



Toxic People

Do you remember Mr. Yuk? Mr. Yuk was a sickly looking creature. He looked like he had just swallowed something nasty. His eyes were closed and his tongue was sticking out of a mouth posed in a huge frown. And he was green! He wasn't pretty, but he wasn't designed to be.

Lye used to be a popular household cleaner, but many children died from eating it. Lye looked like and was packaged like sugar. There were no labels on the packages to warn children of the danger. Finally, in 1927, Congress passed a law forcing manufacturers of toxic substances to label their products as hazardous, which was fine if you could read, but what about children who were not old enough to read? Mr. Yuk was created to teach these children that some things are bad and dangerous, even if they appear in attractive packages. Parents used Mr. Yuk stickers to warn children not to taste what was inside. Little children easily identified Mr. Yuk's message.

It is a shame the government doesn't make us put Mr. Yuk stickers on "toxic people." We probably couldn't do it because of political correctness, but the Bible warns us to look out for toxic people and avoid them. The Book of Proverbs warns us to stay away from people who encourage us to do evil: the prostitute, the sluggard, the

atheist, the sensualist, the secularist, the covetous, the ignorant, and so forth. Though we have an obligation to teach such people "the good way," we must be careful that their evil ways do not rub off on us. The Apostles Paul wrote that "Evil companions corrupt good morals" (1 Corinthians 15:33 ASV).

The Bible gives us examples of toxic people. Cain was a toxic person because he could not control his jealousy (Genesis 4). God marked him and sent him away from Seth's people.



The grumblers and complainers in the wilderness were toxic people (cf. 1 Corinthians 10). God let them die in the wilderness. The Canaanites were toxic people because of their false religion. God allowed the Israelites to drive them from the Promised Land.

The Pharisees were toxic people because they made rules where none existed and the Sadducees were toxic because they said there were no rules. (God sent His Son to die so

that we can know there are rules—God's rules—and only these rules apply.) Ananias and Sapphira were toxic people because they were liars (Acts 5). God put them out of the Church the hard way.

The man committing incest in 1 Corinthians 5 was a toxic person. Paul told the church to withdraw from him. When they did, he repented (2 Corinthians 7) and was no longer toxic. Paul wrote that false teachers are toxic people who would arise even from within the church (1 Timothy 4; 2 Timothy 4). He also wrote that if we will learn what God's word teaches, they can't harm us (2 Timothy 2:14-3:17).

John writes that Christians who refuse to confess their sins are toxic people (1 John 1:6-10). James writes that if we confess our sins one to another and pray for one another, we can be healed (James 5:16), i.e. not toxic.

It is not the government's responsibility to point out every toxic person to us. It is our responsibility as Christians to know how to identify, avoid, and then warn others of people who would destroy our souls along with their own (Romans 16:17-18). The church does not have to — neither should she — tolerate toxic people.

Fred Riley, Jr.

Paul's Good Method

Luke recorded Paul's entrance into Thessalonica "where there was a synagogue of the Jews" (Acts 17:1). Luke also provides us an insight into Paul's methodology: "And Paul, as his manner was, went in and reasoned with them out of the scriptures, opening and alleging, that Christ must needs have suffered, and risen again from the dead; and that this Jesus, whom I preach unto you, is Christ" (Acts 17:2-3 KJV). There are four helpful things for us to notice in these two verses.

First, Luke said of Paul, "as his manner was? This indicates that Paul did his work according to a thought-out plan. He was not haphazard in his approach to evangelism. There was a synagogue in Thessalonica and the apostle took advantage of it. The Jews there were reasonable prospects for the gospel of Christ (Romans 1:16 says that the gospel was "to the Jew first"), so "he went in unto them? If we want to reach people for Christ today we must be like Paul and think about what we are going to do ahead of time.

Second, the text says that he "reasoned with them out of the scriptures." There are two

necessarily interlocking things here: scripture and reason. One cannot learn what the scriptures teach without the use of reason and reason left on its own without the guidance of scripture will denigrate into infidelity.

So Paul used them both. His method was not new. Isaiah appealed to God's rebellious children when he said "Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool" (Isaiah 1:18). Our appeal to people today must be based on this Divinely sanctioned combination of reason and revelation.

Third, notice that the first word of Acts 17:3 in the KAJV is "opening." This word can be rendered "explaining? Paul explained the texts from what we know as the Old Testament which supported the truth that Jesus is the Christ the Son of the Living God. Remember that Paul had been uniquely prepared for his apostleship. He had intimate knowledge of Greek and Roman philosophical

tradition (as is seen later in Acts 17 and in the letter to the Colossians), knowledge that he may have gained from his life in Tarsus. He also sat at the feet of Gamaliel and thus had been taught by one of the best minds in Judaism (Acts 22:3). He had studied his Bible, its context and culture as well as his own culture. He was equipped to explain the scriptures to his hearers. Our lesson here is to prepare ourselves so that we can be the best teachers of the text that we possibly can. God expects it of us and therefore we can do it (2 Timothy 2:15).

Fourth, we see that Paul was alleging two important things. The word "allege" can be rendered "prove? One was that Christ "must needs have suffered: This was an important consideration for first century Jews. They had come to believe that the Messiah would be a powerful military and political figure who would rid Judah of Roman domination. They rejected the picture of the Suffering Servant of Isaiah 53. I would not be a bit surprised to learn that Paul used that very passage

to show the sacrificial nature of God's Christ.

The second thing Paul proved was Jesus of Nazareth is indeed this Christ. We are not told which scriptures he used but one can surmise that he would refer the many Old Testament passages that fit his birth, life, death and resurrection. He would also have the opportunity to appeal to history. There was ample proof that Jesus was raised from the dead. There had been witnesses and some of them skeptics (e.g., Thomas). Many people were still available to verify the truth that He arose (see 1 Corinthians 15:1-8) including Paul himself.

This passage tells us a very great deal about religion, both the truth and the counterfeit. Counterfeit religion asks people to believe based on their feelings and even in spite of reason. The truth relies on good planning, good preparation, reason, explanation, proof, and most of all the scriptures. It is the truth, after all, that makes men free (John 8:32).

Bible Studies for the week of September 11th, 2005

Due to the advanced publishing of the bulletin, these studies were not available at print time.

Weary In Well-Doing?

When the sailing is smooth and there is not a ripple to overcome, we can drift along with the tide...but as the going gets a little rougher and our shoulder is needed at the wheel, or our strength is needed to man the oars, then we are sometimes prone to want to abandon ship.

There are many today who "believe for a while, but in time of temptation, fall away" (Luke 8:13). Like the Israelites, we have a burning tendency to forget God (Jeremiah 2:32). There are many who once attended classes but who do not now; who once attended Sunday nights but just seem not to get around to it now; who once were steadfast and would not miss a Lord's day at worship, but now they miss more than they are present. This ought not to be. It is true we may sometimes face discouragement, but remember, "A winner never quits, and

quitters never win!"

Churches are never harmed as much from without as from within. When members faint and falter and grow weary in well-doing, and withdraw their support physically and financially, then they congregation lacks the cooperation needed to carry on a full scale work.

Babe Ruth struck out 1,333 times! Yet, he is known as the "Home Run King." Cy young pitched 511 victories, yet he lost almost as many games as he won! Abraham Lincoln ran for the legislature in Illinois and was badly beaten. He failed at business. He entered politics again and was defeated on four occasions. One bad failure after another...but in the face of all this, he became one of the nation's greatest men! These men had the quality of STICK-ABILITY!

"Be ye steadfast, unmovable, always

abounding in the work of the Lord; forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord" (1 Corinthians 15:58).

"And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not." (Galatians 6:9).

(From the Eastside Edifier, July 3, 2003).



Weary, But Faithful!

Kevin Cauley

When weary we get, consider we ought,
The way of the path Jesus trod.

To Calvary's crest, upon it to rest,
A cross with a Man nailed upon.

Though weary was He, yet faithful indeed,
Enduring the pain, shame, and thirst.

And when it was o'er, our sins he had bore,
'Til soldier with spear His heart burst.

Then laying to rest, his body encased,
By tomb hewen new out of rock.

He laid in the grave, until the third day,
When death's ironclad safe He unlocked.

With triumph He rose, defeating his foes,
And blazing the trail for man's soul,

To live up on high and never to die,
Forever securing man's hope.

Records for the week of September 4th, 2005

Sunday Bible Class	NA at print time.
Sunday AM Worship.....	NA at print time.
Sunday PM Worship.....	NA at print time.
Wednesday Night Study.....	NA at print time.
Contribution	NA at print time.
Budget.....	\$1662.00



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Praises, Prayers, and Proclamations

Announcements

- We are thankful to God for this new Lord's Day. It is the day we honor His Son and the Love that He has shown us through Him. Let us worship in spirit and in truth!
- Let's remember in prayer all of those who have suffered from the recent hurricane.
- Kevin is in Brazil this week and, Lord willing, will be returning this coming Friday morning. Please continue to pray for his safe travels.
- Please check announcements for additional prayer requests.
- Next Sunday afternoon will be our monthly potluck. Please make your plans to attend.
- There will be no Bible study at the nursing home this coming Thursday. We will resume next Thursday, September 22nd.
- Ladies Bible class will resume on Wednesday, September 21st at 10:30 AM. We will be studying 1 Timothy.
- Be sure to check the outreach board in the copy room for outreach assignments.
- Our pantry item is: Can Fruit Cocktail.

God's Salvation Plan

1. **Hear** the Gospel—Romans 10:17
2. **Believe** on the Lord & His Word—Mark 16:16; John 8:24
3. **Repent** of your sins—Luke 13:3,5; Acts 17:30
4. **Confess** Christ—Matthew 10:32,33; Luke 12:8; Romans 10:9
5. **Be Baptized** for the remission of sins—Acts 2:38; Mark 16:16; Galatians 3:27
6. Live a **faithful**, dedicated life—Revelation 2:10; 2 Peter 1:5-10

Welcome!

Visit our web site: <http://www.the-churchofchrist.com>

Family Times for Worship and Study

Sunday Morning Bible Class:	9:30 AM
Sunday Morning Worship:	10:20 AM
Sunday Evening Worship:	6:00 PM
Ladies Bible Class:	10:30 AM
Wed. Evening Bible Class:	7:00 PM

Serving Each Other

	Sept. 11th, 2005	Sept. 18th, 2005
Sunday Morning		
Songs:	Ken Smith	Bill Fort
Preaching:	Bob Deffenbaugh	Kevin Cauley
Opening Prayer:	George Eddings	Bob Moore
Scripture Reading:	Brent Moore	Perry Foster
Lord's Table	Dan Hand	Glenn Quigley
(assist)	Leon Duncan	Michael Morrell
	Matthew Morrell	
	Brandon Foster	Jerry Roller
Closing Prayer	John Gass	Bruce Foster
Sunday Evening		
Songs:	Bruce Foster	Glenn Williams
Preaching:	Bob Deffenbaugh	Kevin Cauley
Opening Prayer:	Clay Bozarth	Bruce Foster
Scripture Reading:	Glenn Williams	Dale Pinkley
Lord's Table	Leon Duncan	Ray Duncan
	Jack Gentry	Jerry Roller
Closing Prayer	Ervin Hand	Michael Morrell
Wednesday		
Songs:	Glenn Williams	Kevin Cauley
Opening Prayer:	Dan Hand	John Gass
Invitation:	Ken Smith	Leon Duncan
Closing Prayer:	Dale Pinkley	Ken Smith

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