

June 2013 Address all mail: Ed Bousman Evangelistic Assoc., P.O. Box 511, Lynchburg, Ohio 45142-0511 Issue 6

Points To Ponder

Below are two short articles taken from a list of over 100 that Ed wrote covering numerous topics that he called, "Points to Ponder."

Seven Deadly Sins

In the sixteenth chapter of Mark, the Bible says, "When Jesus was risen early on the first day of the week, He appeared first to Mary Magdalene from whom He had cast out seven devils." In the silent version of the motion picture, KING OF KINGS, the seven devils are depicted as the seven deadly sins. Now the Bible does not refer to any particular group of seven deadly sins. For centuries people have regarded the following as the Seven Deadly Sins: Pride, Anger, Envy, Dejection, Selfishness, Lust and Gluttony.

PRIDE. . . This is the sin Jesus talked about when He told the parable about the man who chose the chief seat. Jesus said, "When thou art bidden of any man to a feast, sit down in the lowest seat so that when he that hath bidden thee come, he will say, 'Friend, go up higher.'" Pride in many of us demands that we be first. This was the sin of the devil in Heaven, He said, "I will exalt my throne above the Most High." This caused the devil to say, "I would rather rule in Hell than serve in Heaven." This is the sin too of many denominational folk . . . the sin of pride. When they first hear of immersion for the remission of sins it is hard for many to admit that they have been wrong all their lives. **Pride is a deadly sin.**

<u>ANGER</u>... Jesus said in the sermon on the mount, "Ye have heard it said to them of old time, Thou shalt not kill and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of judgment, but I say unto you, whosoever shall be angry with his brother shall be in danger of the judgment and whosoever

shall say, Thou fool shall be in danger of the hell of fire." Jesus taught that you did not have to use a gun or club to be guilty of murder. He taught that if you walk up to someone and said, "You old fool you," then you were just as guilty of murder as if you had actually killed him. Some say, "Oh I have a hot temper, but it doesn't last but a minute." Neither does a tornado, but it leaves a trail of destruction that is seen for years. *Anger is a deadly sin.*

ENVY . . . In the love chapter of the Bible, Paul said, "Love envieth not," and in Romans envy is listed among the sins of the flesh. Paul says there that the Christian is to put off strife and envy. Envy is a deadly sin. We have seen preachers who envied each other, elders who were envious of each other and deacons. In one particular area where envy is seen as much as any place else is the music department, the war department, envy relating to the quartet, the organist, the pianist and others have left some churches in shambles. *Envy is a deadly sin.*

<u>DEJECTION.</u> . . Jesus told the apostles to rejoice because their names were written in Heaven. Christianity is a happy religion. The Ethiopian Eunuch found it so in Acts the eighth chapter. After his immersion he went on his way rejoicing. In Philippians Paul said, "Rejoice and again I say rejoice." The Christian is a person who truly has something to sing about and something to shout about. There is an old story about the devil who one day decided to sell all his tools except one—the tool he decided to keep was a peculiar instrument called discouragement. He said, "If I can dig this into a person's heart and make him say, 'No one cares. What's the use?' Then I have it made." *Dejection is a deadly sin.*

<u>SELFISHNESS</u>... Jesus talked about this sin when He told the story of the man with the full barns— the man who used the personal pronoun so much. He said, "What

shall I do for I have no where to bestow all my grain and my goods I am resolved, what I will do I will pull down my barns and build greater and I will say to my soul—Soul, thou has much goods laid up for many years, take thine ease, eat, drink, be merry." But God said, "Thou fool, this night is thy soul required of thee." A cartoon seen recently depicts the attitude of a lot of Christians. One picture showed a man buying a car. The salesman says, "Nothing down and three years to pay. You can't get a better deal than that." And the man says, "Give me the keys and where do I sign?" The picture shows him buying an electric ice box. The salesman says, "Nothing down and four years to pay. Where can you get a better deal than that?" The man says, "Where do I sign?" A third picture shows him buying a house and the salesman says, "Forty years to pay and the closing cost is included in your payments. Where can you get a better deal?" The man says, "Where do I sign?" And then a fourth pictures him at home—someone from the church comes and says, "We need four dollars a week from you for a year to finance a mission program." And the man is shown to be saying, "Do you think I'm crazy? I can't sign my name to anything like that with times as unsettled as they are!" Selfishness is a deadly sin.

LUST. . . In regards to this sin, Jesus said in the Sermon on the Mount, "Ye have heard it said to them of old time, thou shalt not commit adultery, but I say unto you that whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart." In one statement Jesus condemned once and for all the X-rated movies and all the playboy type magazines for the Christian. "Whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her in his heart." A recent news article revealed that for the past few months all crime was down except rape. What other explanation for this can be given except for the near nudity of dress on the street as well as in the Church of Christ congregation. Most women do not feel guilty about this because a mob has no conscience. But conscience or no conscience, every rape committed in this country is committed because the women who belong to the Church of Christ wear short dresses. We have to put the blame somewhere and judgment begins at the house of God. As long as Christian women act like playgirls of the month, rape will continue to increase. Lust is a deadly sin.

GLUTTONY. . . This is the sin Jesus talked about when He talked about the rich man and Lazarus. He fared sumptuously every day. Gluttony is the sin of the last days. As it was in the days of Noah so shall it be in the days of the Son of Man, they ate and drank. Everyone seems to be eating and drinking today. That is probably the reason many are writing books on diet today. Because we have been gluttonized, everyone wants to reduce. More people are eating themselves to death than starving themselves to death. *Gluttony is a deadly sin.*

These are the seven deadly sins—but whether there are seven deadly sins or seventy deadly sins—or seven hundred deadly sins, the fact remains . . . all sin is deadly. Paul said in Romans the sixth chapter, "The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." The plan for forgiveness is found in Acts

2:38, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit."

Submarine Christians

The Devil may fear the soldiers of the cross, but he is not concerned about the Submarine Christians. The Submarine Christians, or Sub-Christians, whichever you opt for, are those who surface only on special occasions. In the spring of the year they may raise their periscope and survey the surroundings. If they see the Easter Bunny hop, hop, hopping on his way they surface for the big day. They also raise the periscope around December and if they see Santa Claus and his reindeer, up they come again for the season. There are other occasions also when you see the Submarine Christians. Sometimes they raise the periscope and if they see a Christian church preparing a supper for the mid-week service up they come again. If they see no sign of food they stay submerged. Sometimes if they raise the periscope and see that the church is presenting a gospel music program they will surface for gospel entertainment. Sub-Christians really like to pat their foot, clap their hands, and slap their thighs. After they spend a couple of hours patting, clapping, and slapping, they may endure a devotional. A devotional is the same as a sermon, except that you don't holler as loud, it must be short, and above all leave out all doctrinal matters, because after all you have to win them first. After you win them first you must continue to leave out all doctrinal matters so that you can retain those you won by saying nothing in the first place.

Sometimes church leaders will defend the Sub-Christians with the excuse; well you have to get them there someway and then you can preach to them. That sounds good; the only thing is it does not work that way. I know one congregation several years ago that was having a gospel quartet for an evening of gospel entertainment. A Christian Submarine in the area raised the periscope and saw the advertisements. So they surfaced and 400 members of the Sub-Christian crew attended the services on Tuesday, an off night. The program worked. It drew the crowd, and they had real spiritual experience patting, clapping, and slapping. The next night I arrived on the scene for the regular scheduled mid-week service and 40 showed up to hear a message about reaching thousands of lost souls all over the world by radio.

The Sub- Christians never surfaced. It was then that the Devil told all the demons of perdition not to worry about the 400 who came to pat, clap, and slap because they pose no problem, but watch out for the 40. They are dangerous. They along with others like them make it possible for GIJAPA to be heard all over the world. It has been said many times and needs to be repeated over and over, in this day when the emphasis is programmed for the Sub-Christian, for the patters, the clappers and the slappers. WHAT YOU WIN THEM WITH IS WHAT YOU WIN THEM TO! E.B.

THANK YOU! THANK YOU! THANK YOU

Each month GIJAPA receives several anonymous gifts. We are so very thankful, but feel badly we don't have the opportunity to thank you, personally. Every month there is a money order that contains several hundred dollars enclosed in a GIJAPA envelope, postmarked from "Some Where, U.S.A.;" I just want to say a BIG THANK YOU to all of you anonymous givers along with you who permit me to send a receipt letter expressing my gratitude. Without your help, GIJAPA could not exist. God bless you always.

Letters

Note: In the March GIJAPA newsletter I asked for HELP in getting Joseph, a prisoner in Varner Super Max Prison Grady, AR baptized. See communications below:

Naomi, On April 21, Ansil Harpold from ARM ministries (provide portable baptisteries) spoke at our Church - W. Lafayette Christian Church. I told him about Joseph and his desire to be immersed, he's checking to see what he can do to get Joseph immersed. May 13, The 1,800 person Max Prison is near Pine Bluff, AR most of them seemed to be "lifers." I contacted ARM in Joplin, MO and they gave me a Chaplain to call at Varner. We discussed the circumstances and he said that Joseph needs to file a "request" and direct it to the chaplain. He told me that he has two years left. Joseph cannot have a radio, all he has are two books from Ed Bousman, therefore doesn't hear the radio broadcast. I know God understands his heart and desire. I hope to complete my part of this over the weekend.

Polly M., Lafayette, IN

Dear Naomi, I got your card and thankful that you are checking up on me. As you know I'm in Varner Super Max and cannot get baptized until I make it to Varner. I'm on 24 hour lock down. I was gonna request to stay in the Max part of Varner, but changed my mind. As soon as I get out I will be baptized A.S.A.P. if God wills it. I am waiting on a bed out there in population. I will keep you to date on it. *Joseph, Varner Super Max, Grady, AR*

Hello Naomi,

I'd like to thank you for the large print Bible you sent and the Bible Study along with the tracts and newsletter. I do feel very blessed to of been able to receive that all from you. Glory to God! You all at GIJAPA are truly like angels to me. I Thess. 5:18 says, "In everything give thanks." You all are in my prayers daily. Please continue to pray for me and keep me on your mailing list. Thank you so very much. God bless you with joy, peace, love and happiness. In Jesus Name!

Bryan from Grady, AR

To Aunt Naomi & All,

Received a small bonus from work. I hope a little extra will help for a few more Bibles. The summer is coming and I don't know how I will be able to handle the heat.

I covet your prayers. As always.

Love, Mark. PS I would like to know where you go to Church as Uncle Ed and I corresponded as to someday we could meet and talk. I pray that my health would allow me someday to come visit and see GIJAPA.

Thanks, Mark from Grand Island, NE

Dear Evangelistic Assoc.,

I am writing you because I received your newsletter with the Bible and Bible Study today. I want to say thank you. I really get a blessing out of your newsletter and the study helps me open my heart to God more than I could have thought. I went to Church when I was a kid and was under my adopted parent's roof, until I was around 14 years old. I started doing the wrong things and getting myself into trouble with the law. I have been in prison four times since 1982, but this time in prison God knows that I didn't commit the crime. I listen to the "God Is Just A Prayer Away" every Sunday on the radio station KAAY, 9:30 PM 1090 on the dial out of Little Rock, AR. I am looking forward to the next study and the good news. Thank you and God bless you and everyone involved in grading and sending these Bible Studies.

Sincerely, Noah from Grady, AR

Thanks for returning my graded lessons and thanks for sending me more. This has been a blessing.

Thank you, Joey from Beaumont Texas Prison

Dear Naomi,

Thank you and God bless you for the gift of the Bible and Bible Studies they are truly a blessing. I am incarcerated at Plainfield Correctional Facility until October of this year. I am very excited and motivated about what the Lord has in store for me upon my release. You and your organization are one of God's true blessings. How wonderful it is that there are people out there to minister to those of us behind bars. The difficult and sometimes harsh circumstances of our daily lives often lead us to forget that there are people on the outside with the Lord who really care. God bless all of you. I look forward to continue receiving your Bible Studies. Yours in peace with God.

Dennis from Plainfield, IN

Dear Sister Naomi,

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you, for the opportunity to partake in the studies of the Bible they are truly some eye openers. I thank you in the name of Jesus for being there for me as well as for my Bible. I wish to continue in our studies and one day I hope and pray to meet you. You are truly an inspiration. Today made my 9th month here. God bless!

Lamont from Galveston, TX

My dear Sister Naomi,

First, Kyansange Church of Christ, in chief Mujimanzovu, 85 km away from Solwezi town, the first Church we opened after our graduation from college in 2006, has opened another congregation at Lukendo turnoff. About 20 people are attending the service. When we started the churches after our graduation in 2006, first it was to proclaim the gospel. We didn't know what the future would

hold, especially on Church growth. We thank God we have held firm to that commitment and today all the Churches we started are growing through your prayers. Our greatest challenge in the Lord's Church here is to have enough time to teach those we are baptizing to become strong followers and disciples of Jesus Christ. My desire, prayer and plan with God's power is that, any member of Church of Christ, baptized in Church of Christ, remains the member of Church of Christ, everywhere they go. Third: I want to use this time to conduct home, group, and individual Bible Studies. People here practice shifting type of farming, so June to October, many people will be at home. On Wednesdays and Saturdays, I will be meeting with women classes and Saturday and Sunday afternoon, men and youths classes. In October, farming season begins and all Church activities, Sunday worship and weekly meetings attendance slowly goes down. I believe this is the good time for us to baptize and start teaching them what Jesus commanded to teach in Matthew 28:20.

Thank you for your continued support and prayers. I am sending more pictures for baptism and Bible distributions. Kindly share this request with our brothers and sisters who help us when we request. The Bibles you send are doing a great job for us and the Church. I am happy to inform you that we have received all the four boxes of Bibles. On Sunday, we baptized two brothers. They received the Bibles. Thank you so much for the pew Bibles you sent. May our Lord continue to bless you all. Thank you.

John Maseka, Evangelist, Messenger Church of Christ, Zambia, Central Africa

Dear Sister Naomi,

(Letter below is in response to why two boxes of Bibles were returned undeliverable to us with a French Message indicating why.)

Thanks so much for all that you have been doing to uplift the Lord's work on this hard soil. Our Lord is great and is with you. You have been contributing a lot for the great success here and I pray that please you never lose hope in all the temptations of satan the enemy against us on this land. What I did was that, I printed the French message out that you sent by email. I then went in search of a teacher who speaks and teaches French, for that inscription is in a French Language. The French teacher I got was from Cameroon, a French colony, but she speaks English as well. She explained that the inscription says the boxes do not meet their conditions on cargo services which is in line with the agreement with the European Union or something like that. I then went to the general post office to inquire while two boxes of our Bibles were returned to the US, and also showed them the inscription in French you had sent me. They were shocked to see that it was written in French language. They searched to see among all the workers if someone could read but lo and behold, not even a single person reads or writes French there. At the Serrekunda Post Office too it was the same, no one understands French there. The fact is that it is not common to see someone speaking French in this nation. I cannot remember hearing someone speaking French in this nation. The Gambia is an English speaking nation that gained independence from Britain in 1965. English is the local languages spoken everywhere. The post office workers are of the view that probably the boxes got lost into Senegal, which is a French speaking nation. The Gambia is in fact surrounded all over by Senegal except the Western side which is bounded by the sea, and it is also a Muslim dominated country. We are only worried with the amount of money lost in that postage sister. The whole Church here is not happy about that. We are sorry, dear sister Naomi. We are aware that satan can use several methods to discourage the Lord's work here. The way and manner you are assisting the work here, we are very grateful and we don't want anything to disturb you. But we are also aware that satan will never be happy about that. Please we are sorry. The good Lord is with you. Thanks.

Alexander Ofori, a servant of the Most High God, London Corner Church of Christ, The Gambia, W. Africa



Return Service Requested

Evangelistic Association, Inc. P.O. Box 511 Lynchburg, Ohio 45142

