



## MISSIONARY or MISSION FIELD?

### ■ A STUDY OF PROVERBS 17:22 by Dr. John D. DeBrine ■

Abraham Lincoln's favorite hymn gives a clue of how to be a missionary and not a mission field or, in other words, how to be assured of a positive witness!

**If you are too weak to journey up  
the mountain steep and high,  
You can stand within the valley  
as the multitude goes by.  
You can chart a happy measure  
as they slowly pass along  
Tho' they may forget the singer,  
they will not forget the song!**

Proverbs 17:22 demonstrates how to live this way: "A cheerful heart is good medicine, but a crushed spirit dries up the bones."

### INTRODUCTION

Proverbs 17:22 is one of those texts to remind us of the impact of Divine viewpoint when placed in the mind. There is a clue here for parents. If you work with youth at any age there are two steps that

must be followed and these steps are according to Deuteronomy 6:6-9.

1. Divine viewpoint must be memorized by parents - verse 6 "These commandments that I give you today are to be upon your hearts." You can't teach what you do not know!

2. Divine viewpoint must be taught directly by parents - verse 7-9 "Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up." The Christian school can play a significant role but it cannot replace Deuteronomy 6:6-9; therefore, don't use the Christian school as a 'baby sitter'. Study Proverbs 4:11.

Our text (Proverbs 17:22) suggests how to fulfill Deuteronomy 6:6-9 - i.e., let youth see divine viewpoint in action! Now read Proverbs 4:11 again.

What prevents our youth from seeing this in us? Often it is either a very negative or very critical attitude. Our text is a reminder to diagnose and prescribe for this problem because highly negative or highly critical people are

unhappy. Cutting words or a gloomy attitude merely reflect an inward struggle; therefore, deal with them on the basis of the problem. You don't treat them symptomatically - this will fail. Go after the problem because basically they are unhappy.

### PRODUCING HAPPY PEOPLE (Prov. 17:22 People)

Consider a seven-fold prescription!!

1. **Salvation** brings joy - Habakkuk 3:18 "I will rejoice in the Lord. I will **joy** in the God of my salvation."

2. **The Saviour's Word** brings joy - John 15:11, "I have told you this so that my **joy** may be in you and that your **joy** may be complete."

3. **Answered prayer** brings joy - John 16:24, "Until now you have not asked for anything in My name. Ask and you will receive, and your **joy** will be complete."

I remember being in a home in Fort Lauderdale. The father was a doctor and he led family devotions before dessert. The study was John 16:24 so he asked his family to introduce an impossible situation. His son responded with, "It's impossible to imagine that our neighbors would come to our Bible study on Tuesday nights." They made that request a prayer project. When the neighbor - after several weeks of prayer - came to the study, you can imagine there was great joy! That is John 16:24. Why not ask the people on your street to let you know what they would like you to pray for as it relates to them. Don't be surprised when I Peter 3:15 happens! "But in your hearts set apart Christ as **Lord**" *Continued on Next Page*

### From a Songtime listener in Maine...

"On what other single program can one be taught by the likes of Steve Brown, Jimmy DeYoung, Ravi Zacharias, and Dr. DeBrine? Where else can we hear life application sermons, expository verse-by-verse teaching, theology, and prophecy teaching on one program? What other programming offers music ranging from traditional hymns to the Brooklyn Tabernacle Choir to popular Christian music? Where else can we learn about the authors and circumstances surrounding the writing of our favorite hymns? And what other ministry offers such a wide variety of ways to put God's gifts to us back to His service - both here in this country and abroad?"

Songtime USA is certainly not better than other Christian radio programs but we are "different". We are not afraid to give the microphone to many people and we utilize an unpredictable format where you won't always hear the same person twenty minutes into the program. The summer months are always difficult so respond today and mark your gift **SOS** (Support Our Summer). Ask for the best exposition I've ever heard of Phil. 3:10 by Dr. J. Sidlow Baxter.

*Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have. But do this with gentleness and respect.*"

4. **Active Faith** brings joy. Romans 15:13, "May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit."

Check out two dynamic texts - Romans 10:17 tells you how to develop an active faith and I John 5:4 gives you a text to see if you have done this. If you have...there is victory over pleasure, position and possessions (I John 2:16 states these represent "worldliness").

5. **The fruit of the spirit** brings joy. Galatians 5:22,23 "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things

there is no law." Galatians is the reminder that we need to ask two things:

- 1- Do we have the Holy Spirit?
- 2- Does the Holy Spirit have all of us?

6. **Winning people to Christ** brings joy. I Thessalonians 2:19,20 "For what is our hope, our joy or the crown in which we will glory in the presence of our Lord Jesus when He comes? Is it not you? Indeed, you are our glory and joy."

Incidentally, I've never known a Biblical soul-winner to be unhappy. In the first place, they don't have time to be because they are fulfilling II Timothy 2:2. Reaching people through the meetings on weekends and personally working with non-Christians on week days completely fills any void at my stage in life. I don't need to be entertained on my way to heaven and I love the quote of Joe Bayley: "Jesus Christ didn't commit the Gospel to an advertising agency; He

commissioned disciples. And He didn't command them to put up signs and pass out tracts; He said that they would be His witnesses."

7. **Trial** brings joy. James 1:2,5 "Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance. If any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to him."

One of the reasons trial brings joy is due to the fact that God offers a solution via James 1:5 and God also uses trial to make you a convincing believer. Study I Peter 1:7

**APPLICATION**

Someone gave me a door mat which says... "All of our guests make us happy — some by coming — some by going."

There are seven things you can do today that will make you joyful and thus be a person who refreshes others. People will be glad to see you come because you will be living out divine viewpoint in your life! After all, one of the marks of being in the will of God is that you are not only joyful but you refresh those around you. "So that by God's will I may come to you with joy and together with you be refreshed."

Now deal with the theme — are you a missionary or are you the mission field?

**A PATRIOTIC "HYMNSTORY"**

■ *Bill Dagle* ■

Each year at this time our minds turn to parades, American flags, fireworks and the singing of patriotic songs. We take the time to remember the shot that was heard around the world from the Lexington Green - to revisit Old Iron Sides at Boston and to remember the oceanside tea party that started it all. As the fife and drum set the beat for these annual pilgrimages and as we reminisce in song, might I once again remind you where it all began — Cape Cod.

From the Pilgrims first landing place at Plymouth Rock to the Pacific Coast of California, Cape Cod has played an important role in America's history. For example, there is Katharine Lee Bates born in Falmouth, Massachusetts, Cape Cod on August 12, 1859. From her pen would come a song that has touched the hearts of Americans for these last ninety plus years.

The year was 1893. The place was Wellesley College. The assignment was to teach summer school in Colorado and the person was English teacher Miss Bates. The trek to Colorado would provide many sights to stimulate Katharine's creative mind. The stop at Chicago to visit the Columbian Exposition of the World's Fair provided "Alabaster Cities Gleam". While further down the rail, she passed great fields of grain and fruited plains until in the distance the purple mountain majesties of Colorado would appear. By horse and wagon, she would ascend 14,000 feet above sea level til finally from atop Pike's Peak, she got her opening line of "O beautiful for spacious skies". She writes, "It was there as I was looking out over the sea-like expanse of fertile country spreading away so far under the ample skies that the opening lines of the text formed themselves in my mind." Later that evening in the Antlers Hotel in Colorado Springs, she completed her poem that vividly described the America she loved.

It is interesting to note that this patriotic song maintains a hymn-like quality as each stanza is rounded off with the earnest prayer that God will always help our land to attain its real destiny. While the second stanza reminds us of our noble heritage, the Pilgrims and their descendents journeys across the wilderness to America's western borders, proves once again that truly, Cape Cod is the home of America and is proud to have given our country the author of "America the Beautiful".

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# TRUE CHRISTIANITY

■ *Pastor Steve Butts - Millersville Bible Church* ■

**D**o you profess to be a Christian? According to Webster's New World Dictionary, a Christian, among other things, is "a person professing belief in Jesus as the Christ, or in the religion based on the teachings of Jesus." Since a Barna study recently concluded that 85% of Americans believe in the divinity of Jesus Christ, it would indicate that a large percentage of Americans are Christians. If this is the case, why do so many Americans reject the morality required by Jesus Christ? Or, as Jesus himself questioned, "Why do you call me, 'Lord, Lord' and do not do what I say?" (Luke 6:46).

During New Testament times those who confessed the Lordship of Jesus were baptized and considered to be Christians. Such a confession assumed the intention of being a fully devoted follower of Jesus Christ. True

Christians are those who intentionally seek to be fully devoted followers of Jesus. Such devotion was required by Jesus when he commissioned his disciples to go and make more disciples. Jesus specifically ordered them to teach new disciples to "obey everything I have commanded you" (Matthew 28:20). Obedience to Jesus Christ is a non-negotiable part of being a Christian.

Since making disciples involves teaching obedience to all Jesus commanded, it must include an element of accountability. "If we have not taught obedience" writes Bill Hull, "and encouraged it through accountability we have not disciplined." Hull defined accountability as "helping people keep their commitments to God." Christian leaders must hold people accountable to God's standards. All who are involved

in disciple making need to ask if they are providing healthy accountability for those being disciplined. Jesus said, "If you love me you will keep my commandments" (John 14:15). He also said, "If you hold on to my teaching, you are really my disciples" (John 8:31).

The apostle Paul informed us that, "God's solid foundation stands firm, sealed with this inscription: 'The Lord knows those who are his' and 'Everyone who confesses the name of the Lord must turn away from wickedness'" (II Tim. 2:19). Jesus warned, "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven" (Matthew 7:21). The person who professes to be a Christian and yet does not obey Jesus Christ, turn away from wickedness, and do the Father's will should question whether his or her profession is genuine. A faith without action is dead (see James 2:14-24).

Perhaps the Christian church has not adequately taught the importance of obeying Jesus Christ as Lord. Have Christian leaders allowed people to think that obedience is an optional part of being a Christian? I fear that many have decreased the requirements in order to increase the attendance. The end result, however, is a harvest of self-deceived people — a group Jesus said would be "many" in number at the last judgment. Is it possible that many people who profess to be Christians are deceiving themselves? A true Christian will want to obey Jesus. Although all Christians disobey at times and struggle against sin, an intentional pattern of obedience is evidence of genuine Christian conversion. The person who chooses to live in disobedience to Jesus Christ should not consider himself a Christian.

## Summer Speaking Schedule

**Sunday, July 19 - Exeter Chapel** 765 Ten Rod Rd. Exeter, RI  
"Hymn Histories" with Bill Dagle at 6 pm  
**Monday, July 20 - WARV Radio 20th Anniversary Cruise**  
from Warren, RI. Dr. John will be speaking during this 3-hour cruise. For more information call WARV at 401-737-0700.

*(Dr. John will not be taking any other preaching engagements during the month of July)*

**Sunday, August 2 - Brooklyn Tabernacle** 290 Flatbush Avenue  
in Brooklyn, NY with John DeBrine at 6 pm  
**Living Word Community Chapel** Route 113  
Allentown Rd in Franconia, PA  
"The Billy Sunday Story" with Bill Dagle at 6 pm

**Sunday, August 9 - Hawthorne Gospel Church** 2000 Route 208  
in Hawthorne, NJ with John DeBrine  
8:15 am & 11:15 am services

**August 15 & 16 - Milford Park Bible Camp Meeting**  
6451 Chestnut St. in Zionsville, PA for a Saturday meeting at 7 pm and Sunday meeting at 7 pm.  
Dr. John will be speaking at a local church on Sunday morning.

**September 4-7 - Maranatha Bible Conference** with Dr. John  
4759 Lake Harbor Muskegon, Michigan.

# Questions & Answers

Dr. Bob Burrelli

**Q:** Is judging in the church such a bad thing?

**A:** This is an interesting question and, I trust, was not as frequently asked in the early stages of the church as it is today, which goes to show you how far the church has come in the wrong direction. Many in today's church believe that judging is downright unchristian, those who judge are nothing but troublemakers in the church, and we should all put on a spirit of love and accept everyone. It may sound good, but it usually translates into ignoring the sinful behavior of people in the church.

I shudder whenever I hear that teaching espoused, especially as a father of three little ones who are full of all kinds of erroneous thinking. Erroneous thinking breeds erroneous behavior. If I were to overlook that, I would be raising tyrants. As the sage of old says, "Train up a child in the way he desires to go (i.e., according to his own sinful inclinations), and when he is old he will not depart from it" (Proverbs 22:6). Sadly, few heed this warning. Judging others is important both to the sanctification of the erring brother and to the purity of the local church. The question we should be asking ourselves regarding judging others is not "should I," but "how should I."

Jesus answers this question in Matthew 7. He lays down the wrong way and right way to judge people. We need to understand, that it is always wrong to judge the motives of others. We cannot see the heart of an individual; that's God's job. What we are to judge, in fact

commanded to judge, are the actions of those in the church. Jesus begins by saying that when we judge the actions of others, we are to do it without hypocrisy and with the best interest of the one we are judging in mind (verse 3). Hypocritical judging means exposing the sin in another's life without first taking care of the sin in your own life. "Why do you look at the speck of sawdust (sin) in your brother's eye and pay no attention to the plank (sin) in your eye?" This is clearly the wrong way to judge the actions of our brothers and sisters in Christ.

The right way, obviously, is to "first take the plank out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck from your brother's eye". Please observe that Jesus has no problem with Christians judging one another, only that they do it unhypocritically. Later, Paul would write, "Brothers, if someone is caught in a sin, you who are spiritual should restore him gently." Notice that this is a command, not an option. Elsewhere (1 Corinthians 11:31), Paul calls us to judge even ourselves.

I think that we can say with confidence that judging is a good thing. In fact, it is perhaps one of the most loving things that we can do for a wayward believer, if it is done according to Jesus's instructions. It keeps us straight so that we can help others keep themselves straight.

## We Love to Get Letters!

*"Just to say thank you so much for being such an inspiration on the bus trip to Pennsylvania. My husband and I enjoyed ourselves so much. It was so nice to be with Christian brothers and sisters. We all bonded together as if we had known you all before. We've been on tours before, but Songtime's tour was the best. The entire trip was so well organized. Thanks again!"*

*(Connecticut listeners)*

*"It was a sad day for me when we lost the FM outlet for WCHR but worse than that was losing your program. I am taping WFIL but would like to sign up for the Audio Magazine. I wasn't very diligent in sending support but I'm enclosing this check to help you now."*

*(Lawrenceville, NJ listener)*

*"Dave and Dave are doing a great job on the Songtime Audio Magazine. I just love it and want to encourage you to keep up the good work. I'm enclosing a small gift — wish that it could be more!"*

*(Massachusetts listener)*



### JOIN US IN BERMUDA...

September 17-25 in Willowbank. Dr. John will bring the morning Bible studies each day and then you'll have the rest of the time to enjoy, food, fellowship, shopping, sight-seeing, swimming etc. We're planning a deep-sea fishing trip for the men (and women if they want to go) - shopping, lunch and tea for the ladies. Call the office for a registration & brochure.

## IN THE SONGTIME BOOKSTORE

- Jerusalem** by John Starnes - featuring such favorites as "The Lighthouse" - "The Holy City" - "Win the Lost" and "Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus". **Cassettes available only - Cost \$12.50**
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