

Come Let Us Reason Together

"All propaganda has to be popular and has to adapt its spiritual level to the perception of the least intelligent of those for whom it intends to direct itself" (Adolph Hitler, *Mein Kampf*).

The secret to propaganda, in other words, is to bring all of society down to the level of the lowest common denominator. It must appeal to the basest prejudices, the shallowest thinking. Hitler's propaganda was a mix of fabrications and half-truths. It took Europe's most organized and advanced civilization and dumbed it down till it was the dictator's dupe.

What could be worse than a dictator who imposes thought control on his people? Here is a possibility. What about a society that imposes limitations on itself, a sort of ignorance by peer pressure?

It is said that early Christians out-thought their contemporaries. They didn't say: "Be shallow, unthinking, gullible dummies." They said: "Prove all things, hold fast that which is good" (1 Thessalonians 5:21).

They didn't say: "Unscrew your heads when you enter worship. God doesn't want you to understand His will; He just wants you to love Him with all your heart." Instead, Jesus told them to "love the Lord with all of your heart, soul ... and mind (Mark 12:30). The Bible does not glory in ignorance.

They didn't say: "That song's words are too difficult. We want songs we can understand," "I loved your sermon, it was so simple." They said: "Grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord" (2 Peter 3:18).

Bertrand Russell, the skeptic, once sneered, "Most Christians would rather die than think ... in fact, most do."

There is no contradiction between knowing God's will and loving Him; those who love Him will know His will! It's not as if knowledge is cold and indifferent, while feelings are warm and loving! Ignorance of God's word is the danger. Learning half-truths and reinforcing prejudged conclusions of Scripture is a danger in the church!

The church is not in the business of leveling our understanding and service down to that of the average twelve year-old. It's in the business of raising all of us to God's level!

- Stan Mitchell

Two people were sitting on a park bench discussing what had made them failures. The first said, "I am a failure because I didn't take anybody's advice." The second said, "I am a failure because I took everybody's advice." Among the greatest mistakes a man can make are these: (1) Never listen to anyone, and (2) Accept what others say without investigation and thinking for one's self!

In religious matters, God expects us to listen (Romans 10:17), but He also expects us to think for ourselves. The Bereans were commended because, after Paul preached to them, "They received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily whether those things were so" (Acts 17:11). In other words, they "checked up" on the apostle Paul! The message is obvious: Don't accept anything religiously just because someone says it is so, but check for yourselves whether or not it is "true to the Book."

- David Roper

- House to House Heart to Heart -

It is no good to try to stop knowledge from going forward. Ignorance is never better than knowledge.
Enrico Fermi, US (Italian-born) physicist (1901 - 1954)

News & Notes

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY: Each Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.

HOME VISITS: Our Elders and Bro. Rico will be making visits **this month** to delinquent members' homes to encourage them to return.

PANTRY: Peanut Butter.

SICK & SHUT-IN: At Home: Tim Martin (covid), Jim Hadley, Mike West, Barbara DeLong, Claudette Miller, Cheryl Renfro Walker. **Fox, Pepperberry Suites, Chester:** David McCoy. **Weston, WV:** Rick & Sharon Beck, 807 Camden Ave., Weston, WV 26452.

Time for Bible Class

Tim Smith (Deceased)

When it is time for Bible Class, are you happy? Are you present? Do you have your lesson prepared? Are you on time? I hope your answer is "yes" to the above questions. I mean, think about it: God's people are assembled studying His Word and encouraging one another to grow in grace and the knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Where better could you be? What more important thing could you be doing?

Many have asked through the years if Bible Class is necessary. I usually tell them to picture the Judgment, and they are standing before Jesus and explaining to Him what more important thing they had to do than to assemble with His people to study His Word. Serious thinkers will readily get the point.

Please, set the right example, do the right thing, bear the right fruit, exert the right influence—be in Bible Class, be on time, and have your lesson prepared each time, every time, all the time.

(via *Beacon*, Bellview Church of Christ, Pensacola, FL)

Looking unto Jesus

Hebrews 12:1-2

Look to Jesus for life (John 14:6).
Look to Jesus for aid (Hebrews 2:18).
Look to Jesus for love (2 Corinthians 5:14).
Look to Jesus for peace (John 14:27; Acts 10:36).
Look to Jesus for guidance (John 12:48).
Look to Jesus for strength (Philippians 4:13).
Look to Jesus for freedom (John 8:32).

Other Things to Do

When it is time to worship God and to occupy my pew,
Will I assemble with the saints or find other things to do?
When God needs my service to Him and wants me to help a few,
Will I do what needs to be done or find other things to do?
When I sit down to rest awhile with quiet reading in view
Will I read the Word of God or find other things to do?
When I stand before the throne and God renders what is due
Will He grant me mercy or will He find other things to do?

- Author Unknown -