



Don't Confuse Me with the Facts

by Wayne Greeson

Teaching the Gospel is not always easy. Probably the most difficult problem the Christian faces in trying to teach the Gospel is teaching a person who has a closed mind.

How often do we meet a person with an attitude that shouts "Don't confuse me with the facts, my mind is made up!" In other words, "It does not matter whether or not what you say is true, I am going to believe and do what I want." You could point to many Scriptures; you could provide examples from the New Testament; you could quote the very words of Jesus, yet such a person will remain unmoved. Such an attitude would be almost humorous if it were not so sad. We need to understand the world has always had such people in it and learn not to be discouraged.

For 120 years Noah preached repentance to a wicked world and warned of the impending Flood. For 120 years people slapped their hands over their ears whenever they saw Noah coming down the road. But then came the day when God shut the door of the ark and the rain drops began to fall. The only ones who were saved were those who had spent 120 years with a hammer and saw in their hands, instead of their hands over their ears.

Jeremiah is known as the "weeping prophet" to us today and for good reason. His mission was very similar to Noah's and his audience was just as stubborn. For about 40 years, Jeremiah preached to the rebellious people of God to repent or face the wrath of God. Jeremiah had good reason to cry because his audience not only refused to listen to him but also, instead of putting their hands over their ears, they made fists and put them in Jeremiah's face.

Jeremiah was declared a dangerous fanatic; beaten and put in stocks; his writings were burned by a king; he was called a traitor, beaten again and thrown in a dungeon; he was thrown into a cistern where he sank up to his armpits in mud; and finally he was carried off to Egypt. It is amazing what great lengths people went to not hear Jeremiah.

Somehow, there are those who believe Jesus was exempt from prejudiced audiences. Even the Son of God who spoke with all the power and truth of Deity faced people whose attitude expressed, "Don't confuse me with the facts" There were those who refused to listen to Christ; others mocked Him; one occasion a mob tried to throw Him over a cliff and another time some tried to stone Him. The prejudiced against Christ and His message grew to the point that to silence Him, His critics crucified Him.

After all the "plugged" ears Christians run into, (See, Acts 28:25-27), not only should Christians learn not to become discouraged, but also learn an important lesson on dull ears and closed eyes. Christians should beware of plugging their own ears, shutting their eyes and closing their minds to God's Truth—the Bible.

Christians can "turn away their ears from the truth" (2 Tim. 4:4) and become just as stubborn and prejudiced and even more so than those in the world (See, 1 Tim. 4:1-3; 2 Tim. 4:1-4; Titus 1:13-16). If there is anything worse than a person of the world with their fingers in their ears, it's a professed Christian with their fingers in their ears.

The proper attitude for the Christian is to "Prove all things; hold fast to that which is good," (1 Thes. 5:21), studying to show thyself approved, (2 Tim. 2:15), and "examining the Scriptures daily, to see whether these things (are) so" (Acts 17:11). It is an attitude that "thinketh no evil; rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth; bears all things believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things" (1 Cor. 13:5-7). The Christian with the proper attitude towards other and the truth has his fingers turning the pages of his Bible instead of stuck in his ears!

Services

Sunday Morning Class

9:30a

Worship: 10: 30a

(Also live-streamed)

No Sunday Evening Service

Wednesday Bible Study

7p

Preacher

Michael Gors

Elders

Michael Gors

Gary Reynolds

Todd Stults

Deacons

Don Allison
Fellowship

Jim Clark
Visitation

Lowell Huffman
Media

Those Whom

We Support

MSOP

Cannon Taylor

INDIA

Bible Correspondence
Course/ Bibles

Leaders in Worship

November 8, 2020

Morning Worship

Announcements: Gary Reynolds

Song Leader: Lowell Huffman

Opening Prayer: Jimmy Clark

Scripture: Rick Cox, *Hebrews 13: 11-16*

Lord's Table: Volker Jaromin

Sermon: Mike Gors, "*Pursuing an Attitude of Gratitude*"

Closing Prayer: Rex Harper

Sound Room: Jacob Clark

Wed. Evening Bible Study, Nov. 11th

Song Leading: Seth Gors

Prayer: Jimmy Clark

Welcome to West Side Church of Christ

We are thankful for your presence today and are happy that we can provide a safe place for worship of our Lord. We ask that you please adhere to the guidelines of our governor who advises that we wear masks and distance ourselves from close contact with each other while at services. Communion packets and baskets for the contribution are at the double doors. Thank you for protecting yourself and each other while we are together

Sun: 9 :30a, Classes
10: 30a, Worship (also live-streamed)

Tues. 6p, Men's Class (through Nov. 24th)

Wed. 7:00p, Bible Study
(also live-streamed)

(No Sunday Evening Worship)



Remember Calls and Cards to Our Shut-ins

Anna Funk--Westminster Village

Joyce Popplewell -- Heritage in Yorktown

Linda Horning-- Westminster

Carl Gilstrap--Albany Health Care

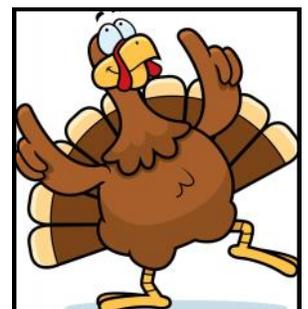
Pam Smith--Waters of Yorktown Nursing Home

Thought for Thanksgiving day: "We never repent of having eaten too little."

Thomas Jefferson

Pantry items for this week are boxed dinners such as mac & cheese or Hamburger Helper.

The time is nearing for our annual Thanksgiving Basket Gifts to the community. The list has been finalized for this year but if you wish to donate monetarily, see Steve. Packing and deliver will be on Nov. 21



In Love and Sympathy

It is with great sadness that we mourn the loss of one of our own at West Side. Sister Vivian Bigler passed away suddenly on November 1st at her home. She was 88 years of age and a native of Georgia but had lived most of her life in KY and in Florida where she worked as a bookkeeper for the railroad. She was one of eight children born into the Rouse family, the mother of three sons, with nine grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren. We remember Vivian for her grit and valor in meeting old age and infirmity and pushing herself to do what she saw "needed to be done" and what she wanted to accomplish. She was a talented seamstress, a wonderful cook and baker, an avid reader and never gave up her curiosity of the world and the Bible. She was forever sewing in her sunlit sewing nook, moving flowers about in the yard, re-doing her landscaping, refinishing furniture, re-painting anything that caught her eye and re-doing her curtains. She always had a sweet treat to share and enjoyed her home as a place for friendship and comradery. We loved Sister Vivian and will miss her and are glad for the chance to have known her and worshipped with her. Her funeral service was held last Friday in Muncie and officiated by Mike Gors.



Connie Reynolds—Nov 15

Steve Gors--Nov. 15

Ann Witty—Nov 18

Lily Corcoran--Nov. 18

Delores Huffman—Nov 25

Rachel Chambers—Nov 27

Jade Myer--Nov. 28

Julie Allison—Nov 29

Carl Gilstrap--Nov. 30

Happy Birthday



In Need of Prayer

Angie Reed, MS

Adam Huffman, Kidney dialysis and chemo

Alex Odle, Cancer

Bill Smith, Hernia surgery pending

Bob Owens, Cancer. Kathy's cousin

Cindy Taylor, Back trouble with some relief

Dan Proctor, Lela's son in NY. Dan has had a relapse in health and is going through difficult time

David & Carol Southern, Sister to Beth Cline

Debbie Perry, Bronchitis

Family of Janet Messer, Janet's uncle, Kenneth Mauck, passed away. This is the second uncle that Janet has lost in a short period of time. Our love and condolences to her and her extended family.

John Shock, Knee replacement. Doing well at home

Kathy Harper, Cellulitis, respiratory difficulties

Kim Ham, Cancer. Dana Kellow's sister

Larry Reynolds

Maliyah Allison, Covid positive

Mitch Kinder, Cancer, Sally's neighbor

Nick Hummel, Post surgery, chemo ongoing

Skylar Murphy, Gastro-intestinal issues. Consultation pending

Sylvia Carroll, Several health concerns

Susie Long, Debilitating arthritis in back

Wanda Reed, Recovering from chemo and radiation

*"Just one life; it will soon be past,
And only what is done for Christ
will last."*

Anon

"And to Man He said, "Behold the fear of the Lord, that is wisdom; and to depart from evil is understanding." Job 28: 28

"He knows not his own strength that hath not met adversity."

Ben Johnson

Being Mean

Madge Wallace hated Harry Truman.

Well, it was said she didn't care much for anyone in Independence, Missouri but she seemed to really have it in for Harry. To her, he was just a "filthy farm boy." Early on, she might have had a point.

Harry lost his family farm and failed at two different businesses until he finally found his place in politics.

But that wasn't good enough in the eyes of Madge. As a senator, she constantly criticized him; as vice president she scorned him. Even when he was elevated to the Presidency after Roosevelt's death, people close to her said: "It galls her to see him in the White House running the country."

When Truman famously fired MacArthur she ranted: "Imagine a captain from the National Guard telling off a West Point general! Why didn't he let General MacArthur run the Korean War in his own way?" When Truman ran against Governor Thomas Dewey in 1948, Madge stood firmly behind his opponent. "Why would Harry run against that nice Mr. Dewey?" she wondered aloud, "I know dozens of men better qualified to be in Mr. Truman's place in the White House."

That was pretty bad criticism considering Harry was supporting Madge and she was living in his home since he came to Washington. Why would Harry do that for his biggest critic? Well, Madge Wallace was Harry Truman's mother in law!

The people closest to us can sometimes be our biggest detractors. Those that should support us are the ones that can nip at our heels the most. It might be that way in our families, but it should never be that way to our church family!

Jude says grumbling, and fault finding are ungodly ways (Jude 15-16). Paul tells us that we are to encourage and build up one another (1st Thessalonians 5:11) not tear each other down (Ephesians 4:29). Jesus warns us not to unfairly judge our brother (John 7:24). Scorn, ridicule, and backbiting are not to be the ways a Christian.

If you cannot say anything nice, the problem might be you!

Barry Haynes

Hope church of Christ

Hope, AR