

# THE GREENWOOD BULLETIN

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## ***"Attitudes We Need To Avoid"***

BY JARROD JACOBS

There are some people who are guilty of wrong attitudes, which result in wrong actions. We are not immune to such wrong dispositions. The Bible tells us of some who had wrong attitudes, and as a result, sinned. Let us consider the following.

### ***Some Have A Self-Sufficient Attitude.***

Some, especially in this country, have the attitude that they can do it all by themselves. Some never admit their need for God, but think that all things depend upon them and their efforts. We need to realize that we are not self-sufficient, but are helpless. We could do nothing if it were not for God. We would not be here if it were not for God. Colossians 1:17 teaches that Christ *"is before all things, and by him all things consist."* Consist means *"to set together, i.e. (by impl.) to introduce (favorably), or (fig.) to exhibit; intrans. to stand near, or (fig.) to constitute:--approve, commend, ... make, stand (with)"* (Strong's). The NAS says, *"in Him all things hold together."* In other words, were it not for our Lord, nothing would even exist! How dare we think we are self-sufficient in any way? How many times have we sang, *"I Need Thee Every Hour"*? Do we really mean that? Or, is our attitude toward Christ one of *"don't call me, I'll call you"*?

Some who had a self-sufficient attitude include the rich fool of Luke 12. Jesus, in speaking of him, showed that this man thought he had provided all of this for himself. Notice in Luke 12:16-21, that the personal pronoun "I" is used by him 6 times in this short account.

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He had not thought about God, nor thanked Him for the bounty. He was merely concerned for himself, and lost it all in a night!

The Christians James wrote to thought they were self-sufficient as well. James told them, *"Go to now, ye that say, To day or to morrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain: Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away. For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that. But now ye rejoice in your boastings: all such rejoicing is evil"* (Jas. 4:13-16).

Their proud, arrogant boasting was evil in God's sight. They thought they were self-sufficient, could provide for their own, and did not need to include God at any point. They were wrong then, and we are wrong today if we think we do not need God. We do not know what may come tomorrow (Prov. 27:1). Therefore, we need to remember who holds tomorrow, and live for Him!

### ***Some Have An Apathetic Attitude.***

To show apathy is to not show interest or concern. Therefore, those who show apathy toward the Lord and His church show no concern or interest for the Lord and His church. This can do nothing but damage people spiritually. Yet, there are many today so caught up in worldly pursuits, that they have no interest, nor concern for the things that are most important.

There are many apathetic people mentioned in the Bible. Consider the fact that Paul had to remind those *"that are rich in this world"* that they had a responsibility to the Lord and His cause (1 Tim. 6:17-19). If they were not careful, they would only show their interest in material pursuits, and no interest in the Lord. Another who was apathetic was Agrippa. When faced with the greatest decision one can make in this life, he refused, saying, *"Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian"* (Acts 26:28). He was very aware of the doctrine of Christ (v.26), but had no interest or concern in it,

nor for his soul. In fact, there are many today who show that their interests lie in other things beside the gospel. When people show apathy toward the Lord and His church, it shows that we need to watch ourselves lest we also become apathetic (I Cor. 10:12, 15:33).

### **Conclusion**

As always, we need to examine ourselves (II Cor. 13:5). Let us make sure we are not guilty of these wrong attitudes, for they will develop into wrong actions! In some, it is already apparent what attitude they have. Let us do our best to live by the Bible, to follow its precepts, and love the Author. If we are guilty of harboring any of the attitudes we have studied, then let us repent and turn from those things while we have the time to do so. May God help us all to have the right attitude, to live for Him, and look forward to Heaven when this life is over.

## **Gratitude Makes Happiness**

**By Jere E. Frost**

Most of our unhappiness is produced by the gross sin of ingratitude – self pity is what it is often called. Anything we do not like, anything that is against our wishes, makes us miserable if we are consumed by selfishness. It is quite striking that many of those who were so miserable as to commit suicide were blessed with looks, talent, wealth and even fame. They “quit” on themselves and on life, not because no one needed them, but because they magnified their miseries and ignored their blessings.

The antidote to this kind of misery is to reverse the process. Forget yourself. Jesus said “deny” yourself (Matthew 16:24). Help someone who needs some help. Magnify your blessings and remember that all your problems – all of them – are temporary. We were made for eternity! What a blessing. Thank God for the great hope we have in Jesus, and for the blessings of the common day!