

View

A Publication of the Folsom Point church of Christ, 900 E. Natoma, Folsom, CA

October 14, 2007

“What it Leads To”

By Robert F. Turner

[Robert Turner “went to sleep in Jesus” on Thursday morning. Bro. Turner was my favorite writer; He published a small paper entitled “Plain Talk” for many years and his articles were always spot on. His “Stuff About Things” editorials are classics. Here is just a sample of his insightful writing from a Sept., 1970 issue of Plain Talk.]

I hate to admit this, but a man once told me he did not like my sermons, and wanted me to change the subject and content of my preaching. I asked him to identify my errors, and he said I was preaching the truth but he was afraid of “what it might lead to.” (I was preaching on the work of the church, and congregational independence.) I replied that I realized one might make a “hobby” of truth and “beat to death” a subject (he did not accuse me of this), but that I could not see how TRUTH, properly balanced, could lead to anything but that for which it was given, viz., to make men free from error and sin (Jn. 8:31-32).

On the other side of the coin, we frequently find timid souls who hibernate in inactivity, and equate doing nothing with soundness in the faith. They may acknowledge that the work proposed is in keeping with the scriptures, but if it calls for some unaccustomed activity — a change from the status quo — they fear “what it might lead to.”

Life itself is a movement — we exist in a state of flux — and direction is influenced by every facet of life. Change (even in that which is good) will affect attitudes and viewpoints, and could involve new temptations. BUT REMAINING AT REST ALSO AFFECTS ATTITUDES AND VIEWPOINTS, AND COULD INVOLVE NEW TEMPTATIONS. The mo-

nastic life is no guarantee of sinlessness. It may BE sin in itself.

No man steps twice in the same flowing stream. The stream is moving, and his second step is into water that was yet above him when the first step was taken. We may begin to do something in good faith, and with ample authority; and find later that circumstances are now such as to make the continuation of our work wrong. It takes a good man to face this, and let divine authority, rather than his own traditions, guide his life. Many will let tradition overrule the application of God's word to his life. BUT FEAR OF WHAT MAY HAPPEN (when no scriptural principle is violated, nor scriptural warning ignored) MAKES FOR “FALSE SOUNDNESS.”

Truth never “leads to” error, and right is not the father of wrong. This is the point of James 1:13-18 and I John 3:6ff. We sin when we quit following God and follow Satan.

Although “times change” and new circumstances constantly arise, we have an unchanging standard, suited to all ages. We are faithful only when we ACT upon its teachings. The church is the “pillar,” not the “pillow” of God's truth (I Tim. 3:15). we teach, but why we teach it. If you are able to know (have real evidence) that someone has put himself under the dominion of others; if you are certain that a man prefers “popular brotherhood thought” (whatever that is) to personal Bible study, then perhaps you are equipped to make this charge.

Stressed Out??

Would you describe yourself as “happy” today? Research confirms something that Paul implies in the book of Philippians and that is that being a committed Christian brings great joy.

In three separate studies, researchers found that those with a high level of spiritual commitment are twice as likely as those with a low level of involvement to describe themselves as “very happy.” Additionally, the level of religious involvement affects how the elderly face the future and how people respond to adversity. Furthermore, young women who are raised by devoutly religious mothers are 50% less likely to experience depression than other young women. And in cases where the daughter chooses to follow the mother’s example of faith, the rate falls another 30%. In other words, if you are a faithful, devoted, committed, involved Christian and your daughter chooses to be one, too, she is 80% less likely to suffer depression during her lifetime!

One of these studies measured the benefits of being involved. Those who are “intrinsically motivated” realize many more health benefits than those who are not practicing an authentic faith. To their surprise, they also found that those in conservative churches are much happier than those in liberal churches. The latter were considerably less happy, hopeful and optimistic.

Philippians 4 shows a connection between commitment and joy. In verse 1, Paul says “stand firm in the Lord.” He then urges Euodia and Syntyche to live in harmony (it’s hard to stand firm against the forces of evil when you are at odds with a fellow Christian). Then he says, “Rejoice! (v. 4). The ability to rejoice is a product of standing firm; you don’t “stand firm” because you’re happy; you’re happy because you stand firm!

And it is no surprise that there is more joy among those in conservative groups than among those who take a more liberal view of Scripture. The latter have explained away the foundation upon which a person can base his hope. If it doesn’t matter what religion you are, does it matter whether you’re religious? If it doesn’t matter what you believe, does it matter whether you believe? Liberals offer no answers, just questions. There is no joy in uncertainty.

Paul, in Philippians 4, offers several reasons for hope. A person who considers what he says cannot help himself—he’ll think better (4:8) and he’ll do better (4:9). And, he’ll rejoice! *dp*

The church of Christ

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Jerry Deschler: 916/285-9115
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Services

Sunday Morning Assembly
9:30 AM
Sunday Evening: 5:00 PM
Wednesday Bible Study
7:30 PM

Classes for all ages.

Private classes arranged
at your convenience.

For more information,
visit our web site at:

www.folsomchurch.com

Agenda

The Lord's Day, October 14, 2007

9:30 AM: Worship: Singing, Lord's Supper, Preaching

Sermon: "The Story: David's Mid-Life Crisis"

☉ Preaching: David Posey

5:00 PM: Lord's Supper, Singing, Preaching

☉ Sermon: David Posey

5:30 PM: Bible Classes, All Ages

Adult Class Offerings

☉ Room 11-12, SeedSowers

☉ Auditorium, Deuteronomy

Wednesday, October 17, 2007

10 AM, A Study of the Book of James. At the Building.

7:30 PM, Bible classes for ages 18 mos. and up,

Auditorium: Deuteronomy

Meeting Notes

Bro. Harrell's sermons and charts are available online on our website (www.folsomchurch.com) or on CD (see a deacon).

Habitual Tardiness

For many years, I hated the idea of being early almost as much as being late. I say "almost" because in my attempt to be punctual, I often arrived in a minute or two late. Then I read an article that changed my attitude. The gist of it was this: those

who are habitually late are arrogant people, willing to keep others waiting on them or willing to disturb others with their arrival. *Ouch.* Now, I leave at least 10-15 minutes early for most appointments and "punctual," means at least a minute or two early, even at casual affairs.



Most of us understand this rule in most situations. If you're late to the doctor or dentist, it may cost you money (that's why we sometimes complain that we have an appointment but they don't!). And, I imagine that each of us appreciates people being on time when we are on the waiting end. If you attend a play, those who run the theater will close the door when the play starts and not admit anyone for several minutes. And it doesn't matter that you spent \$45

per ticket – they expect you to be on time if you want to see the entire play.

One must only observe what happens on a Sunday morning, around 9:30 - 9:40 to understand the rationale behind the rule. Time and again, the door rattles opens, and *clinks* shut. Of course, half the class has to turn around to see who came in or what's going on. Meanwhile, the teacher is left talking to himself. If we treated our work like we treat our Bible classes, we would be unemployed. More importantly, doesn't it bother you at all to consistently miss the opening prayer?

The solution? BE ON TIME!

dp

From the Archives. . .

In January of 1998...

...our membership was 145 and our average Sunday AM attendance about 140.

The average contribution was about \$2600.