

THE GREENWOOD BULLETIN

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Creating My Own Troubles!

By Steve Niemeier

Well, it seems that there are days that nothing goes right. Ever have one of those days? You know the ones where it seems that the more you try to do – the less you get done. You sometimes wonder “why”?

Maybe it is one of those days that you become very frustrated and take things out on another person – possibly someone you love dearly. Maybe it is someone of your physical family or someone of your close friends or it could even be one of your brothers or sisters in Christ.

Life brings us trials (James 1:2) – life brings us troubles (Psalm 88:3) – life brings us burdens (Galatians 6:5) – life brings us times when our heart is faint (Lamentations 1:22). These

things we know but we still struggle with them.

What causes me the most trouble is the trouble I create for myself. The trouble that results in losing sleep – not eating – long periods of worry or anxiety – the things that just wreck a person’s normal way of life.

The mishandling of relationships – the quick tongue of anger or response – a loud voice when a soft voice was needed – a soft voice when a stronger voice was needed – not saying what I should have said or saying something I shouldn’t have said – misinterpreting something and responding to others when I should have clarified with the one who said it and on and on I could go. I think you know what I mean as most of us have “been there and done that!”

When we think of David – the great warrior for God and the king who also was a compassionate

psalmist – we also think of how he created his own problem by not turning away from Bathsheba. This was a very low point in his life and he mismanaged it – until he was brought to his knees by Nathan a messenger from God that showed him his sins had not gone unnoticed by God.

We have our own troubles and issues of life – yet do we realize that we create many of them ourselves? The things we do or say or the things that we do not do or say – these become the leading indicators of our troubles.

The idea of creating them ourselves is frustrating to many of us because we sometimes do what we think is the right thing to do but in reality we have not thought it through and create more issues by not handling or managing our lives in the way that we should.

Peter mishandled the situation with Christ – concerning the washing of feet (John 13:1-17). He also mishandled the issue of denying Christ just as Christ told him he would do (John 13:36-38; Luke 22:54-62).

This created troubles for Peter and he faced those as he faced the risen Christ in John 21:15-19). He also mishandled the relationship with some of the Gentiles as we see Paul confronting him in Galatians 2:11-21.

A good lesson for all of us – that is hard to learn – is to T H I N K before we speak and before we act. If we would stop and take the extra moment to do so then our troubles that we many times create would not be so many!

Many of us might wear our feelings on our sleeves as the old saying goes. Also, we might look back on our childhood and see some issues that we have not addressed or overcome. We might feel insecure and overcome it by less than rational thinking or actions. We might be the type of person who truly believes “woe is me” and all we do is want to tell others how bad we feel or what our problems are or how bad our life is going without any thought of who we are talking with or the issues of their live.

Yes, many times we find our lives in turmoil

because we have created our own troubles. Paul states in Philippians 4:8-9 that we should meditate on some things that will assist to eliminate some of the issues of trouble in our lives. As you read those things can see if you can see the wisdom in what Paul is telling those in Philippi. Meditating on these good things will assist us in our attitudes and our direction in life – thus assisting us in reducing the troubles that we many times create.

Focus on Evangelism

By Dan Barker

“God’s Precious Message”

**“Into our hands the gospel
is given,**

**Into our hands is given the
light,**

**Haste let us carry God’s
precious message,**

**Guiding the erring back to
the right.”**

We all know the song, “Into Our Hands”, in fact, most of us know it by heart, don’t we? This song is based on Pauls’ statement in I Thess. 2:4. “But as we have

been approved by God to be entrusted with the gospel, even so we speak....

When we understand what Paul is saying to us, I believe this is a very sobering thought! Paul says we have been entrusted by God with the gospel!

Let’s define a few words so we can get a better picture of this verse. First of all, entrusted means: to deliver something in trust to, to confer a trust on, to commit to another with confidence.” Secondly, let’s define gospel. “the message concerning Christ, the Kingdom of God and salvation.” In Romans 1:16. We read...the gospel of Christ...is the power of God to salvation.” The gospel is “Gods” precious message”, the song says. So Paul is telling us that God has entrusted us, He has committed His precious message to us, thus “even so we speak”.

God expects us, His children, to take this gospel, this treasure and teach everyone we can. Remember what Jesus said in Mark

16:15,? “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.” Preach this gospel to everyone!

I said earlier that this verse in I Thess. 2:4 is a very sobering passage. Do you see why I said this? Here are a few reasons:

1. God and Jesus have given this gospel to us – it is a sacred trust.
2. We are to speak to others about this powerful message.
3. We must give an account to God for what we do with this gospel. I Thess. 2:4....”even so we speak, not as pleasing men, but God who tests our hearts....

So let’s be determined to respond to God who has given us His gospel message, with confidence, that we will obey Him. We can’t let Him down!

**“Haste let us carry Gods’
precious message,**

**Guiding the erring back to
the right”**

Our Next Gospel Meeting

**March 3-8, 2013
David Lanius**

**Invite Night – Tonight! -
“Is Christ More Than
Christmas?”**

**Which Am I?
Anonymous**

I watched them tear a
building down;
A gang of men in a busy
town.
With a mighty heave and
lusty yell,
They swung a beam and a
side wall fell.

I said to the foreman, “Are
these men as skilled
As the men you’d hire if you
had to build?”

He gave a laugh and said,
“No indeed!
Just a common laborer is all I
need.

And I can wreck in a day or
two

What it took the builder a
year to do.”

And I thought to myself as I
went my way,

“Just which of these roles
have I tried to play?”

Am I a builder who works
 with care
 Measuring life by the rule
 and square,
 Or am I a wrecker as I walk
 the town
 Content with the labor of
 tearing down?"

**Any fool can gripe
 and complain;
 and most of them
 do!**

Who Was Lucifer?

By Bob Myhan

Though many seem to think that the devil's name was Lucifer before he fell, there is no evidence of this in Scripture. The only place the name Lucifer occurs is Isaiah 14:12. But that reference is to the king of Babylon (verse 4).

"God is Perfect. Only man makes mistakes".

It seems that some people think by the inch and talk by the yard.

All The Time

By Mavhuto Hamed

ALL THE TIME:
 Good time, bad time, night time, day time, work time, off time, sad time, happy time, in the mean time God is thinking of you all the time. "Trust in him at all times; ye people, pour out your heart before him: God is a refuge for us. Selah" (Psalm 62:8, KJV).

Remember: "Blessed are they that keep judgment, and he that doeth righteousness at all times" (Psalm 106:3, KJV).

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David Lanius

Invite Night – Tonight! - "Is Christ More Than Christmas?"

All things in life are temporary. If going well, enjoy it, they will not last forever. If going wrong, don't worry, they can't last long either.