

THE GREENWOOD BULLETIN

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The Christian And Social Media

By Andrew Drake

I have a Facebook account. It can be a great way to connect with old friends, share thoughts and pictures, play games (I don't,) and generally be "social". Like any other facet of the internet, there are some good things about Facebook and some bad things. I once told a friend that I think there is just about one original thought on the internet per day and the rest are all forwards. I think Facebook suffers in the same way. Many don't update their status as much as "share" and "like" things that others have posted.

What bothers me is that some of the shares and likes, and even some of the comments that my Christian friends put out there for all to see, are not of a Godly nature. When you "like" something that any Christian would consider ungodly, even if it is funny, what does that say about you? If you find a picture

that is just as funny as can be, but it's on the site of an organization that supports abortion on demand or homosexuality, what does that say about you when you "share" that picture? Doesn't it show the rest of the world that you support that organization in some way?

One of the great collectors of funny stuff on Facebook is an actor that used to play on Star Trek, and I have a lot of friends who follow him. If you go to his page, it doesn't take you very long to see that he not only supports homosexuality, he is a homosexual himself. So, when you share a picture from his page (even though it really is funny,) aren't you supporting him in his sin, just a little? Aren't you validating him just a little?

I have also seen a perfectly acceptable picture that I would not share because the name of the person originally sharing it has a curse word in his name. And, by sharing or liking a picture, you also approve of the comments that others have

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made about the picture. Want your eyes opened? Go read some of them. There doesn't seem to be a limit on how profane you can get. I have three scriptures for you to consider: They all have to do with how we present ourselves to the world.

Matthew 5:13-16 *"You are the salt of the earth; but if the salt loses its flavor, how shall it be seasoned? It is then good for nothing but to be thrown out and trampled underfoot by men. 14 You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. 15 Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lamp stand and it gives light to all who are in the house. 16 Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.*

The Bible describes us as both salt and light. Salt because we make things "taste" better (especially to God.) Salt also purifies, so we should also have that affect on those around us. Light because we reflect the light of Jesus Christ to those around us. Light, because we help people see in the darkness. So what happens when the light is dim or the salt loses its flavor? Well, scripture tells us that salt is

worth nothing. If we act like those around us, we are no longer being a light to them.

Colossians 4:5-6 *Let your speech always be with grace, seasoned with salt, that you may know how you ought to answer each one.*

As Christians, the stuff that comes out of our mouths should be graceful, easy on the ears, imparting goodness to those who hear. When you forward, share, or like something of a questionable nature, then your "speech" is also of a questionable nature.

Ephesians 5:1-4 tells us that we should be imitators of God and that foolish talking and course jesting are not to be named among us. The thought is continued below in verse 8.

Ephesians 5:8-11 *For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light 9 (for the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness, righteousness, and truth), 10 finding out what is acceptable to the Lord. 11 And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather expose them.*

We are to be imitators of God and we are to walk in the light. We're not supposed to

have fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness.

So, watch what you are putting out on Facebook. People are watching. They are also judging Christianity by what you like and share... Walk in light and not in darkness.

“Glass, china and reputation are all easily cracked and never well mended.”

Calamity or Negative Blessing?

By William Beasley

In the normal course of events the God of heaven sends an abundance of the necessities of life to His children (i.e., members of the spiritual body of Christ) and to those who are in the world (i.e., those individuals who are either ignorant of the gospel of Jesus Christ or have refused His offer of salvation). Please know, or if needed learn, that there is a world of difference between the *necessities of life* and our *wants and desires*. At other times, in order to get man's attention, the loving Heavenly Father may send us a calamity or *negative blessing* (that which

may not seem to be a blessing, but is designed for our ultimate good).

We have examples of *negative blessings* in God's revelation. One of my favorites is from the prophet Amos: **“And I also have given you cleanness of teeth** (a lack of food, wvb) **in all your cities, and want of bread in all your places; yet have ye not returned unto me, saith Jehovah”** (Amos 4:6; See also Amos 4:8, 9, 10, 11). The positive blessings (i.e., food, clothing, shelter, peace, etc.) had not brought Israel to repentance, so, in a last ditch effort, God send negative blessings (calamities, in man's view of life) to call for His children to return to Him.

Amos wrote to and for Israel, but also for our learning (Romans 15:4). Brethren, are we listening? Are we hearing God's call?

Our Lord tells us to love our enemies (a strange concept to most people of the world) and He also tells us why we are to behave thusly: **“Ye have heard that it was said, Thou shalt love thy neighbor, and hate thine enemy: but I say unto you, love your enemies, and pray for them that persecute**

you; that ye may be sons of your Father who is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sendeth rain on the just and the unjust” (Matthew 5:43-45, ASV).

Has a loving Heavenly Father been trying to get our attention by sending us inflation, terrorist' attacks, tsunamis, hurricanes, mud-slides, etc.?

Being an ignorant, finite creature of clay, I cannot say with certainty that any one or all of the calamities mentioned above were actually *negative blessings* from God. As a *stranger and pilgrim on the earth* (Hebrews 11:13) I can use the events of modern history as motivation for me to *prepare to meet God* (Amos 4:12), and to be inspired to pray for my enemies. Many, perhaps most, of the Islamic people of the world hate me because I am an American and because **(Praise God)** I am a Christian.

How are you using the news events of our time? Are they merely calamities of nature? Or, are they (to you) wondrous negative blessings from the Almighty? Are you praying for the Islamic peoples of the world? Praying for their conversion to Jesus Christ? Are

you preparing to meet God in judgment?

Invite Night – Tonight!

“Is My Hope Real?”

It is not too late to invite!!!