

## *God Sent Not His Son... To Condemn the World*

*David Halbrook*

The end of our articles often invite your questions *and comments*, and we are glad when anyone accepts that invitation. A recent response to a recent article cited John 3:17 and then stated “Do you imagine that we are approved when we condemn others???”

John 3:17 helps us to understand why Jesus came to earth--*God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved*. Jesus did not have to come to earth so that sinners would be lost---sinners were lost before, during, and after Jesus’ time on earth. BUT, if sinners could be saved, Jesus had to come.

A part of saving sinners is helping them to identify sin and urging them to leave it. Jesus often identified the sin men had to leave in order to be saved by Him (Matthew 7:21; 11:30-34; 15:7-14). When we (or you) identify common, modern sin, we are seeking to imitate Jesus by helping people to identify the sin they must leave or avoid in order to follow Jesus. We are responsible to practice what Jesus taught—do we? Read your Bible and read these articles or visit our assemblies to find out (and send us your comments!).

Editor’s Note: The comment we received, which is referenced in this article, was sent by an anonymous reader, so sadly, we cannot directly follow-up with them. Their comment reminds us to help people find our articles in *Arkansas Weekly* because some people will read them even if they don’t like what they read. This week, find a way to help someone learn a little bit more about God’s word.

### Simple opportunities to teach the lost and assist each other.

Pray for: Ed & Janice White, The Ledgerwoods, Novela Puckett, Noleka Hopper, Samuel Southall, others with ongoing trials, and new Christians among us.

Our spring gospel meeting is April 26 – May 1. Be praying and preparing for this work we’ve committed to.

*Join us each Sunday at 10AM (classes), 10:45AM, & 5PM and Wednesday at 7PM.*

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# The Exhorter

Acts 11:23 *Exhorted them all... cleave unto the Lord*  
church of Christ--Quail Valley  
April 12, 2015  
[WWW.QVCOC.COM](http://WWW.QVCOC.COM)

*The Sower*  
*Kyle Campbell*

**“And he spake many things unto them in parables, saying, Behold, a sower went forth to sow.” Matthew 13:3**

In this well-known parable spoken by the sea, the teacher is presented under the figure of a sower — one who sows or plants precious seed. In the course of this parable, Jesus described the different types of soil which the seed was scattered upon. The different types of soil greatly affected the outcome of the seed.

A wise sower will only sow the right kind of seed. Seed will only produce after its own kind, therefore one must exercise judgment. The seed in this parable symbolized the word of God. He said in Luke 8:11, “Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God.” Because of the far-reaching influence of the doctrine he teaches, the wise teacher will teach only the pure word of God. James 1:21 says, “Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls.” There is a lot of doctrine out there which is not pure. It is defiled and will bring death. This is the kind of seed which men must avoid.

The wise sower will sow wherever he finds an open field, or receptive hearts. Christians should always be aware of their opportunities and the opportunity at hand should receive the prime consideration. A soul deserves time now! In all of His work as a teacher, Jesus always used the opportunity immediately before Him. He also exhorted His disciples to do the same in John 4:35: “Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest.”

The wise sower will sow impartially. He does not neglect any soil. The wayside soil, the rocky soil, the thorny soil, and the good soil are all covered. Every kind of hearer should be given an opportunity to receive the word. Many of us have an idea to stick with people in our own race or social class, but Jesus did not want it that way.

The wise sower will sow patiently. In spite of opposition, obstacles, and indifference, he will continue his work. He will not murmur, nor will he ever give up. He sows every step, until the field is covered, until the close of the day. The Lord said in John 9:4, "I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work."

The wise sower will sow hopefully. He has a faith in the seed he sows. He does not expect a harvest as soon as he sows. He knows there must be a waiting period, but he believes that a golden harvest will follow the sowing, just as the day follows the night. Isaiah 55:10-11 says, "For as the rain cometh down, and the snow from heaven, and returneth not thither, but watereth the earth, and maketh it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower, and bread to the eater: So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it." There is no concern on the part of the sower. He knows God will produce (1 Corinthians 3:6).

The wise sower will sow cheerfully. He knows that if he is doing God's work, a rich reward will follow. The sower should bask in the fact that he is doing the will of God. He goes forth with a face that is radiant with expectation!

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### ***You Won't Have Them Long!***

*Jimmy Stevens*

There they were, standing behind me, three young men, all standing over six feet tall and dressed in the fine threads of formal attire for a very special occasion. For two days prior to this moment there had been a bee hive of activity in preparation for our oldest son's wedding. About forty people had converged for the preparation, rehearsal and performance of the upcoming ceremony. A lot of talking, laughing, visiting, instructing, moving, arranging and setting up of candles, flowers and plants kept our minds busy as we rehearsed for the grand occasion. There really wasn't much time to think, just react to instructions.

It was in the silent few minutes before we were to enter the auditorium from a side hall for the real event, that I turned to look at these three young men. These were my

three little boys who had filled my life with so much joy and happiness. So many memories of our time together in life flooded over me.

What flashed across my mind as I looked at them, were the many times we went fishing at "Mr. Victor's" pond. I would stop the pickup, and we would all jump out and scatter like quail, each with his own fishing rod and tackle box and each heading to his favorite spot. We cheered each other across the pond as we caught fish, asking how big they were and what lure was used. We hunted deer, played games, made trips and mowed yards together. We played two on two basketball, built deer stands, ran trotlines and camped out together. We worked together on construction projects, gardening and car and lawnmower repairs. We worshipped together and I baptized all three of them. We studied the Bible together, beginning with Bible story books when they were small. As they grew we worked on sermon outlines in my office in the evenings. Sometimes I would have one of them sitting in my lap helping him to follow along in his Bible.

With music playing as our cue to enter the auditorium and join the rest of the wedding party, with tears in my eyes, I tell my three little boys I love them and give each one of them a kiss and hug. In just a few minutes the trio of my little boys will be dissolved forever. My wife and I will be giving one up to his bride for the rest of their lives and the others will be taking on responsibilities of manhood. It just seems like we did not have them very long.

Fathers and mothers, the window of time for teaching your children to love the Lord is very narrow. Don't think you can wait until tomorrow to start studying the Bible or do other things with them. Before you know it they will be gone. Solomon wrote, "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it." (Prov 22:6). The word "child" automatically sets a limited time frame within which you can work. You can delve into personal projects and time consuming interests **after** they are grown and gone from home, but now God has assigned you the project of properly training up your children to be God fearing Christians. (Eph 6:4). The principle of "redeeming the time" (Eph 5:16, Col 4:5), also applies to raising your children. It teaches that you **must** take advantage of the time you know you have, and the time you have with your children is only while they are children. Be involved with them. Play with them. Do things with them, but most of all, love them, and do God's will with them. **You won't have them long!**

*Editor's Note:* Jimmy Stevens will be with us to preach during our upcoming gospel meeting. Let us each do our share to prepare and participate in our upcoming work together.