

Soldier of the cross! the hour is coming when the note of victory shall be proclaimed throughout the world. The battlements of the enemy must soon succumb; the swords of the mighty must soon be given up to the Lord of lords. What! soldier of the cross! in the day of victory wouldst thou have it said that thou didst turn thy back in the day of battle? Dost thou not wish to have a share in the conflict, that thou mayest have a share in the victory? If thou hast even the hottest part of the battle, wilt thou falter? Thou shalt have the brightest part of the victory, if thou art in the fiercest of the conflict. Charles Spurgeon

THE BAPTIST CATECHISM
AS PRINTED BY THE CHARLESTON ASSOCIATION IN 1813

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54. Q. Which is the second commandment?

A. The second commandment is, Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth; thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; and shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments (Ex. 20:4, 5, 6).

55. Q. What is required in the second commandment?

A. The second commandment requireth the receiving, observing, and keeping pure and entire all such religious worship and ordinances, as God hath appointed in his word (Deut. 32:46; Mt. 23:20; Acts 2:42).

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Sunday Morning 11:00 AM

Sunday Evening 6:00 PM

Prayer and Bible Study Wednesday Evening 6:30 PM

WCWV 92.9 FM – 8:00 AM Sunday Morning

THE RIVERSIDE BAPTIST REPORT

THE RIVERSIDE BAPTIST CHURCH

“The Pillar and ground of the Truth” -- 1 Timothy 3:15

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A WORD FITLY SPOKEN

A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver. As an earring of gold, and an ornament of fine gold, so is a wise reprove upon an obedient ear. Proverbs 25:11-12

This passage captured my attention early in my ministry in that it addressed proper handling of the Word of God. Like many others with a misdirected sense of zeal I was often given to being matter-of-fact about the Word and so challenged others with it rather than delivering it to them as I had received it—In mercy and grace. I soon learned that the truth was quite capable of defending itself without my help. It was in looking to the teachings of our Lord that I began to discover, not only the substance of truth, but the manner in which it was to be delivered. I am still learning both lessons.

Graciousness in communication serves us well in every aspect of our lives. It serves in family life, marital life, interaction with neighbors, and especially in the fellowship of the Saints. It is to be remembered that theology is practical. We are not given the wonderful truths of God without purpose. There is a tendency to simply be satisfied in knowing a truth and fail to apply it in our communications toward God and others. An attitude of “it is what it is” devoid of the wonder of the giver of such knowledge can only be classified as “dead orthodoxy.” Earlier in this chapter the wise man had discussed relationships to those in authority. He brings us now to the exercise of true spirituality with our neighbors. The application of wisdom is of grace and in the end will be found best exemplified in Christ and His dealing with us.

The thought here is quite poetic and depicts

a beautiful situation. Apples of gold and pictures of silver are enough to bring a becoming scene to mind. The extensive use of these two precious metals in the Tabernacle and the Temple is enough to warrant attention. It would seem, and I draw thoughts from many others over the years, that the gold speaks of divinity and silver suggests redemption. We remember the instruction concerning the redemption money for the Tabernacle service (See Numbers 3:49). The thought of pictures may be a reference to baskets and seem to indicate filigreed workmanship. A silver basket filled with golden apples would certainly seem a fitting picture.

The idea here is of a person in a proper frame of mind, standing in awe of God, and approaching one out of love and concern with Christ-like care and so ministering the Word of God. *Thou hast also given me the shield of thy salvation: and thy right hand hath holden me up, and thy gentleness hath made me great. Psalms 18:35.* This would stand in stark contrast to one approaching with a smug attitude and declaring “the Bible says thus and so,” in the absence of true love and concern.

The assumption is that two conditions are in place. First, there must be the sense of a true need. In this, truth will be presented as the “Balm of Gilead.” This need might take on many forms. It may be one fallen from grace. It may be one suffering from the evils of this world such as sickness and any number of other

tragedies. It is especially true where the concern is for the eternal welfare of a soul. Certainly, the remedy is to be found in the Word. But, throwing a bucket of water into a thirsty one's face will not quench his thirst!

The second condition is that proper provision is made. This will occur when one approaches with a proper attitude and one conversant with the Word will be taught by the Spirit as to what he shall say. Again, Christ is the example. We are reminded of the words of Christ from the Old Testament: *The Lord GOD hath given me the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak a word in season to him that is weary: he wakeneth morning by morning, he wakeneth mine ear to hear as the learned. Isaiah 50:4.* Thus, we are to look for opportunity to speak. But we are to do so as our brother's keeper and not as his prosecutor. That is the work of the Holy Spirit.

We would look again at the picture presented to us here. Our conclusion as to "apples of gold in pictures of silver" might be "it just looks good." This is no clashing of wills or personalities. This is no ill-advised venture of men wherein is no good outcome. Perhaps, the key word here might be "fitly." There is an understanding of meshing in a special way. We are reminded of the work of Christ in the body

as Paul describes: *From whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love. Ephesians 4:16.* In verse twelve we are given a representation of the true effect. A wise "reprover" adorns the obedient ear with the indication that it is all approved of the Lord.

While we look to the example of Christ and bow to His wisdom manifested through Solomon, we would not lose sight of two things. First, that there is no compromise regarding the truth. This is not the product of psycho-babble so often heard in modern religion. Secondly, it is with due reference to our Lord, submission to His truth, and His presence with us that makes it proper.

Thus, we would bring the whole of Gospel truth, which exalts Christ our Lord and His grace and mercy, as those who are precious aware of its application in us. We would, not merely be right; we would be righteous as it is in Christ. We go forth bearing precious seed in every situation. After all, it was not the judgment of God that brought us to repentance; it was the goodness of God. O that we would ever be true to our Blessed Lord and display His graciousness in all our communication. *bhs*

Questions to consider for overall social-media presence:

1. Does my social media presence seem to concern itself more with God's glory or my own?
2. Would the majority of things I post still be true if Jesus never went to the cross?
3. Overall, will my followers be more encouraged to revel in the gospel and treasure Jesus because of my social media usage? If not, what would their primary take away be?
4. Does my self-validation come from any aspect of social media usage?
5. What does my social media usage communicate about the Kingdom of God to any non-believers that follows me?
6. Do the words I use in this virtual society validate or discredit the gospel I proclaim in the actual society?
7. Does social media enhance or take away from my joy in Jesus?

by Ronni Kurtz

When Troubles Assail Us – Dr. Ron Rumburg

“And as Jesus passed by, he saw a man which was blind from his birth. And his disciples asked him, saying, Master, who did sin, this man, or his parents, that he was born blind? Jesus answered, Neither hath this man sinned, nor his parents: but that the works of God should be made manifest in him.” John 9:1-3

Do we always presume the worst as Jesus’ disciples did? We ought to be careful lest we impugn our Lord’s holy will and way. It is easy to misread the providential actions in our lives. God in His providence is working everything for His glory and our good. Jesus said to His mistaken disciples that this man’s blindness was merely for the ultimate manifestation of the works of God. What were those works of God? Jesus turned around and healed the man’s blindness!

Is God’s will for us always a trouble free life? When troubles assail us does that always mean we have sinned? If not, does it mean that our enemy has been given a more powerful hand? How many of the Lord’s people have the wrong impression? What do I mean? Many Christians think the Lord’s will for us is habitual enjoyment and a trouble free life. This idea is usually short lived when sorrows, suffering and troubles assail. Jesus told us that in Him we would have peace but in the world we would have tribulation, but remain cheerful Jesus has conquered the world (John 16:33). The hymn writer wrote of the Lord’s way of purifying our lives,

When thro’ fiery trials thy pathway shall lie,
My grace all-sufficient shall be thy supply;
The flame shall not hurt thee; I only design
Thy dross to consume, and thy gold to refine.

When troubles assail you or difficulties befall you, as you seek to do your heavenly Father’s will, does that mean you are doing wrong or walking in a way not pleasing to God? When the Lord’s disciples were overtaken by a storm on the sea, did that mean they were on the wrong boat or on a wrong spiritual path away from the will of God? When Joseph’s brothers sold him as a slave did that mean that his revelation of his dreams from God to his brothers was sinful pride? No, you say! There is more to this story than that event. Yes, we can say that for we have read the entire account. Yes, it was much later that this providence was unfolded when Joseph, by God’s enablement, saved Egypt to save his family. Joseph said, “Fear not: for am I in the place of God? But as for you, ye thought evil against me: but God meant it unto good, to bring to pass, as it is this day, to save much people alive. Now therefore fear ye not: I will nourish you, and your little ones. And he comforted them, and spake kindly unto them” (Gen. 50:19-21).

The Lord’s people, whether we be preachers or not, have troubles that assail us. We need to be sure we know why they are coming if God allows us such understanding so as to benefit the most. True, we may never know the why! But these difficulties may be God’s way of leading us to the Promised Land. Remember, we will not receive the light of tomorrow until tomorrow.

“Difficulties are no ground of presumption against us, when we did not run into them in following our own will: yet the Israelites were with difficulty convinced that they were in the path of duty, when they found themselves shut in by the Red Sea. Christians, and especially ministers, must expect troubles: it is in this way that God leads them: He conducts them ... through adversity to the promised land. They would be in imminent danger if the multitude at all times cried Hosanna!” --Richard Cecil

“Those who seek to keep down sin without the aid of the Spirit LABOR IN VAIN. They will combat without victory.” - John Owen