

BITS & PIECES

CORNERSTONE BAPTIST CHURCH

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HOW NOT TO TREAT THE BIBLE

A new employee in a valve company was given a sensitive micrometer to measure parts to see if they conformed to the pattern. When the foreman came back, he found the man filing away on the micrometer. He said, "What are you doing with that expensive instrument?" The man replied, "Well, it just doesn't fit any of these parts so, I thought I'd make it fit." There is a far greater insanity abroad; the paring down of the Bible, God's perfect Word, to make it fit the faulty thinking of sinful human beings. I refer to all the modern versions and absurd paraphrases of the Bible. While man seeks to make a bible to suit himself, he has really changed nothing. Isaiah 40:8 says, "**The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: but the word of our God shall stand forever,**"

SELF WILLED CHURCH MEMBERS

Vance Havner said, "A.J. Gordon once classified some obstreperous church members as 'figureheads, soreheads, and deadheads.' He might have added 'hotheads,' of which there is always an abundance." All of these are evidences of SELF! We would all do well to remember that some day we are going to give an account of ourselves to the Head of the Church. There is no place in the Church of God for self will. It ought to always be "**Not my will but Thine be done.**" There's only one way to have that: "**I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.**" ~Galatians 2:20.

BEWARE SELF WILL

A young man home on leave from boot camp was detailing all the problems he had early in his training. Then, he grinned and said, "You know, after I decided to let the Navy have its own way about everything, I didn't have a bit of trouble." Some Christians have a lot of trouble with the way the Church is run, but the problem is they are not truly surrendered to the Lord. The Bible says we are to "**endure hardness as good soldiers of Jesus Christ.**" The greatest quality in a soldier is obedience! You can't run a successful army with every man doing his own thing. You can't run a Scriptural Church that way either. Jesus said, "**If you love me, keep my commandments.**"

SPINE AND SPIRIT

"**Daniel was preferred...because an excellent spirit was in him.**" ~Daniel 6:3. Spurgeon, when speaking on this passage told the true story of a class of children who were having a lesson on Daniel. One of the boys was asked to read this portion aloud. When he came to these words, he read: "Because there was an excellent *spine* in him." Spurgeon said, "It was a bad reading, but excellent theology because Daniel was a man of real backbone!"