



F. Y. C.

For Your Consideration

❖ OCTOBER 2018 ❖

His Name Was Art

He grew up in a rough neighborhood and associated with gang members. His home life was far from ideal. He met a young girl whose family worshiped where I preached. He started coming to services with them. After some time he was baptized into Christ.

He was admonished to stay away from his old friends and he did so for a while. But on one occasion he was with one of them and they committed a crime. He was sentenced to a year in prison.

I visited him often and stressed that when he was released he needed to stay far away from such men. After his release, he seemed to be doing better. That is, until I received a phone call stating that he had been killed while robbing a gas station with an old friend. How tragic!

Why Am I Writing This?

It must be indelibly impressed on the minds of young people (and all Christians) that your friends will influence you. Don't deceive yourself in thinking that you will not be influenced by them.

Do not be deceived: "Bad company corrupts good morals."

1 Corinthians 15:33

Nature Abhors a Vacuum

This statement may be a scientific expression, but it also applies to habits and ways of living. New ways of living must replace the old ways, or one will revert to the old ways.

"When the unclean spirit goes out of a man, it passes through waterless places seeking rest, and not finding any, it says, 'I will return to my house from which I came.' And when it comes, it finds it swept and put in order. Then it goes and takes along seven other spirits more evil than itself, and they go in and live there; and the last state of that man becomes worse than the first."

Luke 11:24-26

Put Away the Old, Put On the New

That, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit, and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth.

Ephesians 4:22-24

Truth denied
is still truth

Truth ridiculed
is still truth

Truth opposed
is still truth

Truth rejected
is still truth

TRUTH

Sworn testimony is evidence given by a witness who has made a commitment to tell the truth. The exact wording of the commitments vary from country to country. In the United States it is, “Do you solemnly (*swear/affirm*) that you will tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth.”

COMMON IN OTHER COUNTRIES

The civil proceedings in other countries may vary in language, but they all contain: “*the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth.*” These three elements are necessary to ascertain what is true. And they are necessary on determining what is the truth of the Gospel.

THE TRUTH– NO DISTORTION

“Sanctify them in the truth; Your word is truth.”

John 17:17

As also in all his [Apostle Paul] letters, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which the untaught and unstable distort, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures, to their own destruction.

2 Peter 3:16

I have not written to you because you do not know the truth, but because you do know it, and because no lie is of the truth.

1 John 2:21

THE WHOLE TRUTH – NOT JUST SELECTED PARTS

“Thus says the LORD, ‘Stand in the court of the LORD’S house, and speak to all the cities of Judah who have come to worship in the LORD’S house all the words that I have commanded you to speak to them. Do not omit a word!’”

Jeremiah 26:2

Abraham said of Sarah his wife, “She is my sister [his half-sister].”

Genesis 20:2

NOTHING BUT THE TRUTH – NOTHING ADDED

Do not add to His words Or He will reprove you, and you will be proved a liar.

Proverbs 30:6

WARNINGS

I am amazed that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you by the grace of Christ, for a different gospel; which is really not another; only there are some who are disturbing you and want to distort the gospel of Christ. But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to what we have preached to you, he is to be accursed.

Galatians 1:6-7

Anyone who goes too far and does not abide in the teaching of Christ, does not have God; the one who abides in the teaching, he has both the Father and the Son.

2 John 1:9

I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues which are written in this book; and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his part from the tree of life and from the holy city, which are written in this book.

Revelation 22:18-19

[This admonition can be applied to all the sacred writings.]

Be On Guard (2)

METHODS OF DISTORTING THE SCRIPTURES

Isolating a word

For by **grace** you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God. Ephesians 2:8

Implying that one is saved by grace only. One is saved by the grace of God, by faith, and by walking in newness of life (lovingly obeying).

But thanks be to God that though you were slaves of sin, you became obedient from the heart to that form of teaching to which you were committed, and having been freed from sin, you became slaves of righteousness. Romans 6:17-18

Isolating a verse

Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, not in cleverness of speech, so that the cross of Christ would not be made void. 1 Corinthians 1:17

Implying baptism is not important.

Note the context: 12-21 They had been baptized by other persons than Paul. Crispus, the leader of the synagogue, believed in the Lord with all his household, and many of the Corinthians when they heard were believing and being baptized. Acts 18:8

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life. John 3:16

Implying that one is saved by just believing in Jesus.

Note the context :17-21

“He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.” John 3:36

Isolating a point

One of the criminals who was hanged there was hurling abuse at Him, saying, “Are You not the Christ? Save Yourself and us!” But the other answered, and rebuking him said, “Do you not even fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? And we indeed are suffering justly, for we are receiving what we deserve for our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong.” And he was saying, “Jesus, remember me when You come in Your kingdom!” And He said to him, “Truly I say to you, today you shall be with Me in Paradise.” Luke 23:39-43

Implying that one can be in “paradise” without being baptized.

(note Acts 2:37-38 “every one of you”)

Misapplying

“These signs will accompany those who have believed: in My name they will cast out demons, they will speak with new tongues; they will pick up serpents, and if they drink any deadly poison, it will not hurt them; they will lay hands on the sick, and they will recover.” Mark 16:18

Implying that disciples will have the power to handle deadly snakes.



Ponder This

Difficulties in Forgiving

The Lord's forgiveness is contingent upon us forgiving those who ask for our forgiveness, "And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors." Matthew 6:12. We should not refuse those who seek forgiveness. Forgiving those who hurt us often is difficult, but those who have been forgiven by the Lord are to be forgiven by us. As difficult as that may be at times, there is a more difficult act of forgiving: **forgiving oneself.**

"I'll never forgive myself" is sometimes spoken after committing a grievous sin. However, if one has repented and sought forgiveness from God and from those affected by it, one must be willing to forgive oneself. Caring a burden of guilt after being forgiven may be to some a means of self-mortification. But why carry a heavy load that the Lord has removed? Don't feel worthy? Neither did Paul. Nor does any Christian. We are all debtors who have been forgiven, some more, some less—but all are forgiven. The "chief of sinners" found mercy, and moved on to what laid ahead, not letting his past sins become an anchor to hold him back, and so must we.

It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost of all. Yet for this reason I found mercy, so that in me as the foremost, Jesus Christ might demonstrate His perfect patience as an example for those who would believe in Him for eternal life.

1 Timothy 1:15-16

While we can't erase the memory of our transgressions, we can rejoice in the fact that we've been forgiven. Move on to what you can do for the Lord...without a load of guilt.

If a debt is paid in full...what is left to pay?

STANDING FIRM AS A CHRISTIAN

*Be on the alert, stand firm in the faith,
act like men, be strong.*

1 Corinthians 16:13

The morals of society have never been the same as those found in the New Testament. Sometimes there have been similarities but at other times they have been far different. The morals in this country have been drifting farther and farther away from Bible morals: marriage is just a "relationship" subject to end for any reason; co-habitation before marriage is commonplace; perverted lifestyles are defended as acceptable; right-or-wrong has been replaced by "if it feels right, it's okay." And many churches have fallen prey to such nonsense.

The challenge for Christians today is to stand firm for Bible morals, no matter who criticizes, or what the cost may be.

Beloved, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal among you, which comes upon you for your testing, as though some strange thing were happening to you; but to the degree that you share the sufferings of Christ, keep on rejoicing, so that also at the revelation of His glory you may rejoice with exultation. If you are reviled for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests on you. Make sure that none of you suffers as a murderer, or thief, or evildoer, or a troublesome meddler; but if anyone suffers as a Christian, he is not to be ashamed, but is to glorify God in this name.

1 Peter 4:12-16

F.Y.C. is a monthly publication by Ron Adams.

Bible references are from the NASB except where another translation is referenced.

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