



THE BROOKSVILLE BULLETIN

Brooksville church of Christ
604 W. Fort Dade Avenue, Brooksville, FL

March 13, 2022

Consider The Cost First To Lessen The Debt Later (Kent Heaton)

The burden of debt robs happiness and joy from life. Our world has been propelled into a dark period of hardship, sadness, and depression in our economic crisis. As many have spent their time enjoying whatever the heart finds to do, the day of reckoning brings about the reality of life unbridled. Free spending of temporary wealth has plunged untold families into financial nightmares.

Thousands have lost their homes, jobs and joy of life. Insurmountable debts are brought about by not considering the cost and throwing aside caution and wisdom to enjoy the passing pleasures of life. Reality is the wake-up call that there must be a reaction to every action. But we do not speak of the spending of money – we speak of the spending of lives marred by sin.



Paul reminds us that “whatever a man sows, this he will also reap” (Galatians 6:7). When we spend our lives enjoying whatever the heart finds to do, there will be a day when the harvest will be gathered. It seems joyful for the moment but then reality settles in and the debt of sin overwhelms the soul.

Eve thought that a little taste of the forbidden fruit would be enjoyable and she also gave some to her husband (Genesis 3:6). But then their eyes were opened and it was too late. They were ashamed and fearful of what they had done.

The nature of immorality is that it looks appetizing and appealing and fun; and we must know there is a hunger and desire that is pleasant and enjoyable. In those moments when Adam and Eve tasted the fruit, there was enjoyment and pleasure. It was the aftertaste that changed their minds.

Immorality is a tempting fruit of desire that brings fulfillment but for a moment. The aftertaste is a



life of guilt, sadness, despair and ruin for the loss of innocence, purity and holiness before God.

Wisdom suggests that a clear picture of sin must be understood in the debt that will become a burden hard to bear. The crafty woman of Proverbs 7 entices the young man with all the finery of her day and the alluring speech enticing his heart to lay with her.

“With her many persuasions she entices him; with her flattering lips she seduces him. Suddenly he follows her as an ox goes to the slaughter, or as one in fetters to the discipline of a fool, until an arrow pierces through his liver; As a bird hastens to the snare, so he does not know that it will cost him his life. Now therefore, my sons, listen to me and pay attention to the words of my mouth. Do not let your heart turn aside to her ways; do not stray into her paths. For many are the victims she has cast down, and numerous are all her slain. Her house is the way to Sheol, descending to the chambers of death” (Proverbs 7:21-27).

The cost is the slaughter of one's life and what a high price is

paid. If wisdom had been the guiding path and the cost would have been counted, the young man would not have passed near her street (Proverbs 7:6-20).

The proverb writer goes on to say that “the fear of the Lord is to hate evil” (Proverbs 8:13). Hating evil is staying far away from it and counting the cost of coming near evil. “But examine everything carefully; hold fast to that which is good; abstain from every form of evil” (1 Thessalonians 5:21-22).

Consider the debt of sin before paying the ultimate price. “Can a man take fire in his bosom and his clothes not be burned? Or can a man walk on hot coals and his feet not be scorched” (Proverbs 6:27-28).

Will He Find Faith? (James P. Miller)

In Luke 18:8 the Lord asks the question, “Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?” Christ was disturbed over the conditions that he found in the days of the New Testament. The same conditions are with us in 1973. That there has been a great “cooling off” in religion, no one can deny. It is getting harder, by the day, to convert the lost to Christ.

There are many reasons for this indifference. One of the foremost is the taking of the wife

and mother out of the home and putting her to work. She is no longer there to have all things ready for the family to attend services and to show the right interest in spiritual affairs.

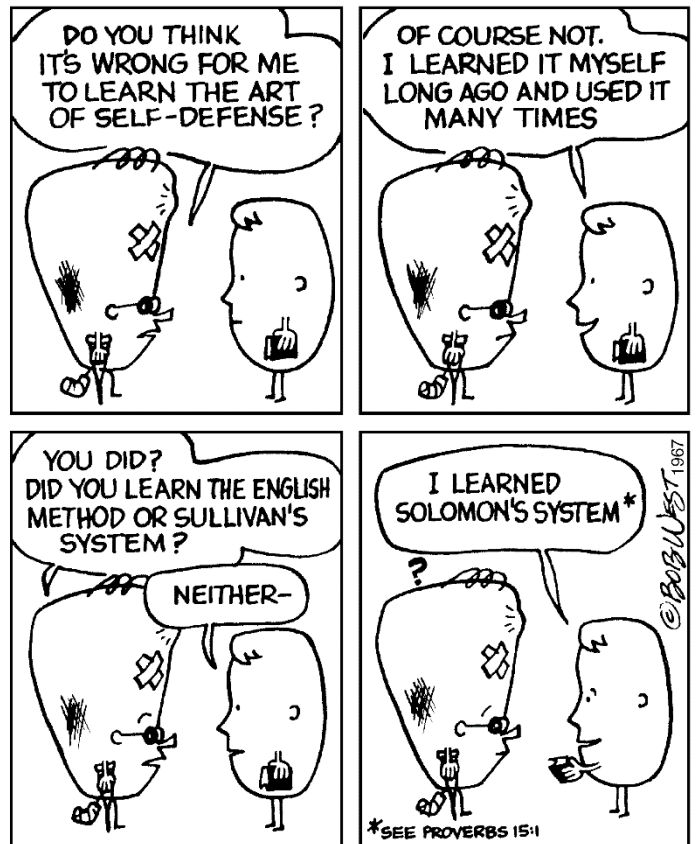
Other factors also enter, such as materialism, the influence of "science falsely so-called" in the classroom, etc. The facts are with us, however, and if we are to survive as a people, we will have to find the answers.

The first, perhaps, is a BETTER HOME ENVIRONMENT. We must do a better job of instilling in our children the same spiritual values that were placed in us. We take it for granted, many times, that the young ones in our homes will have the same faith we have, only to wake up too late and realize that it is not true.

The church only receives what the home gives it and regardless of the effectiveness of the church program it can, as a rule, be no better than the home. The rules are simple: pray each time the family sits down together; set a time aside each day to study the Bible stories

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A Better Way



around mother's knee instead of T.V. The rules are simple, but rare is the home that follows them.

Secondly, WE MUST BE SURE THAT THE CHURCH HAS A PROGRAM FOR ALL. From the oldest member to the two-year-old attending class for the first time, the congregation should have the best teachers in the classroom, the best material to study and an arrangement favorable for such study.

Compared to the public schools, less than two weeks is spent in study. This is compared to one year in the schools of the nation. Just think, we are expected to do in 52 hours what the public school does in nine months.

WE MUST SET THE RIGHT EXAMPLE. In our lives, in teaching others, in showing the proper interest in all that is right, our children are not looking for perfection but for consistency. They

Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

have a right to expect the proper example. When mistakes are made, they should be acknowledged instead of covered up.

Conversation in the home should be spiritual in nature and uplift the church of the Lord. Children ought to hear the right things and ought to hear them in the right spirit. Comments, if they are critical, are misunderstood by children and they tend to magnify them. It is little wonder that our boys do not make elders and preachers when all they hear is derogatory remarks against those who have these positions.

Yes, the Lord asks, "Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, what will he find on the earth?" Unless we are able to teach our children to "remember their Creator in the days of their youth," there will be no church tomorrow. It is up to all of us; may God help us as we know he will. [*Searching the Scriptures, Vol. 1, January 1973.*]



Dr. Arthur Glasser quotes an anonymous rabbi who has said, "A time is coming for all men when they will be either born again, or wish they had never been born at all."

From the book *Sports Shorts*, Jacques Plante, a former stand-out goalie for the Montreal Canadians, said of his career: "How would you like it in your job if every time you make a small mistake, a red light went on over your desk and fifteen thousand people stood up and yelled at you?" Try to relax; things could be worse at your office.

PRAY WITHOUT CEASING – START TODAY

Brooksville Church of Christ

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Times of Services

Sunday Bible Class for all ages (10:00am)

Sunday Worship all Welcome (11:00am & 6:00pm)

Wednesday Bible Class for all ages (7:00pm)

Supporting the GOSPEL in other places:

☞ *Jamey Hinds, Hollywood, Florida; Roy Fenner, Panama City, Florida*

☞ *Zeke Flores, Columbus, Texas; Philip North, Branson, Missouri*

☞ *The saints in Nicaragua*

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