



FEEDING SHEEP OR AMUSING GOATS?

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The following was written by Rev. Archibald Brown, an associate of C.H. Spurgeon: "An evil is in the professed camp of the Lord, so gross, so impudent, that the most short-sighted can hardly fail to notice it. It has worked like leaven so that now the whole lump ferments. During the past few years it has developed at an abnormal rate, ever evil. The devil has seldom done a cleverer thing than hinting to the church that part of their mission was to provide entertainment for the people with a view to winning them. From speaking out, the church has gradually toned down her testimony, then winked at and excused the frivolities of the day; then she has tolerated them in her borders. Now she has adopted them under the plea of 'reaching for the masses.'

My first contention is that providing amusement for the people *is nowhere spoken of in Scripture* as a function of the church. If it is Christian work, why did Christ not speak of it? 'Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel,' that is clear enough. So would it have been if He said, 'And provide amusement for those who do not relish the Gospel.' No such words are found! Then, 'He gave some apostles, some prophets, some pastors and teachers -for the work of the ministry.' Where do entertainers come in? The Holy Ghost is silent concerning them. Were the disciples persecuted because they amused the people, or because they refused? The Gospel of Amusement has no martyr roll! Providing amusement is in *direct antagonism to the teaching and of Christ* and His apostles. What did He say? 'Ye are the salt,' - not sugar-candy. He said, 'Let the dead bury the dead,' He was in awful earnestness. Had He introduced 'bright and pleasant' elements He would have more popular. When many went back because of the searching nature of His preaching, I do not hear Him saying, 'Run after those friends, Peter, and tell them we will have a different style of preaching tomorrow. Something short and attractive with little preaching. We will have a pleasant evening for the people. Tell them they will be sure to enjoy it. Be quick, Peter, we must get the people somehow.' Jesus pitied sinners, sighed over them, but He never sought to amuse them. In vain will the epistles be searched to find any trace of Gospel amusement. Their message is: Come out - keep out - keep clean out! How did the apostles carry on their work? Anything approaching fooling is conspicuous by its absence. They had boundless confidence in the Gospel and employed no other weapon. After Peter and John were locked up for preaching, they had a prayer meeting, but they did not pray, 'Lord grant unto Thy servants that by a wise and discriminating use of recreation they may show the people how happy we are.' If they 'ceased not' from preaching Christ, they had no time for arranging entertainments. Scattered by persecution, they went everywhere 'preaching the word.' They 'turned the world upside down upside down... Lord clear the church of this rot and rubbish! The Mission of Amusement fails to effect the end desired. It works havoc among young converts. Let the heavy laden who found peace through the concert not keep silent. Let the drunkards to whom entertainment had been God's link in the chain of their conversion stand forth. There are none to answer. There are none! The Missions of Amusement has no converts. (See p.2.)

How about the other side? Though I have never seen a sinner saved by this method, I have seen any number of backsliders manufactured by this new method. Over and over young people have come to me in tears who have followed this method and fallen into evil. A young man told me, 'I never thought of going to the theater until my minister said there was no harm in it.' When young converts begin to damp off and forsake prayer meetings, etc., I almost always find that worldly Christianity was responsible. Under the pretense of 'reaching the world' it is carrying its sons and daughters back into the world. I swill be no wonder if the Holy Ghost withdraws His presence. 'Come out' is the call for today! Cast down the world's altars. Cut down her groves. Renounce the policy of the age. Grasp the Book of God. Trust the Spirit who wrote it. Fight with this weapon only! Cease to amuse and seek to arouse. Give up trying to please folk who have only the thickness of their ribs between their souls and hell. Let the Church again confront the world; testify against it; meet it only behind the cross and like her Lord, she shall overcome and share the victory."

If some of the dear saints of old should come back and see what is going on today in the name of fundamental Christianity, they would surely ask to be put back in their graves. It is no wonder there is so little spiritual power in our churches today, what with contemporary music, carnal dress, worldly programs and gimmicks of all kinds, sermons that are little more than a string of amusing stories and jokes. There is a lot of "flesh" power! But where are those who depend only upon the Spirit of God and the preaching of the Word of God to accomplish the work of God?

MORE BIBLE VERSION HERESY.

You have no doubt heard of *Today's New International Bible (TNIV)* which is a gender free translation (a misnomer, it is a fabrication). In order to please the feminists and be politically correct, they took just about all the male references out. As in ALL modern versions, this one contains errors, only more! Just a few examples will suffice to show the discerning person.

KJV: "My brethren, be not many masters..." James 3:1
TNIV: "Not many of you should presume to be teachers my brothers and sisters..."

According to the TNIV, James (*by the Holy Spirit*) taught that women might be Pastors (Teachers, Leaders) which is clearly forbidden by God though many blatantly disobey Him here.

KJV: "Pilate sought to release Him but the Jews cried out..." John 19:12

TNIV: "Pilate...but the Jewish leaders cried out..."

This removes the responsibility from the people who also cried out that Jesus be crucified. This sort of thing teaches error and is totally irresponsible.

KJV: "Ye men of Athens..." Acts 17:22.

TNIV: "...People of Athens..."

This could include women who had nothing to do with leading the city philosophically or governmentally.

KJV: "...many...which heard the word believed; and the number of the men was about five thousand." Acts 4:4.
TNIV: "...and the number of believers grew to about five thousand."

This makes the number of believers far less than the actual count. In those days, women were not counted - that is not prejudice, it is simply a fact. See Matt.14:21.

The plain truth is those who produce and promote modern versions have no regard for truth or they would not lightly alter the Word of God. God help them - see Deut.4:2, Prov.30:6, Rev. 22:18,19. There is only one Bible in the English language - the KJV!

For I testify to every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add to these things, God shall add to him the plagues that are written in this book:

And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.

Revelation 22:19

YOUTH CORNER

NEW SCHOOL PRAYER. Since the Pledge of Allegiance and the Lord's Prayer are not allowed in most public schools because the word "God" is mentioned, a kid in Arizona wrote this NEW school prayer:

Now I sit me down in school
Where praying is against the rule;
For this great nation under God
Finds mention of Him very odd.

If Scripture now the class recites,
It violates the Bill of Rights.
And anytime my head I bow
Becomes a Federal matter now.

Our hair can be purple, orange or green,
That's no offense; it's a freedom scene.
The law is specific, the law is precise;
Prayers spoken out loud are a serious vice.

For praying in a public hall,
Might offend someone with no faith at all.
In silence alone we must meditate,
God's name is prohibited by the state.

We're allowed to cuss and dress like freaks,
And pierce our noses, tongues, and cheeks.
They've outlawed guns, but first the Bible;
To quote God's Book makes me liable.

We can elect a pregnant Senior Queen,
And the unwed 'daddy,' our Senior King.
It's 'inappropriate' to teach right from wrong,
We're taught such 'judgments' do not belong.

We can get our condoms and birth controls,
Study witchcraft, vampires and totem poles;
But the Ten Commandments are not allowed,
No word of God must reach this crowd.

It's scary here I must confess,
When chaos reigns, the school's a mess.
So, Lord, this silent plea I make:
Should I be shot; My soul please take."

The wicked, through the pride of his
countenance, will not seek *after God*:
God *is* not in all his thoughts.

Psalm 10:4

SOMETHINGS TO THINK ABOUT!

- Some people blame the rule,
but the real problem is they don't measure up!
- You may choose good or evil;
just remember that you are going to have to live with
the consequences.
- The Bible says Christians are "*living stones*."
Some Church members look more like *tombstones*.

THE LOVE OF PLEASURE

This was written some years ago by Dr. T.T. Shields, longtime Pastor of Jarvis Street Baptist Church, Toronto: "It is a fact that vast numbers of professed Christians are now being carried away by an ever-growing love of pleasure which, like a mighty tide, is sweeping over the world. The great question that faces us is this: What is the truly Christian attitude toward these things?... The passion for pleasure, for society, for worldly amusements, has made barren churches as it has childless homes! 'It is only and innocent pleasure,' you say... It is the simple standard of the New Testament. If there be any pleasure upon which my heart is so set that it is of more interest to me than the interests of a soul for whom Christ died, I am unworthy of my office and I ought immediately to resign that pleasure or resign my office. If there be a deacon in this church who thinks more of an evening at the theater, of the diversion of a game of cards, or the pleasures of a dance, than the interest of a soul for whom Christ died, he is unworthy of his office, and he ought to immediately resign either the pleasure of the office. The same is true of Sunday School teachers or officers, and also every member of the church. There is but one course compatible with love and loyalty to Christ, and that is to resolve by His grace, and by the might of His Spirit in the inner man, we will put Him always and everywhere first; that we will live to realize the purpose of the cross in our own lives; that we will lose our lives for Christ's sake that we may find them." - *Baptist Vision*

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YOU ARE EXCUSED!

Jesus said that the kingdom of God is like "**A certain man made a great supper and bade many...**" Luke 14:16. (in Matthew 22 it is a king and the supper is the wedding of His Son) Clearly, the man represents God and the Son is Jesus Christ! The response: "**They all with one consent began to make excuse.**" They all had something more important to them than attending this very important occasion. That is how multitudes (perhaps you are one) respond today to the invitation of God to come to His everlasting feast. W.G. Biederwolf, and evangelist of the early 20th century said, "God invites you to the greatest happiness that can come to a man in the world, yet you say, 'Excuse me.' He invites you to a life of the noblest service any man can live, yet you say, 'Excuse me.' He invites you to a happy reunion with loved ones who have gone on before, whose faces faded away in the gloom of the grave, yet you say, 'Excuse me.' And yet He has borne with you in patience and love. Sometime He will take you at your word and say, 'You are excused,' and shut you out forever from His mercy and pardon." My friend, Jesus Christ died the agony of the cross of Calvary to save you from hell - a real place with literal fire - to an "**inheritance incorruptible and undefiled that faded not away.**" He invites you to the great "**marriage supper of the Lamb.**" But you say, "Excuse me, I have something else to do; maybe later, but not now." "**It is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.**" Repent of your sin and unbelief - trust Christ NOW!