

F. Y. C.

For Your Consideration

❖ MAY 2015 ❖

Hold On and Don't Let Go

When our children were very young, I didn't hold their hand when going out in public. You heard me right. Instead, I had them use their little hand to hold on to my index finger. I told them "Hold on, don't let go." They held on to me. It became their responsibility to hold on. (By the way, it worked.)

We don't have to go far to find instances in the Bible of the instruction "Hold on and don't let go." There are many, but here are a few:

HOLD ON AND DON'T LET GO

"The beginning of wisdom is: Acquire wisdom; And with all your acquiring, get understanding ... Take hold of instruction; do not let go. Guard her, for she is your life."

Proverbs 4:7,13

Instruct those who are rich in this present world not to be conceited or to fix their hope on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly supplies us with all things to enjoy. Instruct them to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, storing up for themselves the treasure of a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is life indeed.

1 Timothy 6:17-19

Let us hold fast the confession of our hope without wavering, for He who promised is faithful.

Hebrews 10:23

Fight the good fight of faith; take hold of the eternal life to which you were called, and you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses.

1 Timothy 6:12

REMEMBER

Make sure that your character is free from the love of money, being content with what you have; for He Himself has said, "I WILL NEVER DESERT YOU, NOR WILL I EVER FORSAKE YOU," so that we confidently say, "THE LORD IS MY HELPER, I WILL NOT BE AFRAID. WHAT WILL MAN DO TO ME?"

Hebrews 13:5-6

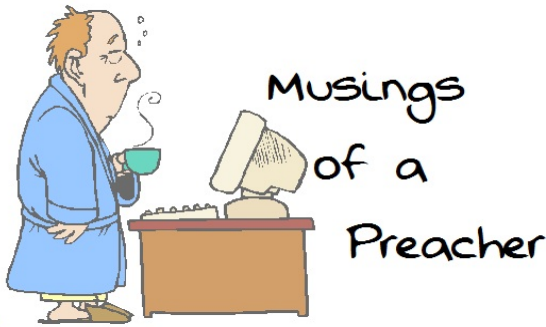
HOLD TO GOD'S UNCHANGING HAND

Trust in Him who will not leave you
Whatsoever years may bring.
If by earthly friends forsaken
Still more closely to Him cling.

Covet not this world's vain riches
That so rapidly decay.
Seek to gain the Heavenly treasures
They will never pass away.

When your journey is completed
If to God you have been true
Fair and bright your home in glory
Your enraptured soul will view.

* Hymn by Jennie Wilson and F. L. Eiland *



The Spot on the Rug

“What caused that spot on your rug?” a friend asked abruptly. The question arrested my train of thought. “Spot? What spot? Oh, that spot!” The question begged for an answer.

I began to recall what happened. It was so long ago I had forgotten it. At the time I was very upset, but over time I had become oblivious to it. How strange it is, that what was so apparent to a friend was overlooked by me. Seeing it daily, I had come to accept it as part of the permanent setting in the room. I went on to explain the cause of the spot and the reason it had not been removed.

After the friend left, I began to think about how we often overlook the “spots” in our lives. How strange that we can ignore the obvious.

‘SPOT ON’ LESSONS

Sometimes it is to our benefit to disregard the spots; at other times overlooking them can be detrimental. In friendships, we overlook the “spots” in each other’s lives. No one is perfect, and if we demand perfection in our friends we

won’t have any. Friendships are built on mutual admiration and trust, not perfection. We love each other in spite of the blemishes (spots). This is beneficial to all concerned.

Our lives often become spotted with problems. If there is nothing within our power to remove them, we must learn to live with such spots. “Casting all your anxiety upon Him, because He cares for you” (1 Peter 5:7) is sound advice from the Lord. We need to learn “to be content in whatever circumstances I am.” (Philippians 4:11)

The Apostle Paul had a ‘thorn in the flesh’ (2 Corinthians 12:7-10) that the Lord would not remove. He learned to live with the condition and was a better person because of it.

However, when the solution to the problem lies within our power, we must work diligently to remove the spot. When we overlook our shortcomings and faults, we hurt ourselves.

Self examination should be done frequently. Ignoring our faults causes us to become complacent, thereby thwarting the removal of any “spot.” We must not be like the Jews of Jesus’ day who were blind to their faults. They could not see their hypocrisy. “For the heart of this people has become dull, and with their ears they scarcely hear, and they have closed their eyes, lest they should see with their eyes, and

hear with their ears, and understand with their heart and return, and I should heal them.” (Acts 28:27)

Spots! We all have them. Some spots are to be gracefully accepted as part of our lot in life, while others must be removed as soon as possible (while we can still see them). When sin stains our lives, *spot removal* is necessary.



Singing with the Understanding . . .



UNDERSTANDING WORDS FOUND IN OUR HYMNS

The writers of hymns often use poetic language in the lyrics. Sometimes we find ourselves singing phrases that we may not fully understand. Here are three examples:

Night With Ebon Pinion #162

Ebon refers to a color, black (as related to ebony). A “pinion” is a bird’s wing. The song is about Jesus agonizing in the Garden of Gethsemane the night before His betrayal. It was a “dark” night for Jesus as He prayed.

The Great Physician #338

The chorus contains the phrase “sweetest note in seraph song”. The word “seraph” is the singular of the plural, seraphim. Seraphim is a word used to describe angels in Isaiah 6:2, 6). Thus, the name of Jesus is the sweetest name that the host of heaven can sing.

Jesus, Rose Of Sharon #445

“Sharon” is from a Hebrew word (saron: a plain, a level tract extending from the Mediterranean to the hill country to the west of Jerusalem; a fertile plain), The rose of Sharon is a reference to a beautiful wild flower that grows there. “Jesus, Rose of Sharon”, is taken from the Song of Solomon 2:1: “I am the rose of Sharon, The lily of the valleys.” The words in the hymn are intended to express the beauty of Jesus Christ.

Calling It like It Is

Euphemisms are used to soften harsh realities. “Passed away” is softer than “died.” “Miscue” is softer than “wrongdoing.” In a society that does not like to think in terms of good and evil, they are often employed to alleviate feelings of guilt. Here are a few heard almost every day.

An affair

is more appealing to the ears than committing adultery.

Sexually active

makes fornication seem like normal teen activity.

A woman’s choice

makes taking of a human life simply a matter of preference.

Gay

has an upbeat connotation that makes homosexuality (a deviant lifestyle) seem normal.

Living together

is easier on the ears than living in sin.

Do your own thing

makes anarchy sound downright appealing.



Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who substitute darkness for light and light for darkness; Who substitute bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter! Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes and clever in their own sight!

Isaiah 5:20-21

**Succinctly
Put**

The truth may hurt, but a lie is agony.

He who conceals his transgressions will not prosper, but he who confesses and forsakes them will find compassion.

Proverbs 28:13



Ponder This

Finding Fault: An Easy Job

I was given the following advice by an elderly brother years

ago: "Look for the good in others, the bad is easy to see." It's advice that is full of wisdom. Yes, it is easy to focus on bad and overlook the good.

In teaching a Bible Class, I used the following illustration: I would hold up a white sheet of paper with one small black spot on it. I would then ask the class, "What do you see?" Some would answer, "A black spot." They focused only on the spot and overlooked the white paper. The lesson here is that, we must see more than just the faults in others.

FAULT FINDING

JESUS (Fault: From Nazareth)

Philip found Nathanael and said to him, "We have found Him of whom Moses in the Law and also the Prophets wrote--Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph." Nathanael said to him, "Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?"

John 1:45-46

THE TWELVE APOSTLES (Fault: Galileans)

They were amazed and astonished, saying, "Why, are not all these who are speaking Galileans? "And how is it that we each hear them in our own language to which we were born? ... And they all continued in amazement and great perplexity, saying to one another, "What does this mean?" But others were mocking and saying, "They are full of sweet wine."

Acts 2:7-8, 12-13

PAUL THE APOSTLE (Fault: Personal presence)

For they say, "His letters are weighty and strong, but his personal presence is unimpressive and his speech contemptible."

2 Corinthians 10:10



WORD STUDY

enhance your
Bible knowledge

Calvary

And when they were come to the place, which is called **Calvary**, there they crucified him, and the malefactors, one on the right hand, and the other on the left. Luke 23:33.

The word is found in the King James Version from the Latin name *Calvaria*, a translation of the Greek word *Kranion* (skull). The word "skull" is found in most other translations.

Golgotha

The common name of the spot where Jesus was crucified. It is interpreted by the evangelists as meaning "the place of a skull" (Matthew 27:33; Mark 15:22; John 19:17). This name represents in Greek letters the Aramaic word *Gulgatha*, which is the Hebrew *Gulgolet*, meaning "a skull."

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

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