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No. 2

Let the Wicked Be Ashamed

(Psa. 31:17)

By Wade Lee Webster

"Let me not be ashamed, O Lord; for I have called upon thee: let the wicked be ashamed, and let them be silent in the grave" (Psa. 31:17). Often times the wicked are not at all ashamed when they sin. Jeremiah said of those of his day, "Were they ashamed when they had committed abomination? Nay, they were not at all ashamed, neither could they blush . . ." (Jer. 6:15a). Jeremiah even went so far as to say that some of the wicked of his day "refused to be ashamed" (Jer. 3:3). Does this type of attitude toward sin sound familiar? Well, it should. Today the wicked are not at all ashamed as they openly revel against God and His word. Instead of their being ashamed of sin, they often try to make the righteous ashamed of not engaging in sin. The wicked often employ this tactic against today's youth. Notice the following examples:

Young people are made to feel ashamed because they do not engage in the sexual immorality of the day. The wicked of the world would have today's youth to feel ashamed over their purity and virginity. However, Christian young people should not be ashamed of this purity. Paul tells us through inspiration to "keep ourselves pure" (I Tim. 5:22), to "flee fornication" (I Cor. 6:18), and to "Flee also youthful lusts" (II Tim. 2:22). Young people should not be ashamed when they are keeping these commandments of God. But rather, LET THE WICKED BE ASHAMED!

Young people are made to feel ashamed because they do not indulge themselves in the substance abuse of the

day. The wicked would have our youth to be ashamed of not experimenting with alcohol and other harmful drugs. But Christian young people should not feel ashamed because of this. Peter tells us to abstain from such "fleshy lusts which war against the soul" (I Pet. 2:11). We do not have the right to abuse our bodies, because our bodies have been bought with the precious blood of Christ, and are to be used to glorify God (I Cor. 6:19-20). through inspiration Paul declares that "drunkenness" can rob us of our home in heaven (Gal. 5:21). Young people have nothing to be ashamed of when they follow this wise counsel of the word of God. Again, LET THE WICKED BE ASHAMED!

Young people are made to feel ashamed because they do not dress with the immodest fashions of the day. Those of the world would have our Christian teens to be ashamed of this concern for modesty. But Christian young people have nothing of which to be ashamed. Paul through inspiration wrote, ". . . that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with braided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array; But which becometh women professing godliness with good works" (I Tim. 2:9). Although Paul was primarily speaking to women on this occasion, men must also adorn themselves in modesty. Peter tells us that we are to be a "chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people (literally a people for God's own possession, ASV) to show forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into this marvellous light" (I Pet. 2:9).

We are to be different from the world in our dress, as well as all other areas of our life. Christian young people have nothing of which to be ashamed when they adorn themselves in modesty. LET THE WICKED BE ASHAMED!

Young people are often made to feel ashamed because they do not engage in the profanity of the day. The world would have our youth to be ashamed of not using profanity or telling dirty jokes. But as in the above areas, our young people have nothing of which to be ashamed. We are to "Keep our tongue from evil, and our lips from speaking guile" (Psa. 34:13). The wise man Solomon wrote, "Whoso keepeth his mouth and his tongue keepeth his soul from troubles" (Prov. 21:23). Paul warned, "Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace to the hearers" (Eph. 4:29). When young people follow this inspired teaching they have nothing of which to be ashamed. LET THE WICKED BE ASHAMED!

Young people are made to feel ashamed because they do not engage in the lascivious recreation of the day. The world would have Christian young people to be ashamed of not engaging in mixed swimming, dancing, or attending dirty movies. Again, our young people have nothing of which to be ashamed. God warns us through His word that engaging in these lascivious activities can rob us of our home in heaven (Gal. 5:19-21). We are commanded to keep our minds and our hearts pure (Mt. 5:8, I Tim. 1:5). Paul through inspiration tells us, "Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things" (Phil. 4:8). Our young people should not be ashamed of choosing to ab-

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Eddy Gilpin EDITOR

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stain from reaction which is lascivious in nature. LET THE WICKED BE ASHAMED!

Paul encouraged young Timothy to be ". . . an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity" (I Tim. 4:12). Young people like Timothy should not be ashamed. Let the faithful children of God "shew forth the praises of him that hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light" (I Pet. 2:9). As David has said, "O my God, I trust in thee: let me not be ashamed, let not my enemies triumph over me. Yea, let none that wait on thee be ashamed: let them be ashamed which transgress without cause" (Psa. 25:2-4).

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Don't judge a man by the clothes he wears. God made the one, and the tailor made the other. Don't judge a man by his family, for Cain belonged to a good family. Don't judge a man by his failure in life, for many a man fails financially because he is too good and too honest to obtain success at the price asked. Don't judge a man by the house in which he lives. The lizard and rat often inhabit the greatest structures.

That Troublesome Tongue

By Allen Webster

*"The boneless tongue, so small and weak,
Can crush and kill," declares the Greek.
"The tongue destroys a greater horde,"
The Turk asserts, "Than does the sword."
The Persian proverb wisely saith,
"A lengthy tongue - an early death!"
Or, sometimes takes this form instead,
"Don't let your tongue cut off your head."
The tongue can speak a word whose speed,
Say the Chinese, "outstrip the steeds,"
The Arab sages said in part,
"The tongue's great storehouse is the heart."
From the Hebrew was the maxim sprung,
"Tho' feet should slip, ne'er the tongue."
The sacred writer crowns the whole,
"Who keeps his tongue doth keep his soul."*

Author unknown

The words of the wise man sum up this matter, "Life and death are in the power of the tongue" (Proverbs 18:21). The use of the tongue is of great importance to the christian as is shown by the teachings of the Master, "For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy words thou shalt be condemned (Matthew 12:37). The words one speaks are a mirror of the mind for ". . . out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh" (Matthew 12:34). So, if we are to catch our words before they fall from the lips we must set up a guard at the door of the heart! Never can this vigilance be laid aside because ". . . the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison" (James 3:8).

TO BE JUSTIFIED BEFORE GOD, WE MUST GUARD AGAINST:

FILTHY COMMUNICATION: Paul wrote, "Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that

it may minister grace to the hearers" (Ephesians 4:29). To this he added, "Neither filthiness, nor foolish talking, nor jesting, which are not convenient, but rather giving of thanks" (Ephesians 5:4). All cursing, dirty or off-color jokes, double meaning innuendoes, and swearing fit into this category. Peter exhorted, "Wherefore laying aside . . . all evil speakings" (I Peter 2:1) and Solomon testified, ". . . wickedness is an abomination to my lips. All the words of my mouth are in righteousness; there is nothing forward or perverse in them" (Proverbs 8:7-8). In the words of the "apostle to the Gentiles," ". . . BLESS, AND CURSE NOT" (Romans 12:14).

EUPHEMISMS, BYWORDS AND SLANG:

Sometimes newborn saints need to be taught and older ones reminded of certain words called euphemisms which are wrong. Euphemism means "the substitution of a word or phrase less offensive or questionable. . ." than another might be. Many people would be shocked to know of the origin of some words used commonly as slang today! A few of these words are: Gee, Gee whiz, Gosh, Golly, Good Gracious, and My Goodness. All of these words are forms of names for God. The Bible commands, "Thou shalt not take the name of Jehovah thy God in vain" (Exodus 20:7). When someone carelessly and thoughtlessly tosses the reverend name of God around they profane the holy and are guilty of sin!

GOSSIP AND LYING:

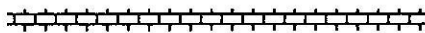
"Talebearing" has been around a long time and will, no doubt, be here until the Lord returns. Solomon said, "He that goeth about as a talebearer revealeth secrets; but he that is of a faithful spirit concealeth a matter" (Proverbs 11:13). "Talebearer" means "one who officiously and maliciously spreads gossip, scandal, etc." (Webster). Gossip separates friends and causes strife. Notice these verses: ". . . he that repeateth a matter separateth very friends" (Proverbs 17:9) and "Where no wood is the fire goeth out; so where there is no talebearer, the strife ceaseth" (Proverbs 26:20). To kill gossip one must simply refuse to listen to it, or if it is heard, refuse to repeat it. Lying often goes hand in hand with gossip and is always wrong.

It does not matter if these deceptions are called "little white lies" or "half-truths" they are still sinful. God hates a "lying tongue" (Proverbs 6:16-19) and wrote, "Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth to his neighbor . . ." (Ephesians 4:25).

THE SIN OF SILENCE: While too many words can be bad (Proverbs 10:19), too few words can also be sinful! When an opportunity to teach is missed (Matthew 28:18-20), or when sin should be corrected but is not (Ezekiel 13:17), it is wrong. "A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver (Proverbs 23:11). "A word spoken in due season, how good it is" (Proverbs 15:23).

The troublesome tongue can be a blessing to God and man if it is properly controlled and used. "Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another" (Romans 14:19). Say some words of encouragement to those who need it this week. Remember, "Pleasant words are as an honeycomb, sweet to the soul, and health to the bones" (Proverbs 16:24). Our prayer to God must always be, "Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength and my Redeemer" (Psalm 19:14).

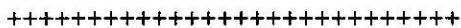
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PRAYER FOR THE HOME

*Lord, this humble house we'd keep,
Sweet with play and calm with sleep.
Help us so that we may give
Beauty to the lives we live.
Let my love and let thy grace
Shine upon our dwelling place.*

-Edgar A. Guest



A marriage will have its pepper when a man is so busy earning his salt that he forgets his sugar.

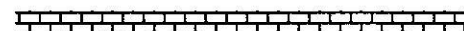
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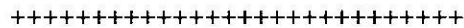
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What attention we as God's servants need to give matters that pertain to our lives on the earth can best be understood by the old Boston shoemaker's statement. "My business or occupation," said he, "is only my sideline to pay the expenses of my business serving the Lord.



You can do little about the length of your life, but much about its depth.

**DOES YOUR
'BEAU' KNOW
DIDDLEY?**

By Eddy Gilpin

A popular sport shoe's commercial being aired recently stars athlete Bo Jackson and musician Bo Diddley. The multi-talented Jackson is revered by his athletic colleagues (Jim Everett, Kirk Gibson, Michael Jordon, etc.) as "knowing" such sports as football, baseball, basketball and weightlifting. However, his futile attempts to play the guitar in the presence of this other Bo brings the reaction, "Bo, you don't know Diddley."

The apostle Paul stated, "Marriage is honorable in all, and the bed undefiled" (Heb. 13:4). The marriage of a male and a female for life is God's prescribed means of procreation of the human race, a source of mankind's happiness while on earth and a means of assistance for both parties to the attaining of a heavenly home. Yet, so many individuals enter into a marriage relationship with little to no knowledge of God's expectations of them in it. Young people need to examine God's word (the greatest "Marriage Manual" of all time) along with their spouse-to-be in order to understand all aspects of the marriage relationship. Haphazard marriages end in haphazard divorces which, in turn, add to the snowball effect of the downfall of the home in our society. Young people contemplating marriage need to look long and hard at the individual to which they are engaged to be sure these Biblical values are known and will be practiced. Concerning marriage, then, "Does your 'beau' know diddley?"

Does that young man know, young lady, that he is to be the head of the household (Eph. 5:23)? Does he know that God expects and his family needs him to fulfill that role? Does he know that it is his responsibility to be sure his children are brought up in "the nurture and admonition of the Lord" (Eph. 6:4)? Does he know that he is to love his wife as his own body (Eph. 5:28)? Is he a

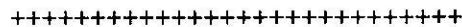
faithful child of God who will help you get to heaven? Does he know the "22 most important words in marriage" ("Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife; and they shall be one flesh" - Gen. 2:24)?

Does she know, young man, that she is to be subject to her husband and what that means (Eph. 5:22, 23)? Is she a faithful member of the Lord's body with the desire to train her children in the selfsame way? Does she have the desire to be as Lois and Eunice, who instilled in young Timothy a love for God's word (II Tim. 1:5)?

Marriage is a lifelong endeavor. God made the arrangement of "one man for one woman for life." Does your future spouse understand that divorce is not an acceptable means of solving problems that might arise? Does he/she know that, apart from death, there exists only one grounds for the dissolution of a marriage (Mt. 19:9)? Does your beau know these and other fundamental matters about marriage? Does he/she practice what they know to be truth? The idea that "I'll change him after we're married" more often than not fails to become a reality. Yes, young person, marriage is a very big and very serious step. In fact, next to your decision to obey the gospel, it is the most important decision you will make. Do not enter into it lightly, and be sure the same is true for the one your are to marry.



A PROVERB FROM INDIA SAYS:
"A faulty diamond is more valuable than a perfect pebble." In spite of his imperfections, the Christian is of more value in God's sight than the unbelieving moralists. The church is made up of imperfect people, but God can use us, despite our weaknesses, if you are willing.



The best reason for keeping your temper is that nobody else wants it.

THE CHURCH OF CHRIST

1. The Bible is its only guide (Romans 1:16; I Thess. 2:13).
2. Wears a Biblical Name (Romans 16:16).
3. Established at the right place (Isaiah 2:2,3; Acts 2).
4. Established at the right time (Joel 2:28-32; Acts 2).
5. Established on the right person (Matthew 16:18; Acts 2:36).
6. Saved are in it (Ephesians 5:23; Acts 2:47).
7. Its members are enrolled in heaven (Hebrews 12:23).
8. Membership in it is obtained by obedience to God's commands including baptism (Acts 2:41-47; I Corinthians 12:13).

GOD'S PLAN OF SALVATION

1. Hearing the word of God (Romans 10:17; Acts 16:32).
2. Believing what is taught (Mark 16:16; Hebrews 11:6).
3. Repentance (Acts 2:38; Luke 13:3; Acts 17:30).
4. Confession (Romans 10:9, 10; Acts 8:37).
5. Baptism (Acts 2:38; Mark 16:16; I Peter 3:21; Romans 6:3, 4).
6. After the above five steps, faithful Christian Living (I Peter 2:11, 12; Revelations 2:10).

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