



WHAT'S IT GOOD FOR?

May 2017

A few years ago now, I remember giving an illustrated message for young people. I held up a broken watch which did not tell time and asked, "What is it good for." The reply, "Nothing." I showed them a flashlight with dead batteries - no light. I again asked, "What's it good for?" "Nothing." Then, I held up a knife that was so dull it would not cut hot butter. "What's it good for?" Again, "Nothing." In Matthew 5:13 Jesus said, **"Ye are the salt of the earth: but if the salt has lost its savour, wherewith shall it be salted? it is henceforth good for nothing..."** The main purpose of salt in Bible times was to preserve, to keep things from going bad. But if the saltiness was gone out of it, it was good for nothing. Jesus said such salt was cast out and trodden under the foot of men. That's what they did with unsalty salt; they threw it on the dirt roads to cut down the dust and harden them. Jesus was speaking to His disciples. Vance Havner said, "One could take this text and speak on "Good-for-nothing Christians." Real Bible Christianity rubs people the wrong way. To use another metaphor, Billy Sunday was preaching on the fashionable "Mainline" (wealthy district outside Philadelphia). He sure applied the salt of the Gospel. One of the sponsoring committee came to him and said, "Billy, some folks are upset; they think you are rubbing the fur the wrong way." Billy replied, "Then, let the cats turn around." Today we have the sad spectacle of God's people turning around. Many once Fundamental churches have adopted the seeker-friendly way of doing church. They have worldly music, worldly dress, short joke-filled sermons, carnival atmosphere, etc. But it is nothing more than giving in to the old cry of worldly people in Isaiah's day. They said to the seers, **"See not; and to the prophets, Prophecy not unto us right things, speak unto us smooth things, prophecy deceits."** ~Isaiah 30:10.

We have in many places these days a type of Christianity that is not salty by any stretch of the imagination. Many professing Bible believing Christians and Bible believing churches (so called) have little or no power to retard the putrefaction that is all around us. We are not called to adapt to the people and the times, as many churches are doing. *But we are sent forth to call upon the ungodly to adapt to the demands of a holy God and believe His Gospel.* I tell you that God is not happy with those who speak in His name but give out their own "sugar-coated" gospel. He warned the prophets who did so that He would judge them. Jesus was not popular, God's message was never popular, and God's people were never popular. A popular gospel is a false gospel! You can't help anybody with a watered-down gospel! Vance Havner once said something like this: *"The worship of God is awesome! What you see in the average Fundamental church today is not awesome - it's just awful."* If you are a true born again child of God, it is high time to take a separated stand upon the Word of God, and give out the Word of God in all its purity and power. And I would add, get out of a worldly, unsalty church. You are wasting your life! We are not sent to rock the cradle of hell-bound sinners, but give them the saving message of God. He has told us to **"Preach the word; be instant in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine."** Does that sound like a soft, fun loving message? It goes on: **"For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine..."** ~II Tim.3:2,3. God says, **"Having done all, to stand."** That's what we are trying to do. What about you?

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THE BIBLE SPEAKS! Indeed the Bible does speak to those who will hear it. William Hone (1780-1842) the noted parodist of sacred words, was riding in the country on a hot summer's day and stopped at the gates of a cottage garden to ask for some water to drink. A little girl was intently reading a Book. Wondering what he could do to gain her attention, he asked what book she was reading. "It is the Bible, sir," was the reply. "The Bible?" "Yes, because I love it, sir." "I supposed you were learning your lesson for school." "No, sir." He asked, "Why do you leave your play on such a beautiful day as this to read the Bible?" "Because I love it, sir," was the simple answer. Hone rode on, but the child's words seemed to have let a flood of light into his soul. "She reads the Bible because she loves it. There must be something in it that I have never seen. I will go home and read it carefully once through, that I may learn what that child can find in it to love it." That reading was blessed of God to the conversion of William Hone. He became a humble and devoted follower of the Lord Jesus Christ. **"Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible; by the Word of God that liveth and abideth forever."** ~I Peter 1:23.

SOME THINGS TO THINK ABOUT!

The hymnwriter wrote: "It is well with my soul." Can you say that is true of you?

Some people are like concrete: thoroughly mixed up and permanently set.

Don't blame God for a poor harvest, if all you ever sow is weeds.

If you want to be like Christ, you must be occupied with Him.

Every saved person this side of Heaven should be interested in every lost soul this side of Hell!

When God measures a man, He puts the tape around his heart, not his head.

It's better to be alone than to be in bad company. -MRD
WHERE THE PROBLEM LIES. While getting gas the driver asked to have his windshield cleaned. After it was washed, the man said, "It's still dirty. Wash it again." It was washed again but was still dirty. As he was about to complain, the man's wife said, "The problem is the dirt is on the inside." Few Christians will admit it, but, the problem is most often on the inside. **"I know that in me...dwelleth no good thing..."** ~Romans 7:18.

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NEWS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT

JIMMY CARTER SAYS UNBELIEVERS AND SKEPTICS MIGHT BE IN HEAVEN

(Friday Church News Notes, April 28, 2017, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, a Baptist Sunday School teacher, said recently that he doesn't know whether or not Hindu leader Mahatma Gandhi is in hell because of his rejection of Jesus as only Lord and Saviour. When asked by journalist Nicholas Kristof whether he believed that men like Gandhi go to hell because they don't have a personal relationship with Jesus, Carter replied, "I do not feel qualified to make a judgment. I am inclined to give him (or others) the benefit of any doubt" ("President Carter, Am I a Christian?" *The New York Times*, April 15, 2017). Kristof further asked Carter if skeptics who doubt Christ's virgin birth and resurrection are Christians, to which Carter replied, "I do not judge whether someone else is a Christian. Jesus said, 'Judge not.'" Jimmy Carter is a long-time Sunday School teacher at Maranatha Baptist Church in Plains, Georgia, but he is not a Bible believer. The judgment as to who is saved or lost, who goes to heaven or hell, is not Jimmy Carter's or any other man's to make. God has already made that judgment and stated it in the Holy Scriptures in words too plain to be misunderstood. "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him." (John 3:36). "And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life." (1 John 5:11-12). In the interview, Carter grossly misused Matthew 7:1 ("Judge not that ye be not judged"). In the context, Christ warned of hypocritical judgment in particular, not of judgment in general. In the same passage, Christ taught His people to beware of false prophets, which requires a keen exercise of judgment in the sense of proving all things by God's Word. Carter also said in the interview that he doesn't believe in a six-day creation.

MOST EVANGELICALS BELIEVE GOOD PEOPLE GO TO HEAVEN.

The majority of Protestants and Evangelicals believe that good people and people of other religions go to Heaven according to author David Campbell. Campbell...contends that the survey of 3,000 Americans shows that... good people despite their religious affiliation can go to Heaven. Among the faiths, 83 percent of evangelical Protestants agreed that good people of other faiths can go to Heaven. When prodded further, more than half – 54% of evangelical Protestants said, yes, people of other

religions can go to Heaven... -ChristianPost.com.

Ed. This is just another confirmation of how far the Evangelicals have departed from the true Faith of the Gospel. Of course, this goes along with all the "self esteem" gospels, etc. that are being promoted these days. Then, too it ought not be too surprising since Billy Graham and the former Pope (the present one no doubt also) have basically said the same thing. Once you start to compromise the road is all downhill! Of course, there is always the option of repentance, but few compromisers find that to be an option. God says, "**Therefore, my beloved brethren; Be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord forasmuch as your labour is not in vain in the Lord.**" ~1 Corinthians 15:58.

TEACHER GETS JOB BACK AFTER BEING FIRED FOR GIVING AWAY A BIBLE

(Friday Church News Notes, May 19, 2017, www.wayoflife.org, fbns@wayoflife.org, 866-295-4143) - The following is excerpted from Todd Starnes, "Teacher fired for giving student a Bible gets job back," *Fox News Opinion*, May 12, 2017: "It was way back in 2014 when I first introduced you to Walt Tutka, of Phillipsburg, New Jersey and a member of Gideon's International. ... Mr. Tutka also happened to be a substitute teacher in Phillipsburg, New Jersey. But he was fired from that job after he gave a student a Bible. The student happened to be the last person entering through a door. Mr. Tutka told the youngster, 'The first shall be last, but the last shall be first.' The student later inquired on several occasions about the origins of the quote. Tutka showed the student the verse in his Bible, which led to the student asking for a personal copy of the Bible. And being a good Gideon, Mr. Tutka gladly supplied the child with a copy. It did not seem to matter to the school district that the student had asked for a copy of the Good Book. First Liberty Institute took on Mr. Tutka's case--and eventually scored a victory with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. They agreed that the school district had discriminated against Mr. Tutka on the 'basis of religion and retaliation.' And on the eve of First Liberty's deadline to file a federal lawsuit, the school district agreed to a settlement. That means Mr. Tutka can once again become a substitute teacher--effective today."

Ed. Down through the ages no Book has been attacked as has been the Bible! To me this just one more testimony that it is what it claims to be --- THE WORD OF GOD! Jesus said: "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but My Words shall not pass away."

THE HIGH COST OF NEGLECT

“Neglect not the gift that is in thee.” ~I Timothy 4:14. The dictionary says that “neglect” means “carelessness.” The word used in the Bible means “disinterested.” Neglect is a most common destroyer in every area of life. Last year, I did not sow or cultivate my garden - but what a tremendous crop resulted --- of weeds. All it took to grow them was neglect. I stopped last fall to poke around an old abandoned house; a favorite hobby. It was falling to pieces: windows broken, roof leaking, floors sagging, doors loosened from their hinges. There was a day someone built and cared for that house, but now one word told the story - neglect. For some reason the owner lost interest and neglected it. Neglect was written all over the place. This sort of thing is true of all of life. We have talents, opportunities, and gifts which must be constantly cultivated and used or they will be lost by neglect. Put your arm in a sling and do not use it for a number of months and see what happens. It will atrophy and become useless unless taken out and vigorously exercised. The Christian who does not use his God-given faculties and gifts, will lose them through neglect. You need to keep your spiritual house in order by not neglecting these gifts. How many once vibrant Christians we have seen lose their spirituality and usefulness by neglecting God’s means of bearing fruit. You need to read your Bible and pray seriously every day. How many once witnessed for Christ but no longer. “Neglect not the gift that is in thee.” If your spiritual life is in disrepair through neglect, what you need is revival. “Repent and do first works!” -Adapted

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EXCEEDING ABUNDANTLY

A man lived a long way from a department store, and so would send for his clothing by mail. At the bottom of the order form he would always see the words: “If we have not the item you ordered in stock, may we substitute?” He recalled that once when he wrote “Yes,” they sent him something which was double the price of what he ordered. There was a note: “We are sorry we have not the article you ordered in stock. We are sending you something better at our expense.” After that, he always printed out the word “Yes” in bold letters at the bottom of the order blank for he knew that he would not be disappointed. So too, when we pray to God, we had better put on our request that we are willing for Him to change over our poor prayers according to His Divine will, for we know that every time, He will send us something far better, yes, He will do **“exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think.”** ~Ephesians 3:20. –Copied. One is reminded of the time that Abraham prayed that God might not destroy Sodom and Gomorrah. He started out by asking God to spare it if there were fifty righteous there. He finally got down to ten. And when God said he would not do it if there were ten righteous there, Abraham stopped. As we know, there were not ten righteous men there – the truth is there was only one – Lot! There is no doubt that Abraham’s chief concern was his nephew, Lot. Was Abraham’s prayer for naught? No. Lot was delivered. We read in Genesis 19:29: “**And when it came to pass that God destroyed the cities of the plain, that God remembered Abraham, and sent Lot out of the midst of the overthrow...**” It was God’s will to destroy wicked Sodom, but He honored Abraham’s prayer by delivering Lot.