

This is an indispensable item for every Christian. It will help us to become more effective workers in the body of Christ. Many times Christians have been heard to say, "I'll do this or that as soon as I can get a round 'tuit.'" Well here it is!

If need be, cut it out right now! Now that you have your 'round tuit' you'll be able to do some, if not all of those things that you have been wanting and needing to do.

And those who are not Christians and have been threatening to start reading the Bible and go to church as soon as they get a round 'tuit.' Here it is! No more excuses! The Lord is waiting (read 2 Peter 3:9).



Navarre Messenger



"Behold, I send my messenger before thy face, which shall prepare thy way before thee." Matthew 11:1

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Thought To Ponder

If you are properly prepared, you won't be easily surprised!



**Ephesians 6:15
Proverbs 16:1
2 Timothy 2:21**

Inside This Issue:

- Page 2 - "Two Men React To Teachings On Morals"
- Page 3 - "Closet Convictions"
- Page 4 - "A Round Tuit"

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MAKING BRICKS OF MUD

Paul was set upon by a mob, and then dragged from their hands by the police. Falsely charged, he spent 2 years in Jewish prisons, and was then sent to Rome to appear before Caesar.

***"Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have learned in whatever state I am, to be content."
Philippians 4:11***

His traveling days ended, and threatened with death by savage beasts (2 Timothy 4:17), we could understand his being depressed and feeling "all is lost." Instead, he wrote to the Philippians, "the things which happened unto me have fallen out rather unto the furtherance of the gospel" (1:12-21). He could write, "I rejoice!"

Discounting his personal discomforts, he saw the good side of the bad -- saw victory in defeat. I know his selflessness, his trust in the Lord, is the key. "For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain." Paul had to learn this attitude; but I am impressed that he learned it so well it seems to have become a part of him. He "learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content" (4:11); and this kind of thinking spawned hope instead of despair.

Throw mud at Paul and he made bricks of it, and built a house.

Send him a lemon, and he would enjoy the lemonade and thank you for them. It is hard to defeat a person with such an attitude as that.

We do not refer to an artificial Pollyannish attitude, out of touch with reality. Paul

sought relief from his "thorn in the flesh" (2 Corinthians 12:8), but, when this was denied him, he could "glory in my infirmities," making the most of them in defending his apostleship (vs. 7-11). He did not enjoy being forsaken by his brethren any more than do we, but he could "pray God that it may not be laid to their charge" (2 Timothy 4:16-17). He was confident that the Lord would save him. Nor is this simply the SELF-reliance, "indomitable ego" that is so highly recommended by psychotherapists. Human philosophies "plug in" to no higher source than man himself, and, when society fails (as it does repeatedly), the individual despairs -- sometimes ends it all in suicide. But the "look up" attitude of a true believer in God removes fear of the future, his soul is anchored (Hebrews 6:18-20), and he "shall not be moved." As one rancher friend of mine put it: "Things are going to pick up!"

— Robert Turner

Navarre News and Notes

Remember In Prayer Those On Our Sick List: Tracy Cauley, Shelby Durfee, Carrie Hare, Felis Larson, Francis Mansfield, Jim Wetzstein, Starr Wilkins, Gerry Wiemert, and Connie St. Pierre's granddaughter.

We meet on James M Harvell Rd next to the public library in Navarre. Call us for directions and more information (850) 939-8109



Navarre church of Christ
8490 James M Harvell Rd
Navarre, FL 32566

Place Stamp Here

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Sunday
Bible Class for all ages.....9:00 AM
Morning Worship Service.....10:00 AM
Evening Worship Service 6:00 PM

Wednesday
Bible Class for all ages.....7:00 PM

VISITORS ARE WELCOME!

If you know of someone who would like to receive this publication, please let us know.

For a free Bible correspondence course by mail, call us.

Check us out on the internet: www.navarrechurchofchrist.net

TWO MEN REACT TO TEACHINGS ON MORALS

Two men listen to lessons on practical Christian living, but their attitudes differ greatly.

The first man views all such teaching as arbitrary "church" rules. Warnings concerning dancing, mixed swimming, general immodesty, divorce for every cause, drinking, etc. are all looked upon as "Church of Christ" standards, traditions being sustained by the old timers of the church who are out of touch with more up to date thinking on morals.

The second man is brought to understand that all such teaching is an outgrowth of genuine respect for the Bible; that warnings concerning the evils mentioned above are based on such scriptures as **Matthew 5:27, 28; Gal. 5:19-21; I Tim. 2:9; Matt. 19:9; and Rom. 13:12-14;** that they, therefore, are not arbitrary church rules, but are indeed a true picture of God's will for His people.

The first man hates this teaching. Of course he does! Doesn't he have just as much moral perception as another? Why should he allow some other man to decide what's right or what's wrong for him? He'll do what he pleases. Nobody will bind his thinking on him.

The second man, recognizing that the standards under consideration are God's and not man's, gladly complies. Jesus Christ is his Lord and King. He will live whatever life his Lord wants him to live. He will make every sacrifice his Lord wants him to make. His conformity grows out of a desire to please God, not man.

The first man may take the form of a teenager rebelling against parental authority; or the form of a man "raised in the church," whose church loyalty is beginning to wane; or the form of a new convert who is having difficulty defining modesty, decency, and lasciviousness in practical terms. The fault may lie within the person himself. He may be wanting to break away from all restrictions, thus refusing to view objectively Bible principles behind the teaching he is rejecting. Or the fault in some cases may lie in those who teach. They may be guilty of "establishing" their points along these lines through pulpit beating and foot stomping, rather than through sound reasoning from the scriptures; of unconsciously seeking for "church" loyalty or "preacher" loyalty rather than loyalty to the Lord. Either way, we are concerned for our first man's soul, for he is wrong in his thinking.

Let no one misunderstand. We strongly oppose every evil mentioned above. But the truth is no man is obligated to bow to anything we teach because we teach it; but, on the other hand, he is obligated to live by every principle that is truly established upon the word of God. It is the duty of every teacher, then, to warn of these evils, not on the basis of his own authority, but on the basis of God's authority. It is the duty of every hearer to consider them in the light of scripture. Greater God-consciousness on the part of both teacher and hearer is the need.

— Bill Hall



CLOSET CONVICTIONS

"Nevertheless even of the rulers many believed on him: but because of the Pharisees they did not confess it, lest they should be put out of the synagogue; for they loved the glory that is of men more than the glory that is of God." (John 12:42, 43).

From its beginning, the cause of Christ has suffered because of disciples with closet convictions; the kind of men who know and believe the truth but will not stand up for it. Consider, for example, these influential rulers of our text. Potentially, their worth to the cause of their unconfessed Christ was immeasurable; effectively, however, they contributed absolutely nothing. Worse, their influence remained where they did, as must always be the case. What a testimonial to the tremendous swaying power of cowardice and pride! — It keeps them among those whom they oppose and puts them in opposition to their own faith and convictions. "But, after all", they may have reasoned, "we do have our standing in the community to think about". "And, besides, how could we ever explain to our friends of the synagogue circle about what we really believe? Why, what would they think?" — and so goes people-pleasing religion.

And so stay the people-pleasers in religion — in their "synagogues" of compromise and out of God's kingdom. But most of them do not see their "going along" as being all that serious, let alone as jeopardizing salvation. For example, it is not unusual to meet denominationalists who freely admit certain unscriptural practices espoused by their church, but will not speak out against them. They know and believe certain Bible truths, but will not practice them, for fear?

Now, what is the essential difference between these and the elders of our text? Is it less honorable to deny Christ than His word? The false idea that men can honor Christ while ignoring, perverting and desecrating His doctrine is of the devil! "He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my sayings, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I spake, the same shall judge him in the last day." (Jn. 12:48) Man's part in gaining a right standing with God lies in his knowing, believing, and obeying of gospel truth (Jn. 6:45, 8:32; Mk. 16:16; Rom. 6:17; Jas. 1:21,22). Every right relationship with God is a truth-determined relationship! All that God requires of man and all that man can ever do to please and glorify God is made known in His word (2 Tim. 3:16,17; 2 Jn. 9). He who shuns it, compromises it, or adds to it reflects on the God who gave it (1 Thss. 4:13), whether Jew, denominationalist or Christian.

In recent years, many members of the church of Christ have "awakened" to find themselves in "synagogues" of liberalism. They share the dilemma of the rulers to some extent. "Shall we speak out and risk being put out — or shall we go along to get along?" May God help them to see the seriousness and importance of standing up for the Lord by standing for His truth. To continue "going along" is to continue violating conscience and fellowshiping error. Friend, your influence is where you are. Demonstrate your allegiance to Christ and His truth while you can!...STAND!.....

— Dan S. Shipley

