinct from the things of the world. The seriousness of what Scripture says on this subject seems to be totally lost upon the leadership of Hillsong Church, and upon the Hillsong band members and musicians.

“Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world.”

Further, we read in James 4:4, *“Ye adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God.”*

IS HILLSONG WORLDLY?

Spiritual adultery is the sin of preferring the world’s fashions and amusements to the things of the Lord. Whether knowingly or unknowingly, Hillsong, by their actions, are promoting just that.

Despite whether their motives are good or otherwise, and despite whether they are nice people or otherwise, the simple fact is that they are using the worldly and ungodly medium of rock music, which they naively describe as worship, in their attempts to bring believers and unbelievers alike, into a relationship with a holy God.

Worship should not be offered to God, nor should the Gospel be presented in such a way that they are coupled with the standards of the world, for God says, *"Be not conformed to this world..."* (Romans 12.2) Attempting to use the things that belong to the "god of this world" in order to bring people into the presence of the holy God of the Scriptures is unacceptable to Him.

As well, lost sinners can not be called out of the wickedness of the world by a church that has adopted its lifestyle and entertainment values. It is understood by virtually every serious Christian that to employ in worship something that is historically associated with, or has arisen from an alternative culture of free sex, godlessness, drunkenness, drugs, and emotional orgies, is worse than inappropriate - it is sinful and demonstrates deception.

"ROCK & ROLL" MUSIC AND SEX - TWO PEAS IN A POD

Being confused about what is appropriate to offer to God in worship is not the only area where Hillsong leadership is being misled. Their conformity to the world and preoccupation with fleshly things is demonstrated elsewhere in their "ministry".

"Pastor" Bobbie Houston (wife of Brian Houston) had a series of taped messages extolling the virtues of "Kingdom Women." One of the messages in the series, which was formerly advertised on the Hillsong website, had the sensual title "Kingdom Women Love Sex."

You could be forgiven for asking the question, "What type of message does this title and subject send to Christians, particularly to Hillsong's target audience of teens and young adults?" Does the title of this series sound to you like Hillsong leadership is concerned about mortifying the deeds of the flesh?

But why should we expect anything different from the leadership of Hillsong? Using worldly and fleshly methods to attract members will simply guarantee worldly and fleshly results - their track record demonstrates this truth. Even the un-saved know that Rock music, rebellion and sensuality are all peas in the same pod.

EVIL COMPANIONS DEFILE GODLINESS

"Be not deceived: evil communications corrupt good manners. Awake to righteousness, and sin not; for some have not the knowledge of God..." (1 Cor. 15:33-34)

What do you know about the theological beliefs of Hillsong and their companions? Are you aware that they are supporters and promoters of Word of Faith teachers and their erroneous doctrines? The Word of God counsels Christians to separate from and expose false teachers. Do

Hillsong leaders warn their congregations of the heresies promoted by Word of Faith teachers? Or do they allow them to spread their diabolical heresies from Hillsong's pulpit? The following are all friends of Hillsong, despite them teaching heretical doctrines!

C. Peter Wagner, "The Lord is establishing the foundations of the Church for the new millennium. This foundation is built upon apostles and prophets." Wagner is speaking here of a new foundation based upon latter-day apostles and prophets, with himself as the chief apostle. However, the Bible teaches that the foundation for the Church was laid 2000 years ago with Christ as the Chief Corner Stone.

George Otis Jr., of Transformations Video fame, "Christ has not redeemed us by giving His life as a ransom for our sins in order that He might release us. God never kept man captive in sin. The truth is Christ paid no man's debt."

Kenneth Copeland, "I was shocked when I found out who the biggest failure in the bible actually is. The biggest one in the whole Bible is God."

Kenneth Hagin, Kenneth Copeland, Joyce Meyer, et al., teach that Christ did not complete the Work of Redemption upon the Cross of Calvary, but in Hell. He was defeated upon the Cross, died spiritually, and was taken to Hell by Satan and tortured and tormented for three days and three nights. After enduring this additional suffering, Christ was reborn as the first born-again man. They teach that it was not only the physical death upon the Cross that paid for man's sins.

These teachings will not lead anyone to eternal life, but to certain damnation. Perhaps someone should ask Hillsong why they don't warn God's people of this certainty.

RHYTHM - INDULGING & ENTERTAINING THE FLESH

"Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord." (Ephes. 5:19)

"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord." (Col. 3:16)

These Scriptures teach many things about music in the church. Christians do not evangelise unbelievers, or entertain other Christians, with worldly Rock music. The Gospel is the power of God to save all who will believe, not worldly Rock music. Psalms, hymns and spiritual songs, not Contemporary Christian Rock, are for the

purpose of teaching and admonishing Christians the Word of God. Singing and making melody comes from the heart and is directed to the Lord, not the un-saved. Christians are to make melody in their hearts to the Lord. True spiritual music is based upon melody which feeds the spirit. The world's music is based upon rhythm, predominantly drums and bass guitars, which feeds the flesh.

The contemporary Christian music scene mimics the world in method, dress and sound. This is not true worship, as Hillsong will try to convince you that it is. Hillsong is a business selling worldly entertainment (and making millions) which they promote to young and unlearned Christians as worship to the Lord.

ECUMENISM AND THE SOON-COMING ONE-WORLD CHURCH

Sensual rock music, accompanied by lyrics containing much false teaching is being used by the Devil to build bridges between professing Christian churches, and other religious groups of unlike faith and practice, and Hillsong has been at the forefront of leading a multitude of young, scripturally ignorant, professing Christians from Pentecostal and Charismatic churches into accepting gross Roman Catholic errors. More lately, Hillsong's music, and CCM music generally, is becoming more accepted in conservative churches, like the Independent Baptists. However, instead of warning Christians about the damnable heresies of the Roman Catholic Church, the leaders and musicians of Hillsong Church sing aloud the praises of the Pope, holding him up as a great "Christian" leader, and even join with him in ecumenical evangelistic outreach programs.

For example, Pope Benedict was praised and entertained at the 2008 Roman Catholic World Youth Day in Sydney by Hillsong's "worship leader" Darlene Zschech, who even went so far as to publicly make the following dangerous statement: "We see World Youth Day as a great opportunity to serve the Catholic Church in it's vision to present the gospel and reach out to our city, our nation and our world in unity."

When asked by a Sydney Morning Herald reporter why Hillsong church is so successful, Brian Houston replied, "We are scratching people where they are itching" ("THE LORD'S PROFITS," *Sydney Morning Herald*, JANUARY 30, 2003). 2 Timothy 4:3 describes a time in Church history when people will lust for an unbiblical version of Christianity that endorses their fleshly and worldly lifestyles. They will seek out false teachers who are willing to preach messages that soothe the conscience rather than convict the conscience of sin - preachers who scratch where mediocre, luke-warm Christians itch. *"For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but*

after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears."

"Once upon a time Baptists believed and preached Amos 3:3, 'Can two walk together except they be agreed?' Someone should ask, 'If Hillsong walks with those who deny the saving efficacy of the death of Christ, with those who promote the worst excesses of the Charismatic Movement, with those who promote the latest form of modernism (in the emergent "church"), and with New Age prophets, and with Buddhist priests, then what is their true theology?' The answer? It is the ecumenical, syncretistic theology of a one world religion, the deadly amalgam of heresies of every stripe, the doctrines of the Antichrist and the False Prophet as described in Revelation 13, 17, & 18." (PASTOR BUDDY SMITH - *HEADS UP!* JULY 20, 2013).

We live in days of great spiritual deception and apostasy, and central to promoting that apostasy, through their music, is Hillsong. The Bible warns us in Romans 16:17 that we are to "mark and avoid them."

Some valuable free downloadable teaching resources from [Way of Life Website](http://www.wayoflife.org) which will protect you from being ensnared by the rampant CCM that is flooding into the churches in our day:

"Independent Baptist Music Wars"

http://www.wayoflife.org/free_ebooks/independent_baptist_music_wars.php

"Directory of Contemporary Worship Musicians"

http://www.wayoflife.org/free_ebooks/directory_of_contemporary_worship.php

"Transformational Power of Contemporary Praise Music"

http://www.wayoflife.org/free_ebooks/transformational_power.php

Free Teaching Videos re CCM

http://www.wayoflife.org/free_evideo/

Download The Printable A4 Fold PDF Flyer Here



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Gold From Ophir

Postponing a Plague

By Jerry Wilhite



The last two chapters of the Old Testament introduce the first chapters of the New Testament though there is a 400 year gap between them. John the Baptist was both the *messenger* (Mal 3:1) and *Elijah* (Mal 4:5) according to Jesus (Mat 11:10-14). He was the forerunner of Jesus preparing the way for Christ by turning the *heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers* (4:6). Some understand this to mean the Jews and Gentiles, and some hold this to refer to the unbelieving disobedient children of Israel and the believing ancestors, Jacob, Levi, Moses, and Elijah (Lu 1:16,17). Some sense that John would impact both the old and young. Perhaps in a literal sense John was preparing fathers and families for Christ.

Many missionary kids become worldly. Why? Perhaps it is because fathers have not first given their hearts to their children; they have given their hearts to the cause. To be sure, it is a challenge. The soul conscience missionary sees people unlike others do. Teeming masses of lost souls rushing full tilt into hell does affect a God-called missionary. Also, the missionary feels some obligation to “get the job done” for those he is representing back home. Added to this is the urgency to write that bi-monthly prayer letter indicating results. Furthermore, dear old widow ladies back home are giving their Faith Promise commitments, and we’ve just got to be good stewards of their two mites. Oh, yes, if I don’t show some positive results, the supporting pastors and churches may direct their dollars elsewhere.

But these motives for serving the Savior often have just the opposite effect. The missionary who loses his family has, in effect, lost his entire ministry. It is my personal opinion that the qualifications laid out in 1 Timothy for the pastor are also the qualifications for the foreign gospel evangelist. A man in ministry needs to rule *well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity; For if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?* (1Tim 3:4,5). Men, we can’t afford to lose our children.

So how do we get and protect our child’s heart. Well, many things can be done, but consider Malachi 4:6 and

the order therein—*turning the heart of the fathers to the children* is first; then comes the turning of *the heart of the children to their fathers* (Mal 4:6). Many men want their child’s heart, but are not willing to first give their own heart to their child(ren). Why? Can I make a suggestion? Is it pride?

Opening up something exposes what’s on the inside. How does one see what’s inside a house, a room, a car, a box, a refrigerator? Men often don’t want to open up their hearts to their spouse or sprouts for fear of exposing themselves. No, we’ve got to protect ourselves, our image, our manhood, our person. So instead of being so real, we become surreal, but kids pick up on this. God has given my wife and me 11 wonderful children, and they can often read us parents like a book.

Now, giving a heart to a child can be done through making time for them, valuing their interests, listening to their stories, helping the with their schoolwork, being honest and humble, admitting errors, making life interesting and enjoyable, passing on truth, having integrity, being consistent, setting an example, praying with them, having a servant’s heart, and teaching them the Word. All of the afore-mentioned means I...might...just...have...to...take...time...away...from...ministry. No, let me reword that—I might just have to make my children my first ministry. Think of it this way. If children are truly an heritage of the Lord (Ps 127:3), then that means He gave them to me. Wouldn’t it make sense to take care of what the Lord has entrusted to us as good stewards? Doesn’t the parable of stewardship in Matthew 25:14-30 apply here? Aren’t children even more valuable than the pieces of money these servants received?

Let’s bear in mind, fathers are first fathers and secondly foreign missionaries. If we remember this perhaps we can postpone a curse on the earth (Mal 4:6). Our world is full of problems, isn’t it? Could it be that these “curses” have come because of a breakdown in the family? In our families? In my family? Because of my pride? Because I haven’t first given my heart to my child(ren)

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NOTABLE QUOTES AND QUOTABLE NOTES -

- “The backslider likes the preaching that wouldn't hit the side of a house, while the real disciple is delighted when the truth brings him to his knees.” ~ *Billy Sunday*
- “H.H. Savage of First Baptist Church in Pontiac once remarked that it took about four times the prayer and energy to get a soul saved during the 1960s as it took during the 1930s” (*One in Hope and Doctrine*, p. 185).
- People always fall in the direction they have been leaning? ~ *Dr. Don Boys*
- During the Indian Mutiny, when the English army were shut up in a city, besieged, almost at the point of death from starvation, and decimated by the constant assaults of the adversary, a Scotch lassie, who belonged to a Highland regiment, all at once thought she heard the sound of bagpipes afar off; and the soldiers laughed her to scorn. But after a little time others heard it. And then there came in note after note. By-and-by the sounds of the instruments of a full military band were recognised. And soon, from out of the forest, came the relief army, that broke up the siege and gave them deliverance. And with flying colours and glorious music they came marching up to the now released city.

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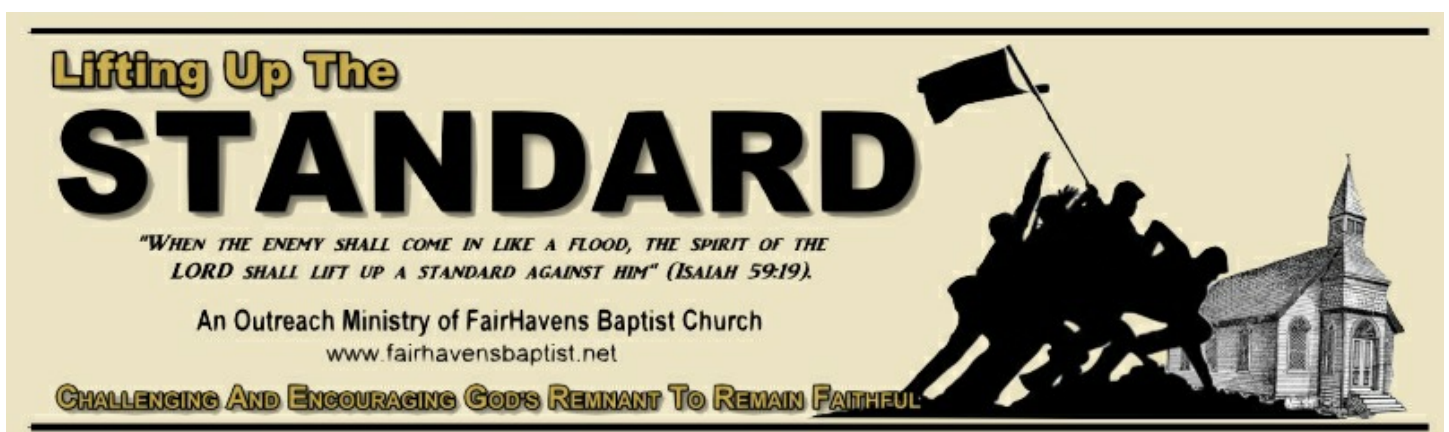
An old negro spiritual started with the line, “I’ve been ‘buked...” Of course that spiritual deals with the troubles in the world that the singer faced. But there is something intriguing about the words “I’ve been ‘buked.” Have you ever been ‘buked? All of us need ‘buking sometime in our lives. Other times, those men who have been called of God to preach His eternal word must do the work of ‘buking.

The Scriptures use the word “rebuked.” Sometimes the word is translated as “reprove, convict, convince, tell him his fault.”

The word for REBUKED is the Greek word ELEGCHO. In the seventeen times that elegcho is used in the New Testament, there is a wide variety of shades of meaning - “to convict, to refute, to confute; generally with a suggestion of shame of the person convicted; by conviction to bring to the light; to find fault with, to correct; to reprehend severely, chide, admonish, reprove; to call to account, to show one his fault, to demand an explanation.”

Elegcho is derived from a few different Hebrew stems, which meanings are reflected in the aforementioned definitions. When the rabbis used the word, it was always reflective of an integral part of brotherly love. They understood and also taught that it was something to both deliver and to receive. They thought of it as a moral duty on the one hand to do the work of rebuking, and then on the other hand, being themselves rebuked was considered to be a high moral achievement.

When the word is used in the New Testament in reference to people, it means “to show someone his sin and to summon that person to repentance.” For instance, in a matter between two brethren in Matthew 18:15, when a brother trespasses or sins against you, you are to go and “tell him his fault” (these four words make up the word elegcho) between yourself and him alone.



The pastor is obligated to deal with this among the congregation of the church he pastors - *1 Timothy 5:20 Them that sin rebuke (elegcho) before all, that others also may fear. 2 Timothy 4:2 Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke (elegcho), exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. Titus 1:9 Holding fast the faithful word as he hath been taught, that he may be able by sound doctrine both to exhort and to convince (elegcho) the gainsayers.*

The work of the Holy Spirit in the world is shown by use of elegcho in John 16:8 And when He is come, He will reprove (elegcho) the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment. We might think of the use of the word here as turning on the light of truth to show men their sin, and that the same Holy Spirit that turns on the light, then calls men unto repentance.

It seems that a lot of people do know something of a shallow meaning of the word in the sense of "to blame, to reprove, to expose." But the depth of the word always goes to the thought of "to set right." That is the pointing away from sin and a complete call unto repentance.

Kittel (TDNT, volume II, Pg. 474) asserts that it "implies educative discipline." From the same family of words, that would speak of what Balaam's donkey did to the prophet (2 Peter 2:16 - *But was rebuked for his iniquity: the dumb*

ass speaking with man's voice forbad the madness of the prophet.)

Elegcho has fallen upon some hard times in the last few decades. Perhaps it is because of a fear of losing members, or due to personal sin in pastor's lives, reproof has become antiquated. It is seldom done anymore.

That should tell us that a lot of what is called "gospel preaching" is not really a declaration of the gospel at all. Unless a man reproves or rebukes, i.e. elegcho, confronting sin head on in the life of a lost person, the gospel is kept hidden. In fact, if there is no reproof, the one seeking to declare the gospel is actually showing great shame toward it. Further, there is going to be sin in and among the members of the congregation, and that sin must be addressed, always calling for repentance.

(Personal note: that is why I preach expositionally, book by book, chapter by chapter, and verse by verse, as dealing with the work of elegcho cannot be avoided and is addressed more than perhaps a message or two concerning a particular kind of rebuke.) The rabbis had it correct in that it does show an integral part of brotherly love. If we love one another, we will elegcho with love those we truly love as brethren.

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MY FATHER'S FINGERPRINTS — NOT SO BIRD-BRAINED - *Friday Church News Notes, October 10, 2014*



The following is from www.creationmoments.com, Aug. 29, 2014: "How do you take a much needed nap or get a good night's sleep when you must be alert to danger? Human beings designate people to stay awake and watch for danger when they sleep. Then, they set up warning systems. Since birds are much more vulnerable to danger, God gave them the ability to do these things on a simple scale, and then He gave them one more amazing gift. Many birds are able to put half of their brain to sleep

while the other half stays awake and alert. The eye that serves the sleeping half even closes; the eye that serves the waking half of the brain stays alert, searching for danger. After the first sleeping half is nicely rested, it wakes up, and the other half goes to sleep. Of course, these birds can also put both sides of the brain to sleep at the same time, just as we do. Whales, seals and dolphins are among the non birds that can half brain sleep as well. Evidence of the clever design of this half brain sleep ability can be seen in the fact that where two birds sleep next to each other, each bird will put the half of the brain that faces its partner to sleep. Once that half is rested, they change places, so the other half of their brain can sleep.

When Scripture tells us that God looked at His creation and declared it 'good,' God's standard for good is perfection. His ingenious design, which would allow birds to protect themselves even when sin and death entered the creation, is part of the goodness of God's creation."

www.wayoflife.org fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143)

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"Well, I, uh (cough, sputter), I mean, of course that's big, but I want to see God do something REALLY HUGE! Don't you?" was my response.

I sat down and felt discouraged and we said a few more words before changing the subject, but the thought stuck with me. The more I considered Scripture the more I realized that my "BIG IDEA" and "SOMETHING BIG" mentality needed to be exchanged for what truly is the BEST, the BIGGEST, the actual will of

God. I needed to just be the faithful servant of the Lord, leading other servants of the Lord to glorify the Lord by doing His will, as revealed in His Word, by His grace.

Another look at the account of David and Goliath had me noticing that David was simply obeying His father, Jesse, as he took supplies to his brothers at the battlefield. While there, an opportunity presented itself to obey God in another matter. David did the will of God by faith. God was glorified.

You know what might really be a big thing in this day in which so many are trumping God's thoughts with their own, replacing God's plans and programs with man's, and trying to rally everyone to their cause that they claim is the Lord's? How about this--Obey God's Word by His grace and for His glory alone! Is there something bigger than that?

Friend, if you are a member of one of the Lord's churches, where you are receiving His Word with humility and obedience, then **YOU ARE IN THE BIGGEST POSSIBLE PROGRAM ON EARTH!** You can't do bigger than God's will. Praise God and press on!

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(The "BIG is good" mentality has so permeated the minds of pastors that we don't always recognize its influence in our preaching. I wonder how many times I have promoted "BIGNESS" from the pulpit so I would look good? - Ed)

I had preached my heart out. It was a favorite passage and subject and I tried to pour myself into it, hoping to stir the church to do something BIG! David and Goliath. We could be David. We could really do something big if we just caught David's vision! We could make everyone, the world and the Lord's people, sit up and take notice that BIG things were being done by Mid-Coast Baptist Church.

Then Monday came and I was talking about it with my Dad. **Thank God for a man who is not a silly bobble-head cheerleader type, but who loves the Lord and loves me enough to challenge me to actually think Scripturally and soberly.**

I think I'll always remember the idea he floated. I don't remember the exact words (it was more than ten years ago), but it was something like, "So being the Lord's church, simply learning His Word, and obeying it, seeing souls saved and believers growing in the Lord, isn't big? What we are doing as we obey the Lord isn't big?"

THERAPY FOR THE FUNNY BONE

- An MIT linguistics professor was lecturing his class the other day. 'In English', he said, 'a double negative forms a positive. However in some languages, such as Russian, a double negative remains a negative. But there isn't a single language, not one, in which a double positive can express a negative'.

A voice from the back of the room piped up: 'Yeah, right'.

- Waiter, I'd like a cup of coffee, please, with no cream. I'm sorry, sir, but we're out of cream. How about with no milk?
- When blondes have more fun, do they know it?

- What do these words have in common?

Banana
Dresser
Grammar
Potato
Revive
Assess
Uneven

(If you remove the first letter and place it at the end and then read it backwards, it makes the same word)

- Money isn't everything, but it sure keeps the kids in touch.

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Eddy-Torial

The Wise Man's Folly

Bro. Buddy Smith



"For it came to pass, when Solomon was old, that his wives turned away his heart after other gods: and his heart was not perfect with the LORD his God, as was the heart of David his father. For Solomon went after Ashtoreth the goddess of the Zidonians, and after Milcom the abomination of the Ammonites. And Solomon did evil in the sight of the LORD, and went not fully after the LORD, as did David his father. Then did Solomon build an high place for Chemosh, the abomination of Moab, in the hill that is before Jerusalem, and for Molech, the abomination of the children of Ammon. And likewise did he for all his strange wives, which burnt incense and sacrificed unto their gods." I Kings 11:4-8

How could the wisest king in history go so terribly wrong? He began his reign so well, and ended it so poorly. Where did he go wrong?

An answer, you already know, is in our text. *"...his wives turned away his heart after other gods: and his heart was not perfect with the LORD his God, as was the heart of David his father."*

Solomon reasoned that it would be politically astute for him to marry Pharaoh's daughter. Surely her father would be an ally if his daughter lived in Solomon's capital city. Politically, he was astute, but biblically, he was in error.

THE DEEP ERROR THAT BROUGHT SOLOMON DOWN -

There is a deep, foundational error in the wise man's strategy. He was violating his own maxim, *"Trust in the LORD with all thine heart, and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths."* (Proverbs 3:5,6) Ahem, Solomon, old chap, who ARE you trusting? And have you looked in the mirror lately? You've acquired quite a lean there. And this part about "ALL thy ways", what about that? Have you forgotten the warnings God gave in *Deuteronomy 7:3,4*, where he commanded, *"Neither shalt thou make marriages with them; thy daughter thou shalt not give unto his son, nor his daughter shalt thou take unto thy son. For they will turn away thy son from following me, that they may serve other gods: so will the anger of the LORD be kindled against you, and destroy thee suddenly."*

So why did Solomon fall into this trap? Why did he allow reason to prevail over revelation? What basic philosophical premise was at the root of all this? Yes, we know he married Pharaoh's daughter, and then the daughters of all the kings of the nations around Israel, and then he took wives and concubines until he had 700 wives and 300 concubines. (One commentator says that, in order to marry 1000 women in forty years, Solomon would have had to marry a new wife every two weeks. Talk about a disaster in the making!) But what was the basic error in his thinking? There is a taproot for every poisonous weed in the garden of the heart of man, you know. What is Solomon's taproot?

Some years ago, the Lord directed my thoughts to I *Chronicles 8:11*, *"And Solomon brought up the daughter of Pharaoh out of the city of David unto the house that he had built for her: for he said, My wife shall not dwell in the house of David king of Israel, because the places are holy, whereunto the ark of the LORD hath come."* This one verse reveals the basic error in the wise man's thinking.

Here is the taproot. **Solomon divided his life into two parts, the sacred and the secular.**

Read the verse again. Solomon said, "I will build a house for my wife, separate from my house because my house is holy and the idol worshipping daughter of Pharaoh can't live there. My house is holy, consecrated to God, but my wife isn't. There are parts of my life that belong to God and they are holy, and there are parts that belong to me and they aren't, and I will have to keep them apart."

This is the master clue to the decline and fall of Solomon. Solomon reasoned out one basic fallacy that destroyed him, deluded his son after him, and ultimately devastated his kingdom. Solomon made the mistake of dividing life into two compartments, the sacred and the secular.

IS IT SERIOUS FOR A CHRISTIAN TO DIVIDE HIS LIFE INTO SACRED AND SECULAR PARTS?

Is this a serious matter? When I preach on this subject, I hear the hurried whispers of disturbed hearts, and see the saints squirm in their seats. I see the nervous glances between husbands and wives, and see the surprised

eyebrows of children lifted. (Surely, pastor, you jest! You cannot possibly be saying that the Christian's life is to be entirely consecrated to God? I mean, we pay lip service to holiness, but that's going a bit far, don't you think?) Well, let's just try on a few Bible verses for size. How about this one, does it fit? *"For this is the will of God, even your sanctification, that ye should abstain from fornication"* (1Thess. 4:3) Or this one, *"For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness."* (1Thess. 4:7) Or maybe this one, *"And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."* (1Thess. 5:23)

These three simple verses sum up the Bible truth about sanctification and make clear to us what we are to do about sacred and secular areas of our lives.

- 1) **It is the will of God for each of us to be sanctified, to be made holy. You want the will of God for your life? Start here.**
- 2) **God has already called each of us to holiness. Don't wait around, hoping to hear from Heaven, He has already spoken!**
- 3) **God is at work in us to sanctify, to make holy our spirit, our soul, and our body! Every part of me, and every part of you is to be holy.**

Are we there yet? No, by no means! But we are to embrace and engraft these truths, even to take God's side against ourselves. We need to say, "There will be no toleration of sin in my life."

EVERY PIECE OF GROUND AND EVERY BUSH!

I once heard an old preacher say, "For the Christian, every piece of ground is holy ground, and every bush is a burning bush!" That is what Solomon, in all his wisdom, did not perceive. He permitted his Jewish cunning (and his

testosterone?) to overrule the Scriptures that spoke of the sanctifying work of the Holy Spirit, through the Word of God. He permitted Reason to prevail over Revelation.

His greatest error was the dividing of his life into sacred and secular compartments.

HOW DO FUNDAMENTAL CHURCHES BECOME EMERGENT EMPIRES? -

This is what is destroying the saints at this very moment, individually and collectively. Men, women, and children, pastors, evangelists, and missionaries, in fact, whole churches have divided all that life contains into that which belongs to God and that which belongs to ME!

Consider the results of Solomon's faulty logic. If a child of God is happy to divide life into two boxes (God's box and MY box), it is almost impossible to prevent that which is in God's box decreasing and that which is in MY box increasing. So it was for Solomon. One pagan, unsanctified wife led to two and two to a thousand. One wife worshipping her idol in HER house led to Solomon building high places for Ashtoreth, and then Milcom, and then Chemosh, and then Molech. Reason prevailing over revelation in private led to the practice of this faulty hermeneutic in public. Is it any surprise that his descendants added to his pantheon until it destroyed them?

Have you considered what Solomon's reasoning is doing to our homes and churches? In most homes there is a shelf for the Bible and a shelf for the vilest propaganda from Hell. Not in my house, you say. Well, would you be willing for the Lord Jesus Christ to sit down with you and watch the DVD's you feed on more than you feed on the Word of God? Would he approve the profanity and nudity, the drugs and drunkenness, the pornography and blasphemy of your favourite movies? And what does he think of the New Age errors your children feast their hearts on as they watch the Disney DVD's you buy them? It all started when you embraced Solomon's doctrine of dichotomy, "I am justified to have in my life Sacred things and secular things, as long as they are kept separate. My house and my wife's house"

For the

LOVE

of the


FAMILY

Godly advice for today's families • Helping people change their lives Biblically

DR. TERRY L. COOMER

Founder & Director





Sharpened Arrows

AS ARROWS ARE IN THE HAND OF A MIGHTY MAN,
SO ARE CHILDREN OF THE YOUTH.
Psalms 127:4

A publication of Golden West Independent Baptist Church Australia which aims to encourage and edify preachers children, youth & young adults to stand for Christ in the battle for the truth.

WAY OF LIFE LITERATURE

O Timothy

"Keep that which is committed to thy trust..."

A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF WARNING AND EDIFICATION

We are seeing it in Baptist churches, more and more. Whether we keep the KJV in the pulpit, and the NIV in the pastor's study, or whether we keep hymns in the Sunday morning worship and the world's music in the youth department, it simply is not possible to keep the leaven of ungodliness from leavening the whole lump. It is the nature of that which is ssssssssecular and ssssssssssinful to grow and expand like leaven. (If you read that last sentence out loud you will hear the Serpent's hiss.)

Oh, how much better it would have been if Solomon had prayed, "LORD, give me a godly wife that will live in the king's palace with me, and she will worship the God of Heaven with me, and she will help me train our children to consecrate themselves and everything in our home to God!"

THE CRYING NEED OF THE HOUR -

What is urgently needed in this hour is pastors who say to God and to their people, "I am committed, so help me God, to make every part of my life and every part of our church sacred. The parsonage, the pulpit, the baptistry, the study, the Sunday School, the missionary program, the choir, the special music, the musicians, the men we train to preach, the evangelists who speak, the soul winning program, and especially the pastor's marriage, all we have and do must be consecrated to God. I will not divide my home or my church into sacred and secular. We will consecrate it all to God!"

Wise men can become fools. All they have to do is divide life into two boxes, sacred and secular.

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Heads Up! - Back Issues Archive



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