

Observations by R.L. Whiteside

“The devil outside of a church can do it very little harm, but many a church has been wrecked and ruined by the devil inside of it.”

“Love looks to the ultimate good rather than to the present pleasure of the one loved.”

“Speaking the truth in love does not mean speaking in such a vague way that no one will object to it.”

“A party spirit in the church murders God’s truth and makes liars of its devotees.”



FEBRUARY 14, 2010

TIMING IS EVERYTHING
Jim Stauffer

It just seems unfair at times how opportunities come our way and we do not realize it until later when circumstances have changed. By that time we are ready to take advantage of those opportunities but they are no longer available.

I can remember many such instances that happened in my life at times when I was completely disinterested.

A young man who enjoyed music but never sought the inexpensive voice lessons available.

Having a literature instructor anxious to help one with the classics if only the interest had been there.

How boring all levels of history were to a 17 year old who was more interested in girls and sports.

Remember when you would rather be outside playing a game than in your recliner watching it on TV?

The wise man said, “To every *thing there is* a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: ² A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up *that which is* planted; ³ A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; ⁴ A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; ⁵ A time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; ⁶ A time to get, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away; ⁷ A time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; ⁸ A time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace.(Eccl. 3:1-8)

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Send a Copy to a Friend

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MEETING TIMES
Sunday - Bible Classes: 9:30AM
Worship Services 10:20AM & 6:00PM
Wednesday - Bible Classes 7:00PM

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We learn from this that we reduce the frustration of our lives by accepting the opportunities at the time they are offered.

Each person who is a child of God has benefitted from the message of the gospel coming his way at a time he was ready to listen.

We should then realize why we as individuals need to continue to discuss the salvation in Christ Jesus with our friends and neighbors. We never know when they might be ready to accept His offer.

This is why we support the work of the Lord financially, in order to advertise our worship services. We never know when one will see that ad and respond by investigating the message of the cross.

We all support gospel meetings and invite friends to attend because, though they have declined in the past, their circumstances may have changed and they may accept this time.

We never know when their hearts will become as the hearts of the Ethiopian, Cornelius or Lydia at the time they heard the gospel preached.

That young man who declined voice lessons, assistance with classic literature or world history might respond differently today if the same opportunities presented themselves.

Timing is not our responsibility. Consistency is. Timing only comes into play when the offer is made consistently.

When people are inclined to ask, seek and knock as Jesus indicated they should in Matthew chapter 7, we must be prepared to be there to help them find the Lord.

WE'RE NOT GOING AWAY!

"Do not teach in the name of Jesus! Don't speak at all in His name!" That was the command of the Jewish council to Peter and John after the apostles had been teaching in the temple about the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ (Acts 4:18). These former fishermen, however, continued to teach about Jesus. In fact, all the apostles continued to serve as witnesses to the resurrection of Jesus Christ so that the council once again acted and imprisoned them (Acts 4:33; 5: 14-18). The council was furious and would even have liked to kill these troublesome teachers, but they feared the reaction of the common people (Acts 5:27-33). The council had the apostles beaten and commanded them again not to speak in the name of Jesus (Acts 5:40).

Why was the council so anxious to silence these men? The teaching of the apostles disturbed the council just as the personal teaching of Jesus had made the religious leaders angry. The Lord identified their hypocrisy and showed them to be blind

leaders. Rather than change their behavior, they plotted to kill Him and eventually put Him on a Roman cross. After His resurrection and ascension, the apostles who were guided by the Holy Spirit continued to preach the gospel of the kingdom.

The Jewish high priest and the rest of the council were to discover that these twelve men whom Jesus had called to be witnesses would not "go away." It would take more than threats and beatings to silence these men. In fact, their determination to teach and preach the message of Jesus Christ was shared by other early disciples who were scattered by the Jewish persecution, but continued to proclaim the gospel wherever they went (Acts 8:1-4).

Those pesky Christians! As they taught the principles of the kingdom of heaven, they taught against sinful behavior. They taught against homosexuality (Rom. 1:26-32; 1 Cor. 6:9- 11), theft (Eph. 4:28), profane speech (Eph. 5:3-5; Col. 3:8), drunkenness (Gal. 5:21), lewdness (Gal. 5:19), etc. Many people who wanted to continue in such behaviors without criticism often resented the preaching of the gospel.

There are those in our country and in our day who would like to silence the voices which preach from the Bible the need for righteous conduct. Organizations promoting homosexuality do not want to hear that homosexual behavior is the acting out of vile passions (Rom. 1:26). The sexually promiscuous do not want anybody preaching that such behavior is destructive to the individuals involved (1 Cor. 6:18) and to society in general. The greedy and socially unjust do not want to hear about their responsibility toward their neighbor (Rom. 13:8-11; Gal. 6:10).

But we will not go away. They can try to silence the message; they can take away the church buildings, the tax-exempt status and in general make life difficult for us, but we will continue to preach the message of righteousness because it is God's truth and the only way that men can be saved from their sins.

By Allen Dvorak via Gospel Power, Vol. 12, No. 35, Aug. 28, 2005.

HONESTY, ERROR AND TRUTH

There are many good people in the world who are honestly mistaken, but when a man who is honestly mistaken hears the truth, one of two things must happen: he will cease to be mistaken or, he will cease to be honest. If he does not obey it, he will no longer be honest. If he does obey it, he will no longer be mistaken. Honesty and error must separate when truth comes along. No man can be honestly mistaken if he has heard the truth.

Eugene Britnell