

## **Better Be Careful**

When you are feeling too strong, better be careful.

Paul said, "Wherefore, let him that thinketh he standeth take heed, lest he fall" (1 Cor. 10:12).

And when you think everyone loves and respects you, better be careful.

The Lord said, "Woe unto you, when all men shall speak well of you! for so did their fathers to the false prophets" (Lk , 6: 26).

When you think you are better than someone else because you are faithfully discharging your duties, better be careful.

The Lord said, "So likewise, when ye have done all those things ... say, We are unprofitable servants; we have done that which was our duty to do" (Lk , 17:10).

- by **Dee Bowman**

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## **Once for All**

*"Beloved, while I was very diligent to write to you concerning our common salvation, I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints..."* (Jude 3).

The original Greek word *hapax* translated "once for all" means that it is "of perpetual validity not requiring repetition" (Vine, pg. 819). The faith delivered to the saints is of such quality that it is complete ("perfect" James 1:25) and will not tolerate addition or alteration. This means that any "revelations" since the faith was given "once for all" have not come from God but from the inventive minds of men. It further means that those who claim the latter day revelations and those who believe them are condemned. The warning is clearly given, *"Whoever transgresses (goes ahead) and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son"* (II John 9).

We must recognize and respect the significance of this word translated "once for all."

- by **Billy Norris**

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## **Sober Minded in Every Sense of the Term**

Researchers at the University of California San Diego reviewed 14 years of accident data and found that "A blood alcohol concentration of just 0.01 percent was associated with risky behaviors such as speeding." Lead researcher, David P. Phillips, Ph.D. says, "For a 180 pound person, that translates to one glass of wine or a bottle of beer."

Even some people of the world are beginning to admit that for the person who doesn't want to make bad decisions that lead to "risky behaviors," even one drink is too much. As Christians, we have been taught by God's grace that, *"denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly in the present age"* (Titus 1:11-12). We are committed to making decisions that are pleasing to God in all things and we therefore reject anything that clouds thinking or encourages risky behavior.

The world wants us to be wise drivers. After even one drink we are not fit to drive home. Impaired thinking will not get us to an eternal home of glory either. Be wise. *"Wine is a mocker, strong drink is a brawler, and whoever is led astray by it is not wise"* (Proverbs 20:1).

- by **David Diestelkamp**

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## **The Importance of Bible Study**

- a. The sacred writings are able to give us the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith in Christ Jesus (2 Tim. 3:15).
- b. The Scriptures make us complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work (2 Tim. 3:16-17).
- c. Faith comes by hearing the word of God (Rom. 10:17).
- d. The gospel is God's power to salvation (Rom. 1:16).
- e. Treasuring God's word in our hearts helps us not sin against Him (Ps. 119:11).
- f. The things written are for our instruction, that through perseverance and the encouragement of

- the Scriptures we might have hope (Rom. 15:4).
- g. Not knowing the Scriptures results in erroneous thinking (Mt. 22:29).
  - h. The word of God's grace is able to build us up and give us an inheritance (Acts 20:32).
  - i. The word of God sanctifies us, sets us apart to Him (Jn.17:17).
  - j. The truth contained in the Bible makes us free (Jn. 8:32).
  - k. The word of God lives and abides forever (1 Pet. 1:22-25).
  - l. The words of Jesus will judge us at the last day (Jn. 12:48).

**- by Frank Himmel**

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## ***Demonstrating Our Love***

Here's a challenge for you: Try to explain what love is without stating what it does. Consider that for a minute, and you will surely agree that it is nearly impossible.

Husbands and wives, think back to when you were courting your mate. Feelings of love were on your mind continually. Agree? But what do you remember most about those days? Almost certainly you will recall quiet walks in the park, "love letters" in the mail, a bouquet of flowers, etc. You were "in love", but what you remember is what you did, and what was done for you.

So it is with love for God. It can only be explained or identified by the action it produces. You say that you love God, but love (as we have just observed) demands that you prove it by the way you act. Jesus put it in unmistakable terms, when He said: "If you love me, keep my commandments" ( John 14: 15). The apostle John stated this truth succinctly when he noted: "For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments . . ." (1 John 5:3).

Consider this: husbands/wives would you have "caught" your mate if you had done as little for her/him as you sometimes do for God? In connection with this, maybe we ought to reflect more seriously about the simple question that Jesus asked: "What do ye more than others?" (Matthew 5:47). Think!

**- by Greg Gwin**