

**F.**

**Y.**

**C.**

**For Your  
Consideration**

“Let us consider  
how to stimulate  
one another to love  
and good deeds.”  
Hebrews 10:24

**DECEMBER 2020**



Ron Adams  
“Be thoughtful and kind.”

**BIBLE RESOURCES**

<http://ra10ar.com>

(Quotations from NASB)  
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**THE DEVIL’S SCHEMES**

**FACTS**

Stop signs don’t stop cars—people still fail to stop.  
Laws don’t stop crime—people still commit crimes.  
God’s commandments don’t stop sin—people still sin.

When something is prohibited by law or command it doesn’t prevent someone from doing it. Road signs only regulate traffic. Laws against an activity only state that it is against the law to do it. God’s prohibitions only state what is forbidden. The “teeth” in a law or a command is in the punishment (consequence).

The tree of knowledge of good and evil in the garden of Eden was easily accessible. There was no fence or wall around it. No locked gate. Adam and Eve had the ability and opportunity to eat it’s fruit at any time. God’s command did not keep them from eating the fruit of that tree.

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**GOD SAID**

*The Lord God commanded the man, saying, “From any tree of the garden you may eat freely; but from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil **you shall not eat**, for in the day that you eat from it **you will surely die.**”*  
Genesis 2:16-17

**SERPENT SAID**

*The serpent said to the woman, “You **surely will not die**. For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.”*  
Genesis 3:4-5

**SATAN’S STRATEGY**

**Deny the consequence.** Won’t die.  
(Plant the seed of doubt.)

**Promote the benefits.** Will gain knowledge, be like God.  
(Plant the seed of desire.)

**Question God’s motive.** Why?  
(Plant the seed of distrust.)

**THE SLIPPERY SLOPE**

**First – Doubt the consequences.** (Doubt either the possibility or the severity.)  
*DEFENSE: Don’t doubt or question the awesome power of God.*

**Second – Consider the benefits.** (Savor the thought of having or doing.)  
*DEFENSE: Look past it and focus on the consequences that will surely follow.*

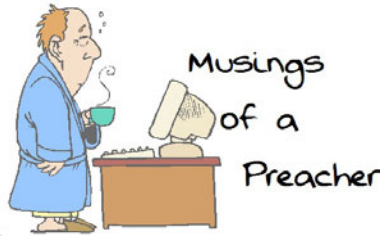
**Third – Question the reason for the prohibition.** (Why is it prohibited?)  
*DEFENSE: Realize your wisdom is limited; trust God’s infinite wisdom.*

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**STAND FIRM**

*Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil.*  
Ephesians 6:11

*For this is the love of God, that we keep His commandments; and His commandments are not burdensome.*  
1 John 5:3

**God’s commands are given for our benefit: (1) to lead us in the right direction and, (2) to keep us from harm.**



— A TRUE STORY —

## Jumping to Conclusions

One of my favorite snacks is candy-coated almonds. My wife makes some of the best. One year she made some to give as gifts, and I was told not to eat any of them. Later, she told me that she would leave a few of the almonds on the kitchen counter for me when I arrived home from holding a Bible study.

Savoring the thought of such a treat, I hastened to the kitchen that evening. The light was turned off, but in the dim light I could see a dish on the counter. I quickly put a handful in my mouth. Anticipating a delicious delicacy, I was taken back by the awful taste. What happened? They tasted awful. Yuk!

I turned on the light to see what I was eating. There in the bright light I saw that what I thought was candy-coated almonds, was actually of all things, dog food! While cleaning the floor, my wife had put the dog's food dish on the counter next to the candy.

There is a moral to this story—not about being careful what we put in our mouths—but being careful about jumping to conclusions. Often we hear negative comments about others. Sometimes the information is incomplete or inaccurate.

Here's where we need to be careful. Much harm can be done when we begin to "jump to conclusions." We must not conclude we know what happened and why someone acted the way they did until we have all the facts. We need to "turn on the lights" to make sure we know what happened. It's not a good idea to go about "in the dim light." We may have to eat our own words—which can taste worse than dog food.

***There is no easy way to remove one's foot from the mouth.***

***Those who jump to conclusions often make hard landings.***

## Just Thinkin'

Spoken words are the means of conveying what's in one's mind.

What's in one's mind is a reflection of what's in one's heart.

To borrow a well known commercial line  
'What's in YOUR wallet heart?'

## Some New Year's Wishes for You

During the new year may you have:  
Enough happiness to keep you sweet.

Enough trials to keep you strong.

Enough sorrow to keep you human.

Enough hope to keep you happy.

Enough failure to keep you humble.

Enough success to keep you eager.

Enough friends to give you comfort.

Enough wealth to meet your needs.

Enough enthusiasm to make you  
look forward to tomorrow.

and

Enough determination to live  
for Jesus every day.

—Selected

## -30- (30 Dash)

*(This symbol was often used to mark the end of a piece of a typewritten article, story, or publication, especially with newspaper editors.)*

This is the final issue of **F.Y.C. For Your Consideration**. It has been a privilege to be the editor since 2012. I'm thankful that I had the opportunity to encourage and inform through the printed page. And I thank you for your support and gracious comments. All past issues are archived at [www.ra10ar.com](http://www.ra10ar.com). But, for now it's ...

-30-



## One Door Closes, Another Opens

Beginning January 2021

**Pause-Ponder-Process.** A series of brief thoughts that will be sent weekly. Also, **On Life's Road** will be intermingled with it.

**PAUSE**  
take time

**PONDER**  
to consider

**PROCESS**  
to benefit

