

"Samples"

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P.M.
a bird crowd

Scripture Lesson:-

Text:- "So that ye were examples to all that believe in Macedonia and Achaia." (I Thess: 1:7)

Introduction:- The sales of a commodity on the markets of the world, depend in a large measure upon the kind of samples of that commodity, which are made available to the public. Good samples will increase the sales. In like manner, poor samples will decrease the sales, even the bankrupt the company. High quality in both materials and workmanship is essential to any satisfactory program of merchandising.

If there is inferiority in either of these, the discovery will be made by the buying public and due penalty will follow the decrease in demand for the article. What is true in regard to good samples being essential to the sale of material commodities, is even more so relative to the good sample in the realm of divine grace.

Paul commends the Thessalonian Christians for being good examples. He speaks of their exemplary lives in these words: "So that ye were examples to all that believe in Macedonia and Achaia." Paul highly commends these Christians for being examples in brotherly love. He says: "But as touching brotherly love ye need not that I write unto you: for ye yourselves are taught of God to love one another. As indeed ye do it toward all the brethren which are in all Macedonia." (I Thess. 4:9&10)

Paul was a good example in the manner of life that he lived, which is reflected in these testimonies. "And ye know what manner of men we were among you for your sakes" (I Thess. I: 5). Paul's life was such an example that those who followed in his steps, were led to Christ. He describes the Thessalonian Christians as following the Lord, when they followed him. He says: "And ye became followers of

us, and of the Lord, having received the word in much affliction, with the joy of the Holy Ghost." (I Thess 1: 6). Again the apostle witnesses to the holy life that he lived in Christ, in these words, "we are witnesses, and God also, how holily and justly and unblameably we behaved ourselves among you that believe." (I Thess. 2: 10)

I.

What do members of your family think of your profession in Christ? Do they have confidence that you are living what you profess? Holy shibboleths of profession are as sounding brass and tinkling cymbals, when they are not backed by a holy life. When heavy tensions and sore trials overtake you, do you break with a murmuring and impatient attitude? Does pride and selfishness hold sway, such a sway in your life that your friends and neighbors readily realize that you are not what you profess to be in Christ? *What kind of a sample are you*

What kind of spiritual heritage will you leave your children, when your earthly labors are finished? If they do not have confidence that you are living what you profess now, the spiritual heritage which you leave them will be disappointing. Blessed indeed, are the parents who leave behind the heritage of a clean and holy life for their children. Such godly examples, frequently turn children to the Lord, after their parents have gone to their reward.

II.

A holy life is an open book, readable by all who pass by. Comparatively few people of the world are reading their Bible. But vast multitudes of the world are daily reading the lives of professing Christians. The world could be evangelized within a comparatively short period of time, if all professing Christians would begin living what they profess. Holy living is the surest, the strongest rebuke for unbelief and ungodliness. A holy life is a compelling testimony to the power of the gospel.

This testimony has frequently prevailed in leading people to a knowledge of Christ, when all other testimonies have failed. The sinner is frequently unarmed of his excuses for not accepting Christ when he stands in the presence of a holy life.

Such a life is an undeniable fact. There has been much debate within the realm of historical criticism concerning the integrity of the Bible. A holy life is an unquestionable fact of the present and does not belong to any of the historical uncertainties of the past. When the righteous robes of a Christian are stained with unholy deeds, that Christian becomes a reproach to his Lord, and a stumbling block to sinners.

Do you do anything, indulge in anything that would cause a non-Christian to say "He does the same things I do & I'm not a Christian" (Is that a good sample?)

Jesus said to his disciples: "Ye are the light of the world". These words are not contradictory with his statement: "I am the light of the world". As the moon reflects the light of the sun, bringing beauty and glory to the earth at night, so the disciples of Jesus in their daily lives, are to reflect the light and glory of Christ, amid the darkness of a sinful world. Jesus sends his disciples into the world that they may glorify and magnify him. He spoke these remarkable words in his final prayer concerning his disciples: "As thou hast sent me into the world, even so have I sent them into the world".

Conclusion: - The standard for the Christian as set forth in the Bible, is that he may in all things glorify Christ, whether in eating or sleeping, in work or in recreation, that in all things Christ may be pre-eminent in his life. We are to practice the living presence of Christ in all that we do. We should refrain from anything in which we cannot enjoy his presence and blessing.

Paul's purpose to make his life an example in all things unto the glory of God, is set forth in his first epistle to the Corinthians. He says: "Whether therefore ye eat or drink, or whatever ye do, do all to the glory of God." (1 Cor. 10:31) Likewise

That's a good yard stick to measure your conduct when

... is a question as to what you can do.

in his epistle to the Philippians, Paul gives this exhortation concerning being a good example. He says: "Do all things without murmurings and disputings; that ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world; holding forth the word of life." (Philippians 2:14-16.)

*Is your life an example
Are you a sample to the world
what a christian should be?*

*Do folks say, when I become a
christian I want to be one like he or she
is. why not be a christian that's an asset instead
of liability to church. Its possible you know thru
help of the Lord, which are you?*

... the world, even so have I sent them into the world.

... the living presence of Christ in all that we do.

... all to the glory of God.