



## WHAT YOU CAN DO WITH THE BIBLE

### ■ *A Study by Dr. John DeBrine* ■

Dr. Basil Jackson said this on Songtime USA: “The way the Devil is destroying the church today is by introducing psychology and pseudo-psychology first in the Seminary – then in the church. Conviction has been replaced by therapy and sin has been replaced by anxiety.”

This statement is very significant when you realize that it comes from one of the leading psychiatrists in the country. By the way, Dr. Jackson is featured on Songtime USA every Friday with answers to questions you send to Songtime. What is behind this rather shocking statement from Dr. Jackson? Consider the following analysis and perhaps we’ll have some answers.

#### **I. FOR THE BIBLE TO BE A REALITY, WE MUST KNOW THAT THE HOLY SPIRIT IS RESIDENT.**

*“We have not received the spirit of the world but the Spirit who is from God that we may understand what God has freely given us.”* I Corinthians 2:12

Do you need a test to see if I Corinthians 2:12 is happening to you? Keep in mind that the Bible is filled with “test texts” to help us make sure that we understand Divine Viewpoint. For example, study Ephesians 4:32 to determine if you really understand the work of Christ on the Cross. *“Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.”* This says that if we cannot forgive, there is every reason to wonder if we have been forgiven. That is a very direct test. Now let me give you a “test” text for I Corinthians 2:12. Psalm 119:18 *“Open my eyes that I may see wonderful things in your law.”* It is very simple. Psalm 119:18 just does

not work if the Holy Spirit is not resident. The late Dr. Harry Ironside of Moody Church in Chicago was asked to teach the Song of Solomon at the Institute. He admitted to himself that he didn’t fully grasp the meaning of the book so the man who saw the four thousand seats at Moody Church filled on a regular basis, used the prayer of Psalm 119:18. It was reported that this was one of the most effective courses of the semester. That experience would have been impossible without I Corinthians 2:12.

I’ll never forget being a part of “The Gospel Messengers” at Houghton College. We were singing at a Wesleyan Methodist Church in Batavia, New York. We finished our program and took our seats expecting their pastor to give his announced sermon. Instead he said, “God has laid it on my heart to have John DeBrine give the evening message!” All I could remember was the text that I had read for my devotions the night before. I said, “God, make it real now.” God did and God blessed with many responding to the invitation. I was never so desperate but that incident could not have happened without the reality of I Corinthians 2:12.

#### **II. FOR THE BIBLE TO BE A REALITY, WE MUST APPLY IT.**

*“How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to your word. I seek you with all my heart: do not let me stray from your commands. I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.”* - Psalm 119:9-11

Dr. Lehman Strauss preached his last message on great Planet Earth June 1, 1997. That week he went to be with the Lord. (That message is available on cassette through Songtime – ask for it). When you hear it you’ll hear Dr. Strauss remind us that the first use of a word in the Bible often gives the clearest meaning to the word. He took the word “worship” as an example and took us to Genesis 22 which is the account of Abraham preparing to sacrifice his son.

*TAKE HEED WHAT YOU HEAR. WITH THE MEASURE YOU USE, IT WILL BE MEASURED TO YOU; AND TO YOU WHO HEAR, MORE WILL BE GIVEN*  
- MARK 4:24

He made reference to verse 5 where Abraham says, *“Go yonder and worship”*. Worship then, is obedience to God – without doubting or questioning God. In other words, if you really were involved in worship last Sunday you did more than listen to a sermon – you applied it.

#### **III. FOR THE WORD OF GOD TO BE A REALITY, WE MUST REALIZE ITS IMPORTANCE.**

I was greatly challenged with the help of Dr. Chester McCalley when he gave me the literal Hebrew translation of Psalm 138:2. Let me tell you what it says and then note the Hebrew translation. It says that God puts His Name and His Word on an equal basis. Here it is: *“For you exalted above all of ..... Name of you ..... word of you.”* That tells me that if I want to know God, I must know His

*Continued on Next Page*

Word and if I don't know His Word, I don't know God.

### APPLICATION

What we have studied is the reason Songtime USA begins every board meeting with a Bible study and prayer. We must have Psalm 32:8 happen or we'll make mistakes. Instead of the Annual Corporation meeting with a Bible study, this Fall we are having a mini-weekend Bible Conference which will include the Corporation meeting. Susan Cymbala with the Brooklyn Tabernacle will be with us along with an ensemble from the Tabernacle. Steve Brown will teach the Bible on Friday night, Saturday morning and at the banquet Saturday evening. On Sunday morning we are challenging people to bring unbelievers so we can have an evangelistic emphasis. There will be a public invitation that asks the audience to fulfill Acts 16:31. If you would like to join us, all meetings are open to the public but banquet reservations for Saturday evening must be made no later than September 6. Choice of beef or fish and the cost would be \$35 per person. Call: 508-362-7070 today.

Of course, we must have boards and committees but these can never be substituted for the Word of God and prayer. To highlight this let me share a recent "favorite" of mine:

### CREATION VIA COMMITTEE

If God were process-oriented, the Book of Genesis would read something like this:

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. The earth was without form and void: so God created a small committee. God carefully balanced the committee vis-à-vis race, sex, ethnic origin, and economic status in order to interface pluralism with the holistic concept of self-determination, according to adjudicatory guidelines. Even God was impressed and so ended the first day.

And God said, "Let the committee draw up a mission statement" and behold the committee decided to prioritize and strategize. And God called the process "empowerment". And God thought it sounded pretty good. And evening and morning were the third day.

And God said, "Let there be a retreat in

which the committee can envision functional organization and engage in planning objectives." The committee considered adjustment of priorities and consequential alternatives to program directions and God saw that this was good. And God thought that it was even worth all the coffee and donuts He had to supply. And so ended the fourth day.

And God said, "Let the committee be implemented, consistent with long-range planning and strategy". The committee considered guidelines and linkages and structural activities, and alternative and implemental models. And God said, "This is very democratic." And so would have ended the fifth day, except for the unintentional renewal of the debate about the differences between goals and objectives.

On the sixth day, the committee agreed

on criteria for adjudicatory assessment and evaluation. This wasn't the agenda God had planned. He wasn't able to attend, however, because He had to take the afternoon off to create day and night and heaven and earth and seas and planets and trees and seasons and years and sun and moon and birds and fish and animals and human beings.

On the seventh day, God rested and the committee submitted its recommendations. It turned out that the recommended forms for things were nearly identical to the way God had already created them; so the committee passed a resolution commending God for implementing them according to guidelines. There was, however, some opinion expressed quietly that humans should have been created in the committee's image. And God caused a deep sleep to fall on the committee.

-Joyful Newsletter April '92

## A "HYMNSTORY"

■ *Bill Dagle* ■

The year was 1913. Homer Rodeheaver makes his way to the platform in the tabernacle at Columbus, Ohio. The crowd of five thousand anticipates the excitement yet to come. To begin this evening of meeting with God, Homer has chosen a new song written because of a car accident.

Ina Ogdon had plans to speak that summer of 1912 at Chautauqua, a Methodist camp in western New York state. Just days before her departure her father was injured in an automobile accident. Choosing to care for her father the potential of 10,000 became an audience of one. Through her despair and disappointment she was finally able to make up her mind that no matter what, she would learn to brighten the corner where God had placed her.

Homer stands in the Billy Sunday tabernacle at Ohio with trombone in hand. At the first note the dust rises from the sawdust floor as thousands jump to their feet. Then the air fills with the musical sounds and words of Ina Ogdon's song from a poem written that fateful summer of 1912.

For the next 22 years, "Brighten the Corner" would open every Billy Sunday meeting and become the theme song for the Sunday campaigns.

Mrs. Ogdon thought to reach thousands that summer but instead she had reached millions, for more than 25 million copies of her song have been printed. Billy and Homer gave the song to over 100 million in the 200 tabernacles they built. And even now I share the song as I do the "Billy Sunday Story" in churches. This proves once again, "God's ways aren't always our ways but they are the best ways".

*Do not wait until some deed of greatness you may do,  
Do not wait to shed your light afar;  
To the many duties ever near you now be true,  
Brighten the corner where you are.*

# The Dangers of Internet Pornography

Pastor Steve Butts - MILLERSVILLE BIBLE CHURCH

Like so many others, he sat at his computer hour after hour absorbed in high-tech porn. He did not have to sneak into, an adult bookstore, X-rated movie house or sleazy strip joint. He did not have to buy a magazine, hide it in a bag, and find a secluded place to indulge his lust. He had private access to as much pornography as he desired.

Did he ever think that his private moments of lustful indulgence would become public knowledge? Was he willing to gamble with the potential loss of the socially prestigious position that he held? Evidently, he felt there was not sufficient risk to deter his electronic liaisons. Sadly, this man from high places is not alone in his habit.

America is the world's leader in the production and distribution of pornography - and the "electronic playground" has become a major participant. Profits from cyber-porn were over \$1 billion in 1998. The author of *Kids On-line; Protecting Your Children in Cyberspace* noted that the Internet has 72,000 explicitly pornographic sites. One website has over 115,000 members who pay \$24.95 each month to access pornography.

The pornographers resort to devious means to cause users to inadvertently arrive at their websites. They evidently believe that the lure will be irresistible and in many cases they are right. It all seems so easy and harmless. People can log on in the privacy of home or office and have immediate access to hard-core porn. If they want to save images or videos, they simply download them for future viewing.

This takes us back to the story of the man referred to earlier. Until last November he was the dean at Harvard Divinity School. When he stepped down from this

position, he said it was for "personal and professional reasons." The resignation of this 52 year old Lutheran theologian doubtlessly occasioned a great deal of suspicion. He had been dean for 13 years and appeared to have many more ahead of him. What did he mean by personal and professional reasons?

Late in the spring of 1999 the facts surrounding his departure became public. The dean had requested the assistance of school computer technicians for help with his computer. He asked them to install a larger hard drive and transfer the content from the old drive to the new. In the process, the technicians discovered thousands of pornographic images stored in the dean's university owned computer. Perhaps the dean did not realize that school rules forbade the use of its computers for material that is "inappropriate, obscene, bigoted, or abusive." If he did know, he miscalculated the risk. The dean was *asked* to resign.

How did he get hooked on Internet porn? Did the dean inadvertently discover one of these pornographic sites and find the temptation irresistible? He is the only one who knows the answer to this question. What we can be certain about, however, is that the dean allowed a completely natural human desire to become a perverted obsession. Unfortunately, the dean is not alone in his liaisons with what one has called the "electronic version of the other woman." An increasing number of people, primarily men, admit to being obsessed with cyber-porn. It is a habit that has threatened and, in many cases, destroyed marriages. Divorce lawyers are now dealing with cases of marital breakdown directly related to this problem.

We have not yet witnessed the long term effects of this recent wave in the pornography industry. Many mistakenly think that viewing Internet pornography is harmless, but the reputations, careers and

marriages that have been destroyed by illicit passion warn us about the damaging consequences of this deceitfully private habit.

In his Sermon on the Mount, Jesus offered a radical solution to sexual temptation when he said, "If your right eye causes you to sin, gouge it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose one part of your body than for your whole body to be thrown into hell." (Matthew 5:29). Although most agree that Jesus was not literally advocating the removal of one's eye, he is at least requiring that we deal decisively with the source of temptation. Some form of self punishment of the offending part of one's body must be part of the application. In the case of Internet pornography, this could mean that the person who cannot exercise self control should cut off all access to the Web.

Perhaps the most disturbing part of Jesus teaching for modern readers is the motivation he suggested for such action. Jesus did not recommend sexual purity for the protection of one's reputation, career, or marriage. He spoke of horrible eternal consequences awaiting the person who places the members of his body at the disposal of sinful desire. Being "thrown into hell is a picture of coming under the wrath of God's judgment. This is what should ultimately motivate us toward sexual purity (For similar emphasis see: Ephesians 5:5-6; Colossians 3:5-6; 1 Thessalonians 4:3-6; Hebrews 13:4).

## Songtime Opportunities ...

Songtime is getting its own satellite channel. This will make Songtime available nationwide (something not possible at present) and we will also make time available to smaller radio ministries that couldn't possibly pay for the high costs of this project. We have a \$30,000 goal for this project.

How would you like to save money on long distance phone calls and help Songtime? With LifeLine you pay only 10 cents a minute (+ a \$4.95 monthly service fee) for state to state calls any time of day. Call 1-888-SONGUSA or (508) 362-7070 to find out more about this great opportunity.

## SONGTIME TOURS

Oberammergau, Germany for the Passion Play performed every 10 years. June 4-12, 2000. Only 8 seats left, please make reservations by October 1, 1999.

Plans are in the works for a return trip to Willowbank, Bermuda in October 2000.

For tour information call Marge (508) 362-7070

## WE WELCOME ...

Rosalie Tavilla to the Songtime staff. No stranger to our ministry, we're delighted that she is here to assist in the management of the office. Rosalie's life has been filled with serving many ministries, including Word of Life and Rumney Bible Conference

# ■ Questions & Answers ■

Dr. Bob Burrelli - GRACE BIBLE CHURCH

**Q:** How do I witness to people who have no knowledge of the Bible whatsoever?

**A:** If Songtime followed most radio stations in putting out a list of the top 10 most popular songs in 1999, but called it the top 10 most practical questions asked in 1999, this question may head the list. Now that says a lot about present-day America. In fact, it is an indictment; most Americans know less and could care less about God's truth. Gone are the days when our country ran according to Judeo-Christian principles, the Bible was part of the school curriculum, and everyone knew who God was, even if in name only. Atheists denied the same god-the God of the Bible.

The scene has changed drastically, so much so that you and I cannot simply give the gospel elements and expect people to understand them the way we mean them. Without a biblical foundation, there is not a

common or universally accepted understanding of "repentance", "sin", "condemnation", "spiritual", "God", "Holy Spirit", and other important words.

Now I am not denying that the gospel message has no power to change lives, certainly not. It is the only thing that can change lives. But to do so, it must be communicated clearly and in a way that people understand what is being said. The gospel is not a magical formula that, when uttered, transforms an unbeliever who as no idea what it means. The gospel message is divine, yes, but not magical. If we deliver it to someone biblically illiterate, we must begin by laying a biblical context, a frame of reference. If that were not true, then the Bible itself would have consisted only of the gospel. But it doesn't. It comes with context, sixty-six books of context that give the gospel meaning.

What I am saying is that, at the very

least, we should provide a context in which they will understand the elements of the gospel. This was Paul's strategy with biblically illiterate peoples of the world (see Acts 14 and Acts 17). Before anything else, he introduces the nature of God: who He is, what He has done, what He expects, and so on. When people begin to see who God really is, they can't help but see themselves in comparison. It is at this point that we introduce the necessity of redemption and God's provision.

The next time you witness to an unbeliever who thinks Moses is Charlton Heston, begin with something that he does know, that is clear to him, that he has been denying and suppressing all his life-there is a God who is eternal, divine, and demands to be worshiped (see Romans 1:19-22).

## Meet Dr. John at ...

- September 4-6: Maranatha Bible Conference in Muskegon, Michigan.  
September 10-12: Songtime Corporation Weekend Bible Conference at the Four Points Hotel, Rt. 132, Hyannis, MA. Steve Brown will be the Bible teacher on Friday 7PM, Saturday 9 AM and Sunday for the 10:00 AM service. Susan Cymbala with an ensemble from the Brooklyn Tabernacle choir, will provide the special music. The public is invited to attend the meetings.  
September 26 Upper Room Christian Fellowship, Warren, MA for their 10:30 AM service.  
October 2 & 3 Missionary Alliance Church, 198 Crescent Blvd., Bennington, VT Saturday 7 PM, 11 AM Sunday service.  
October 8 & 9 *Countdown to Armageddon and After Prophecy Conference* at Tremont Temple with Jimmy DeYoung, Erwin Lutzer etc. and Dr. John speaking Friday 8 PM on "The Judgment Seat of Christ".

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## In the Songtime Bookstore...

**The Road to Armageddon** - Dr. Charles Swindoll gives practical advice for perilous times – Dr. John Walvoord writes on the Rapture – the next event on God's calendar and Dr. Dwight Pentecost deals with the Antichrist: Who is the next world leader? Three other outstanding teachers of the word also deal with subjects: the Tribulation, Babylon and the Second Coming.

**Cost for this hard cover book - \$20.00 (incl P&H)**

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