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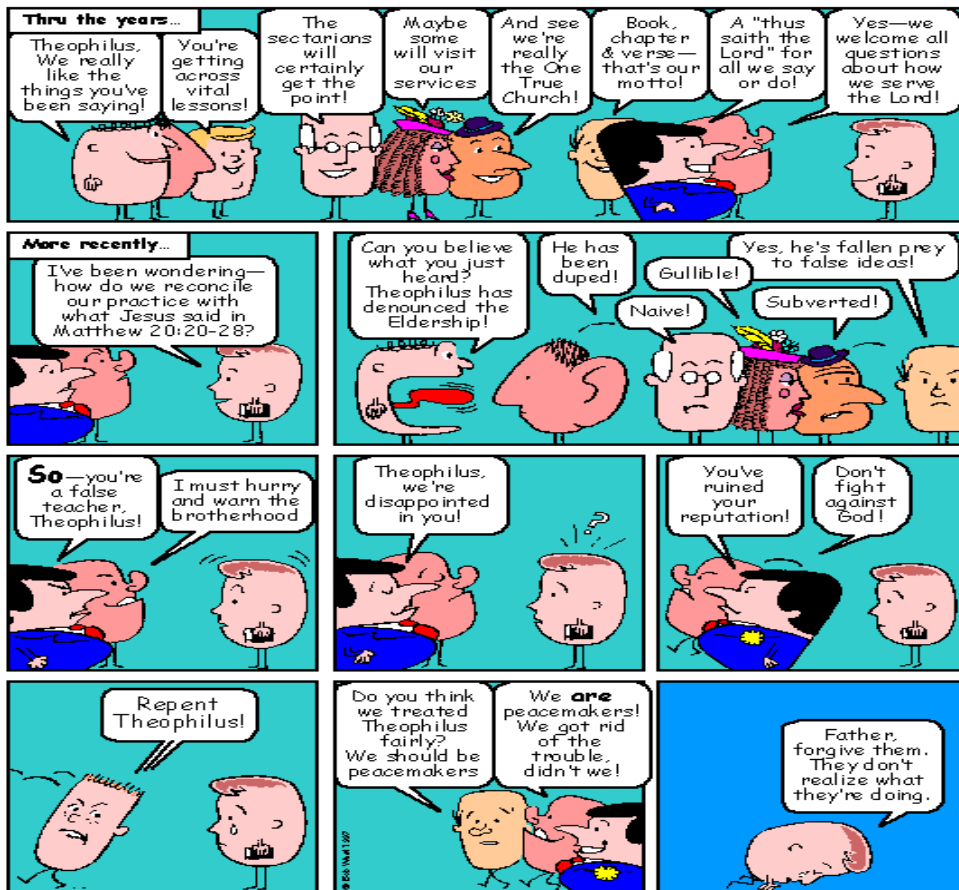
All Scripture quotations from the Editor are from the New King James Version (Bible Resources may be found on: www.johntpolkll.com) Email responses may be sent to: TychicusTruths@johnpolkll.com

Free Article : "What About Profanity?"

https://johnpolkll.com/files/documents/GG_WhatAboutProfanity_2002Q3.pdf

Salted Speech Colossians 4:6

- ~ "It is not the man who has too little, but the man who craves more, that is poor." —Seneca the Younger, "Moral Letters to Lucius"
- ~ "Knowledge in youth is wisdom in age."
- ~ "Those who do not study are only cattle dressed up in men's clothing."
- ~ "Make happy those who are near, and those who are far will come." — Chinese Proverb



First a String

In November of 1847, a civil engineer named Charles Ellet Jr. was commissioned to build a bridge across the Niagara Gorge. As you can imagine the greatest challenge was the start. How could you get the first cable across an 825-foot chasm with 225-foot cliffs on either side?

The solution came from a local ironworker named Theodore Graves Hulett, who suggested a kite-flying contest. A fifteen-year-old boy named Homan Walsh won the \$10 cash prize for flying the first kite across the chasm.

The day after that successful flight, a stronger line was attached to that kite string and pulled across. Then an even stronger line. Then a rope. Then a cable consisting of thirty-six strands of ten-gauge wire. The bridge would eventually become the world's first railway suspension bridge. It would connect two countries, and it was strong enough to support a 170-ton locomotive. And it all started with a single kite string!

"For who has despised the day of small things?" (Zechariah 4:10).

Some tasks seem at the start to be insurmountable. We can't see how something so large can be overcome. But never underestimate the value of small things. A small action can lead to more. Too many times we do nothing, thinking a small act is meaningless. Yet action begets action, one step takes you to the next, and success leads to more of the same.

Is there something you are struggling to overcome? Some task that seems too big to overcome? A relationship broken by too big a gulf? A habit that overwhelms you? Start with a small attempt. Even the smallest action can lead to something bigger. It may not be much more than a string but it could build a bridge.

- Barry Haynes

Showing Compassion

In Luke 10:30, Jesus teaches the parable of the Good Samaritan. It is interesting to note that the man half dead made no call for help. In verse 33, it says, "But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was: and when he saw him, he was moved with compassion." Maybe the Christian way is not to wait for someone to cry for help. But, we should lift up our eyes and observe the world around us. Visual comprehension is a strong mover of our hearts to compassion. Out of the abundance of our hearts, the blessings of God will flow.

- Bruce Sexton



He Psalm 119:33-40 Living Faithfully "To The End"



By John T. Polk II

Verses 33-35 picture a heart open to God's Word;
Verses 36-37 mention some pitfalls to be avoided;
Verses 38-40 express the on-going need of help from God.

THE HEART Verses 33-35:

(Verse 33) Any education must begin with a student who realizes the need for information, and "statutes" [lines laid down to mark-off life's limits] make the way of knowledge clear. There is no *degree* or *graduation* in this education, only obedience "to the end," presumably, of life.

(Verse 34) God gives more "understanding" as we study and "keep" His "law" [direction] with our "whole heart," a desire to learn, for knowledge cannot be forced. "And we know that the Son of God has come and has given us an understanding, that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God and eternal life" **(1 John 5:20)**.

(Verse 35) If we have been taught, and understand what God wants, the "Make me" simply shows an eagerness to put it into practice, because the student sees the "delight in it."

THE HEARTACHE Verses 36-37:

(Verse 36) The heart must remain tilted ["inclined"] toward God's "testimonies" [words about the beyond, God's part in our salvation), and not lean toward "covetousness" [desire for the forbidden stronger than faith in God's way]. Jesus said, "Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses" **(Luke 12:15)**. The best person is NOT the one who dies with the most: clothing, sexual partners, fame, lands, money, power, "gods," fans, or bastard children! Notice, the medicine for a covetous heart is leaning away from such toward God's Bible!

(Verse 37) Whatever becomes the heart's ambition that points away from God's "way" is defined as "worthless things." A worthless person is described in **Proverbs 6:12-15**. "Beware lest anyone cheat you through philosophy and empty deceit, according to the tradition of men, according to the basic principles of the world, and not according to Christ" **(Colossians 2:8)**. This lapse back into nothingness is cured by being "Revived" [brought back to life], or returning to God's "way."

THE HEART-HEALTH Verses 38-40:

(Verse 38) To be "established" means placed back upon the firm ground of Bible study, and will be done by one who will "fear God and keep His commandments, for this is man's all" **(Ecclesiastes 12:13)**.

(Verse 39) The false condemnation from others can be discouraging, but is cancelled by returning to God's "good" "judgments" [decisions about the obedient and the disobedient!].

(Verse 40) One "longs for" [desires to live with] God's "precepts" [clarifications or descriptions designed to help], which are "righteousness" [always right, clean, holy, wholesome].

Thought: People who expect God to miraculously intervene, the Holy Spirit to spiritually overwhelm, or Jesus Christ to immediately change their heart and make it better should re-read this section many times. *God has placed all such transforming power within His Word*, and it works only in those who are "diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" **(2 Timothy 2:15)**. -----jtpll

