

"Therefore, whatever you want
men to do to you, do also to
them, for this is the Law and
the Prophets."

Matthew 7:12 NKJV



Some Things You Will Never Regret (II)

Tearing up a letter written in anger. Unfortunately, in my past twenty-five-plus years of preaching Christ, I have felt the need to write a few letters and to make a phone call or two to "set the record straight." Having been falsely accused, I was sure I was doing the right thing. The calls always messed up more than they cleared up; well, maybe not always, but usually. I took the advice of some older men concerning letter writing and let them lie there, allowing myself to cool off before mailing them. Guess what? I still have some of them (most, in fact) somewhere in my files. They were never sent. There are times when one must speak out in defense of self and actions as it relates to divine truth. But usually if one's reputation is what it should be, those who really matter will not believe untruths told about him; and those who will would not listen to one's defense anyway, regardless of how factual the material presented nor how sweetly written or stated. With those few rare exceptions I have already stated, tear up that letter written in haste and anger and do not make that phone call.

Standing on your biblical principles. R. L. Whiteside said, "Happy is the person whose conduct does not raise a question in the minds of others as to where he stands. Some people never have to answer the question, 'Will you have a drink with me?' There is a reason. Some young people are never subjected to certain temptations to which others are frequently subjected, and there is a reason. When your conduct raises a question as to where you stand or as to what you might do, the devil will make you answer that question. ...

Marietta church of Christ

8150 Driggers St.
Jacksonville, FL 32220

Times of Worship

Sunday:

9 am - Bible Classes / 10 am - Worship / 5 pm - Worship

Wednesday:

7 pm - Bible Study/Worship

Evangelist: Devin Barber

www.mariettacoc.com

Every person who raises a question mark in the mind of people has to defend himself or surrender.”

One much greater than "Bob" Whiteside said, "I beseech you brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God" (Romans 12:1-2). The girl who can say "no" to the boy's sexual advances and wait until marriage where such is honorable (Hebrews 13:8) will never have occasion to regret that decision. She will be happy she can tell her own children in later years when they say, "Mom, what did you and Dad do?" "We did what I am saying you should do and we have never been sorry for one moment." The young man who can say "no" to the gang who calls him a "wimp" because he refuses to go along with some of the things "macho" men are supposed to do, will have the problem of peer pressure to be sure, but will feel so much better about himself in later years that he will never regret the ridicule of his peers when he becomes an adult whose life reflects Christ to the world. Sometimes the only way to refrain from being pulled into activities that we ought not, whether young or old, is to stay out of the company of those whom we know would want us to participate in ungodly activities. Paul would say, "What fellowship hath light with darkness?" (2 Corinthians 6:14-7:1). "And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness but rather reprove them" (Ephesians 5:11). We should not feel of more worth than anyone else, but we are to realize that "evil company corrupts good habits" (1 Corinthians 15:33, NKJV). Young and old alike should be strong enough to say to the invitation for a drink, a joint, a dirty joke, a filthy movie, illicit actions with those of the same or opposite sex, etc. - "No, thank you, I'm a Christian."

Being kind to others. Am I getting to be an old fogey and seeing only the negative, or is it true that "the milk of human kindness" is not as evident as it used to be in our society? It ought to be second nature to practice the "golden rule" in daily life both towards brethren and those of the world. Is it? I don't think it is; not as much as it should be.

The "golden rule" is so superior to any other rule for life that nothing else begins to compare with it. This rule doesn't say to return good to those who have been good to you. It doesn't say simply not to do anything bad to another. If you analyze it carefully it says something like this: think of something good you would like to have done (or said) to you, and do that for others. It is a way of thinking which always has the other person's good in mind and goes about living out that philosophy. Remember Grandma saying to you, "Son, if you can't think of something good to say about someone, then don't say anything at all!?" Are you the kind of person that makes others who have been in your presence for awhile feel good about themselves and others and see the future as full of promise? Or are folks about ready to give up on life and the human race when you take your leave? Kindness is so precious and we each desire it of others. Why don't we work more diligently at being kind, ladies and gentlemen? You will never regret it if you do. So, open that door. Stand up when the old person or a lady enters the room. Say, "How nice you look" to another. Don't forget "please," "thank you," and "pardon me.”

You will never regret becoming a Christian. When one realizes his lost condition before a holy God and the price God had to pay for his redemption and then responds in humble obedience to the gospel of God's grace, thereby being forgiven and placed in a relationship with the saved of all the ages, there is reason for great rejoicing! (Romans 3:23; 5:6-9; Acts 20:24; 8:39; 2:22,38,41, 47; Hebrews 12:22,28). To be granted the right by Jesus Christ to approach the majestic throne of God's grace in worship, and in petition and thanksgiving, what a privilege! (Hebrews 4:14-16; Ephesians 3:20-21). Being a child of the king is something no one could ever regret. But look at the other side of the matter. What of those who obey not the gospel and those who turn back to serving Satan? They will have eternity to regret their mistakes (2 Thessalonians 1:6-10; Matthew 25:31-46; 2 Peter 2:20-22).

Why not resolve, if you haven't done so, to obey the Lord and reap by grace the benefits of His blood - and continue to live so that you will never have any regrets, here or hereafter?

Written by; Kenneth E. Thomas / Christianity Magazine (Oct. 1985)