



Introduction: As I read Matthew 13:25 this week, I could not help being reminded of how blind we have become in America. There was a time that the American people were so alert that they could see danger coming from afar. Today, because of the apparent drowsiness upon us, we are surrounded by that which we called evil one generation ago, and yet now, without much concern at all.

While Men Slept

Pastor & Mrs. C 'Old-Fashioned Sunday"

Point to make: Years ago, right after World War II, Dr. John R. Rice mentioned often of the coming danger of the homosexual lifestyle

entering American society. A preacher asked him, "Dr. Rice, do you even know any homosexuals?" Dr. Rice said. "No." Then the man asked Dr. Rice. "Then why do you preach about homosexuality?" His reply, "Because it's coming." Boy was he ever right! Today we have the government not only approving a deviant lifestyle but promoting the lifestyle.

Notice Matthew 13:25, "But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way."

Why is it that so many are drawn to false religions and perverted lifestyles?

### FIRST: THE APPEAL OF THE DARK SIDE.

JOHN 3:19-21

### "... men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil ."

The world always portrays drinking, drugs, illicit sex, as desirable and to be preferred over that which is decent and honorable.

Illustration: Not long ago I was reading an article at the Akron City Hospital while waiting for my wife to be examined by the doctor. In the magazine was an article that made light of traditional marriage. Within a few pages a homosexual was being praised for being brave enough to come out of the closet and openly confessing his gay lifestyle. Think for a moment what is being pushed upon the American people.

### SECOND: THE ABSENCE OF SPIRITUAL MATURITY.

### II TIMOTHY 3:16-17

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"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be perfect (mature) ..."

Millions have come to a place in their life where they made a decision to place their faith in Jesus Christ. I have seen this time and time again in the last 40 years. But few ever grow. They remain spiritual babies in the things of God. Nothing delights God like the newborn baby in Christ. This is a time of joy and rejoicing in Heaven. But it is also a time of great danger. Many things can come into the infant's life to hinder and hurt. It follows, therefore, that one of the great needs in the church is Spiritual maturity, that the infant actually grows.

### **Put Down The Shovel**



In Luke 13, Jesus tells the story about the fig tree that doesn't bear fruit. In the parable the owner of the vineyard asks the dresser of the vineyard why the tree is not bearing fruit and wants to cut it down. The dresser asks the owner if he can dig about it and dung it for the rest of the year and work with it but if it bears no fruit then cut it down. In other words....put down the shovel.

Dennis Stotts

We, as Christians, should be compassionate and I believe that is the first thing a lost sinner needs to see in us. However we need to understand that there should be a limit to what we will tolerate. If your are over a ministry in a Church and have people under your authority then this parable best describes how long you should deal with certain people. For instance, the person who is the overseer of the Church is the Pastor and you could be the dresser...like a bus captain, Sunday school teacher, etc.

Are you a bus captain who has someone on your bus route who will not follow the rules? A Sunday school teacher who has someone in their class who constantly disrupts your class and tears down what you're teaching? We need to ask the question, "how long do we put up with that?" In this passage of scripture the tree was given 3 years to produce and you will find that the dresser had less than a year to work with it. Could that mean sit down with the person 3 times and give them one more chance BUT after that the shovel goes down?

Years ago I ran a bus route. If you came on my route you had to follow the rules and the rules covered dress standards. I had a girl (on a field trip we had) get off my bus to use the restroom and came out wearing skin tight shorts. I told her she wasn't getting back on the bus until she put the dress back on. I threw down the shovel. I had a teen in my group years ago that I threw down the shovel with and guess what? He started growing spiritually and eventually went on to become my son-in-law. There are times we need to throw down the shovel.

If you don't throw down the shovel now and then, you will end up with fruitless trees that will suck the life out of church. I am convinced of that. Why would the owner of the vineyard want the tree cut down? Working with that one tree was taking the attention away from all the other trees.

### HE'S SO CHEAP THAT HIS IDEA OF A 20-PERCENT TIP IS 20 PERCENT OF WHAT ANYONE ELSE WOULD LEAVE. I LIKE POLITICAL JOKES - UNTIL THEY GET ELECTED.

### **Alcohol Education**

The habit-forming quality in ethyl alcohol results from two effects:

First, any alcoholic drink gives the mouth and gullet a drying bath which creates a "thirsty" sensation, making it easy to take the second drink. This intensifies rather than relieves the condition.

Second, in a few minutes the narcotic dulls the feelings; the drinker is less conscious of the discomfort and thinks he "feels better" as the trials and worries of the present fade from memory.

As the narcotic is disposed of, previous unpleasant thoughts and feelings are revived, plus the "hangover" caused by the drug. The drinker thinks that the easiest way to get rid of the consequent mental and physical discomforts is to drink again and keep them away by drinking often.

The drinker may know that alcohol is habit-forming and that if he takes one drink he is likely to take more; but if it is available, he repeats Rip Van Winkle's excuse, "This time won't count"-because his judgment and self-control are first dulled and later put to sleep. He feels no warning and senses no need to stop. This narcotic release by means of pleasant forgetfulness is the "kick" produced by all alcoholic drinks, which is one of the causes of the drink problem.

The Japanese proverb gives the explanation: "First the man takes a drink, then the drink takes a drink, then the drink takes the man."

#### I HAVE A DIVERSIFIED PORTFOLIO. THAT'S WHEN YOUR MONEY GOES DOWN THE DRAIN IN SIX DIFFERENT SINKS.

### THE FLAG THAT INSPIRED THE ANTHEM

The original "Star-Spangled Banner" is the centerpiece of a permanent exhibit at the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History in Washington. As part of the national anthem's 200th anniversary and its own 50th anniversary, the museum has sponsored coast-to-coast sing-alongs, a Flag Day concert and a special display of Francis Scott Key's original manuscript, on loan from the Maryland Historical Society.

Visit the National Museum of American History's interactive site devoted to the flag, its legacy and preservation efforts.



amhistory.si.edu/starspangledbanner

#### THIRD: THE ATTITUDE OF THE INTELLECTUAL.

### II CORINTHIANS 11:3-4

"...so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ. For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached ..."

One of the main reasons that we are in the mess we are in is because so many think it is intellectually superior to tolerate that which is goofy.

*Illustration:* My wife will tell you that for over 35 years her husband has been sounding the alarm concerning the danger of the Muslim religion. Yet no matter what has occurred over and over again, even some of my best friends believe that my concerns were not realistic.

*Point:* Many years ago, my wife and I were passing out tracts on State and Madison Street in downtown Chicago. While there, Muslim clerics in their official garb came up to us and said, "When we take over this nation, we are going to kill people like you." My wife and I knew that they meant what they said.

Since that time you have experienced 9/11 and the World Trade Center murders. You have heard of the shoe bomber and the underwear bomber. Now you have ISIS or ISIL cutting off peoples heads and shooting innocent people in the back of their heads after they were forced to dig their own graves. Still, millions defend the Muslim religion as a peaceful religion.

George W. Bush: "The Muslim religion is a religion of peace."

Barack Obama: "The Muslim religion is known for its tolerance and peace."

Lie after lie! The Muslim religion has always practiced peace when in the minority. But it always turns to violence and murder once it has strength.

<u>Conclusion:</u> *"while men slept...*" What is the answer? The responsibility of each Christian is not to be an expert on cults, but to be grounded on the Word of God. Why? The Word of God is God's final authority and can be replaced by no other authority.

Ephesians 5:14, "Wherefore, he said, awake thou that sleepest ... "

#### **Prayer of Salvation**

If you were to die today, are you 100% sure you would go to Heaven?

If not, would you be willing to pray this prayer with me?

"Dear Jesus, I'm asking you to come into my heart and forgive me of my sins. I'm trusting you, Jesus, as my Saviour. Thank you for saving me. Amen." (Romans 10:9 and 10:13)

### **Prayer of Service**

"Lord, what wilt Thou have me to do?" (Acts 9:6)

A HUSBAND AND WIFE HAD BEEN MARRIED FOR 60 YEARS AND HAD NO SECRETS EXCEPT FOR ONE: THE WOMAN KEPT IN HER CLOSET A SHOE BOX THAT SHE FORBADE HER HUSBAND FROM EVER OPENING. BUT WHEN SHE WAS ON HER DEATHBED—AND WITH HER BLESSING— HE OPENED THE BOX AND FOUND A CROCHETED DOLL AND \$95,000 IN CASH.

*"MY MOTHER TOLD ME THAT THE SECRET TO A HAPPY MARRIAGE WAS TO NEVER ARGUE," SHE EXPLAINED. "INSTEAD, I SHOULD KEEP QUIET AND CROCHET A DOLL."* 

HER HUSBAND WAS TOUCHED. ONLY ONE DOLL WAS IN THE BOX—THAT MEANT SHE'D BEEN ANGRY WITH HIM ONLY ONCE IN 60 YEARS. "BUT WHAT ABOUT ALL THIS MONEY?" HE ASKED.

"OH," SHE SAID, "THAT'S THE MONEY I MADE FROM SELLING THE DOLLS."



### The Very Words Of God

I want you to notice with me that Ezra did not read to the people from six or seven different versions. He didn't get up and say, "Now folks, in order to get as much of the true meaning of this Scripture as possible, I will read to you from the NIV (New Israeli Version), the ASV (Artaxerxes Standard Version), the NASV (New Artaxerxes Standard Version), the NKJV (New King Jehoiakim Version), the NCV (Nebuchadnezzar Confusion Version), the JFCSJMCSJDV

*Dr. Al Lacy* (Jerry Falwell, Chuck Swindoll, John MacArthur, Charles Stanley, James Dobson Version), and the RSVNCC (Rotten Standard Version of the National Council of Churches)."

Nope. He just got up and read to them from the OOAV (One and Only Aramaic Version). Since God wrote only ONE Bible, there could only be ONE version of that Bible in ANY language! Let me point out that the Scripture says, "They spake unto Ezra the scribe to bring THE BOOK of the law of Moses ... and the ears of all the people were attentive unto THE BOOK of the law" (Neh. 8:1,3).

Did you get that? The BOOK. THE BOOK. THE BOOK!



### Are You Listening?



I have Mama's Bible— the same one she read —in my office. I've had it there for years. I don't know how old it is, but I suspect it is 55 or 60 years old. It is the same Bible she used to hold up. I was thumbing through it the other day. On the inside, it says on the title page, "King James Bible." That's what it says. You know it worked. It's amazing how well Mama did before she found out that it wasn't the Word of God.

Dr. Jack Hyles

I've been going to Baptist churches for 51 years. Every pastor I've ever had preached from the
 King James Bible. He always said to the crowd, "Open your Bibles and let's hear what the
 Lord says." These pastors were not unfortunate enough to have sat at the feet of those with
 lower education—which calls itself "higher education."

It is amazing how well this nation did when we didn't know how ignorant we were. (Are you listening?) This is my fifth pastorate. I've seen miracles in my pastorates. I've preached over 41,000 times, and I've never yet preached a sermon that wasn't preached from the King James Bible. I really don't know what I've missed. To be quite frank with you, I've seen the fellows who preach from oilier Bibles, and I somehow get the idea they are missing something. I've never seen a fellow really whoop it up about any other Bible. I've never heard a fellow say, "Blessed be God, let's look in the Book. Let's look in the Douay Version."

Did you ever go to mass and have the priest get up and say, "Hallelujah for the Word of God!" Don't get mad at me! I'm telling the truth.

### PEOPLE ALWAYS CALLED MY UNCLE CRAZY BECAUSE HE WORE ONE RED AND ONE BLUE SOCK, RATHER THAN TROUSERS AND A SHIRT.



### Lest We Forget—The Military's First Vietnamese-Born General

Army Gen. Viet Luong recently became the first Vietnamese-born general officer in the U.S. military. As Military Times reports, Luong is the 1st Cavalry Division's deputy commanding general for maneuver. His family fled Vietnam in 1975, when Luong was 9, a day before the fall of Saigon. "We barely escaped," he said.

Luong's family was taken to the aircraft carrier USS Hancock and then to Fort Chaffee, Ark., before they finally settled in Los Angeles.

Luong's resume includes command of a battalion of the 82nd Airborne Division in Iraq and command of the 101st Airborne Division's 3rd Brigade Combat Team in Afghanistan.



## PORK-BARREL SPENDING FINALLY PUTS AN END TO ISIS.

### Stubborn Immaturity



I can remember the song, "I'll Never Grow Up." It had funny lyrics such as: "I won't grow up. I don't wanna wear a tie or a serious expression in the middle of July." On and on this little ditty went, describing how a person didn't want to grow up. Well, the assertive woman who doesn't want to obey her husband needs her own theme song, because immaturity is a big part of her problem as well! When we know what is right and how to do it and we still actively choose to do the opposite, that is gross immaturity at best; but, more importantly, it is sin. "Therefore to him that knoweth to

Mrs. Francie Taylor

- do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin" (James 4:17).
   When you don't like how things are going in your world, what do you do? hook at this list and see if you gualify for having an adult version of the childish temper tantrum:
- Pouting
- Crying
- Shouting to make your point
- Giving the silent treatment
- Withholding affection

- Manipulating to get your way
- Nagging (this includes repeating your point again and again)
- Slamming doors, cabinets or other things
- Leaving the house in a huff

If you have used or are using any of these tactics in your marriage, you are using the tools of a contentious and angry woman. You can stop at any time. A woman who refuses to grow up and follow the principles of Scripture is unable to love her husband sufficiently. There is no gain in remaining stubbornly immature and self-indulgent, but there could be catastrophic loss if a woman keeps it up long enough.

### **Islamic State Is** Systematically Beheading **Christian Children**

Islamic State (IS) militants have reached a new level of terrorism as the Muslim have extremists begun systematically killing Christians in a mass genocide. According to respected Chaldean-American businessman Mark Arabo, the militants hang men, rape and kill women and behead children.

"...There's...a park in Mosul that actually beheaded children and put their heads on a stick," Arabo told CNN.

"This is a genocide in every sense. They are killing every Christian they see."

Arabo compared the tragedy to "Christian Holocaust." a Thousands of Christians have fled the region in search of refuge.

### Atheists "Warn" About Children Hearing the Good News

Atheists in Oregon are warning parents that a Christian organiza-tion will damage their children through its summer Bible program.

Child Evangelism Fellowship, well known for its afterschool Good News Clubs on school campuses, is working with local churches to conduct Good News Summer Clubs in the Portland area.

Moises Esteves, vice president of CEF, tells OneNewsNow that Portland atheists paid for a full-page newspaper ad to oppose the outreach. "They claim that we have a damaging message to the children,..." says Esteves, referring to the newspaper ad.

Atheists, incidentally, aren't opposed to summer camps as evidenced by "Camp Quest." Those atheist summer camps are conducted across the United States, combining archery and canoeing with learning about "humanist heroes" and evolution for children as young as eight.

CEF famously won a U.S. Supreme Court decision in 2001 that allows it to hold chapter meetings on school grounds, and Esteves says atheists are still upset at that ruling....

The Portland area is famously secular, as evidenced by an Associated Press story about the CEF and the atheists. Gallup polls as recently as 2012 showed Oregon is among the "least religious" states in the country, the story notes.

-Charlie Butts for OneNewsNow.com

### What kind of seed are you sowing?



"YOU'LL FEEL A LITTLE PINCH, THEN ANOTHER PINCH, THEN A FEW MORE, BECAUSE I'M PRETTY BAD AT THIS."

POLICE ARE CALLED TO AN APARTMENT AND FIND A WOMAN HOLDING A BLOODY 5-IRON OVER AN UNCONSCIOUS MAN. "IS THAT YOUR HUSBAND?" THE DETECTIVE ASKS. "YES." THE WOMAN REPLIES. "DID YOU HIT HIM WITH THAT GOLF CLUB?" "YES, YES, I DID." THE WOMAN BEGINS TO SOB. "HOW MANY TIMES DID YOU HIT HIM?" "I DON'T KNOW - FIVE, SIX, MAYBE SEVEN TIMES. JUST PUT ME DOWN FOR A FIVE."



"WHY CAN'T YOU USE A GPS, LIKE EVERYONE ELSE?"



1/4 cup ketchup 3 tbsp. cider vinegar 1 tbsp. Worcestershire sauce

2 tsp. firmly packed light brown 1/4 tsp. black pepper sugar 1 clove garlic, minced

Mrs. C's BBQ Chicken

3 skinless chicken thighs 3 skinless chicken legs

The brown sugar in the sauce is the secret of this tasty chicken. It caramelizes as the meat grills, creating a flavorful glaze.

Preheat grill to medium heat or turn on broiler. Place a rack 3 inches from the heat. Combine the ketchup, vlnegar, Worcestershire sauce, brown sugar and garlic in a small saucepan. Mix well. Bring to a boil over medium-high heat. Cook, stirring constantly, until thickened, about 3 minutes. Remove from heat. Stir in black pepper.

Brush some of the ketchup mixture on one side of the chicken. Place the chicken, sauce side down, on the grill (or sauce side up under the broiler). Grill or broil, turning and basting with the remaining sauce, until the chicken is cooked through and the juices run clear when pierced with a knife, 6-8 minutes per side.

# **Our Statement of Faith**

We accept the Holy Scriptures contained in the Old and New Testaments as being the verbally inspired Word of God and being perfectly preserved in the King James 1611 Bible. We do not believe it can be corrected or improved upon in any way. It is the final rule of faith and practice. Psalm 12:6-7, I Peter 1:23

We believe in the triune God, who is eternally in three persons-Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Matt. 28:19-20 We believe in the deity of Christ- His virgin birth, His sinless life, His death for the sins of the world, His bodily resurrection, His exaltation at God's right hand, His personal, imminent, and premillenial return.

### I Corinthians 15:3-4, I Timothy 3:16, Acts 1:11

We believe that all men are sinners and are guilty before God; in need of a Saviour. Romans 3:23

We believe that men are born again through faith in Jesus Christ; that they become the children of God, eternally saved; that the Holy Spirit dwells within every believer to guide and help him in his testimony and service.

### Acts 16:30-31, Galatians 2:16, Ephesians 1:13, John 10:28

We believe in the bodily resurrection of the just and the unjust, the everlasting blessedness of the saved in Glory, and the everlasting conscious punishment of the lost in hell. We believe that all believers have a responsibility to get the Gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ into all the world. John 5:28-29, Luke 16:22-23, Rev. 20:11-15

We believe that Baptist churches were the first churches of Christianity and that Jesus founded a Baptist church. John 1:35-37, Acts 1:22

<b>Baptist Beliefs</b>	Baptist Heritage
<ul> <li>B iblical Authority</li> <li>A utonomy of the Local Church</li> <li>P riesthood of ALL Believers</li> <li>T wo ordinances - Baptism &amp; Communion</li> <li>I mmersed Church Membership</li> <li>S oul-liberty</li> <li>T wo officers - Pastors and Deacons</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>John the Baptist, Exalter of Christ</li> <li>Meno Simons (1496-1561), Dutch Anabaptist leader</li> <li>Roger Williams (1603-1683), Founded the first Baptist church in America in Providence, Rhode Island in 1638.</li> <li>John Clarke (1609-1676) was a Baptist preacher, medical doctor, and co-founder of the colony of Rhode Island. He was a driving force to get religious freedom into the charter of Rhode Island.</li> <li>John Bunyan (1628-1688), Baptist preacher who wrote <i>Pilgrim's Progress</i></li> <li>Charles Spurgeon (1834-1892), might be the greatest Baptist pastor</li> <li>John Franklyn Norris (1877-1952), founder of World Baptist Fellowship</li> </ul>
S eparation of Church and State	• Jack Frasure Hyles (1926-2001), 10,000 baptisms per year

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