ON THE HOME FRONT

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We are privileged to have several sound lectureships in Memphis and the immediate area. In addition, we also have some great TV and radio programs aired each week. Hopefully, all will take advantage of these opportunities to hear the Gospel and to invite and inform others of these programs. Getwell’s radio program, “The Truth In Love,” can be heard at 8:00 each Sunday morning on WHBQ AM 560 and FM 87.7.

There is another TV program coming our way called “A Bible Answer,” which is in its 15th year. It has been my privilege to sit with others on the panel to answer the Bible questions called in to the station. Brother Mike McDaniel is the able moderator of this program, and it is under the oversight of the elders of the Phillips Street church of Christ in Dyersburg, TN. These programs are recorded at the Murray State College TV station in Murray, KY. They have in the past covered several states, but now they can also be seen in the Memphis area on “WTWV Good News TV.” It can be seen each weekday at 12:30 P.M. and on Wednesdays at 3:30 P.M. Please tell others about this good news!
Many among those who profess to be Christians speak favorably about seeking for unity. Even among those who are leaders of religious movements rhetoric is often heard, and even some councils with humanly devised plans for unity are offered. Although these efforts seem to fizzle out quickly, we commend those who at least have the thought in mind. Some even speak of being “Ecumenical,” which is a word invented by Protestants to designate a movement to bring all professed Christians together in some kind of unity. Generally, these actually speak of “union” instead of real “unity.” There is the old illustration of two cats tied together by the tails and thrown over a clothes line—it is correctly stated that there is union, but no unity! Some denominational and interdenominational mergers have been accomplished, but generally as soon as the announcement is made the humanly concocted unity scheme has already ruptured! What must be sought for real unity is non-denominational Christianity.

“All Going to the Same Place” (?)

Even among those who contend all religious people are going to the same place, there are at great cost (waste) separate buildings, creed books, publishing houses, and differing human plans of salvation, worship, and names. Thousands of dollars are spent in erecting several church buildings in one small community, while one building would be sufficient to meet the needs, if there existed true Bible unity. The popular doctrine of these denominations is that one does not have to be a member of any church to be saved—not even theirs! Teachings foreign to the Bible bring schisms that without a doubt hamper the mission as it is taught by the Lord for His people (Lk. 19:10; Jn. 14:6; Matt. 28:18-20). The very division of these religious people, when viewed by the world, is confusing, contradictory, and deadening to those who otherwise might be seeking the true unity of the New Testament. This is the exact thought which the Lord expressed would be the case when He prayed to His Father! Please read in your own copy of the Bible John 17:20-21.
In 1 Kings 22, the king of Israel appeared to be faced with a "no brainer" military decision. He mused about how Ramoth-Gilead really belonged to them and they weren't taking any action against the King of Aram to reclaim it. He even asked Jehoshaphat to join him in this quest—to which he immediately agreed and proclaimed, "I am as you are, my people as your people, my horses as your horses" (1 Kings 22:4b NASB). Jehoshaphat made a simple but profound request, "Please inquire first of the word of the Lord" (1 Kings 22:5). The king, (obviously suffering from acute hearing loss or attention deficit), surrounded himself with about 400 "prophets in his pocket" versus a prophet of the Lord. They all bade him go up to Ramoth-Gilead because the "Lord was going to deliver them into the hands of the king" (1 Kings 22:6). But amid the hoopla, sensationalism, and misguided advice, Jehoshaphat asked again for a prophet of the Lord to render perspective regarding their intentions. And then—the truth came out! The king of Israel uttered words that would eventually lead to his demise: The king of Israel said to Jehoshaphat, "There is yet one man by whom we may inquire of the Lord, but I hate him, because he does not prophesy good concerning me, but evil. He is Micaiah son of Imlah." But Jehoshaphat said, "Let not the king say so" (NASB). When Micaiah was accosted and "enlightened" about the message given to the king, he declared, "As the Lord lives, what the Lord says to me, that shall I speak" (1 Kings 22:14). And when the moment of truth came, Micaiah prophesied that the king of Israel would die if he went up against Ramoth-Gilead. He spoke the truth from God! If the king of Israel had genuinely listened to Micaiah, his life would have been spared. Micaiah was "hated" because he took a stand for the truth and for the God He served. What about you? What about me?

Jesus warned His disciples on several occasions what would happen if they followed Him and obeyed His Word:

"You will be hated by all because of My name, but it is the one who has endured to the end who will be saved" (Matthew 10:22, emp. added).

"You will be hated by all because of My name, but the one who endures to the end, he will be saved" (Mark 13; 13, emp. added).

"But you will be betrayed even by parents and brothers and relatives and friends, and they will put some of you to death, and you will be hated by all because of My name" (Luke 21:16-17, emp. added).

When you are hated because:

- You speak as the oracles of God, 1 Peter 4:11
- You serve Jesus as your only Lord & Master, Luke 14:25-33
- You are not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ, Romans 1:16
- You continually confess Jesus as Lord, Matthew 10:32-33
- You continually walk in the steps of Jesus, 1 Peter 2:21-25

In great company! Matthew 5:11-12 says, "Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great; for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you" (emp. added).

The Christian race is fraught with distractions and detractors. May God give us the strength and grace to keep our eyes on Jesus, live a life of faith, and rejoice when we are "hated for the right reasons!"

—Billy R. Davis, Ph.D. USAF Ret.
via THINK Magazine
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