

“THOSE WHO HAPPENED TO BE THERE”

David Halbrook

At Athens, Paul “reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and with the Gentile worshippers, and in the marketplace daily with those who happened to be there” (Acts 17:17).

I have been told that “in the old days” it was common for groups of men to gather in certain spots around town to discuss politics and religion. There are few such places and people interested today. Are you?

We hope that our booth at the Independence County Fair will be a place like that next week. We plan to have someone at our booth morning, afternoon, and evening for you “who happen to be there.” We invite you to come by to let us meet you and to bring a Bible question, bring comments about these articles (positive or negative), take a Bible quiz, sign up for a Bible study through the mail, and more. Everything we offer is free, but you have to seek, find and accept the offer (just like God’s salvation, Matt. 7:7; Mk. 16:16).

When Paul publicly spoke truth, some were interested and others laughed (Acts 17:32-34). By imitating Paul, we hope to meet you. **[Our Summer Bible Series is July 23-27, 7-8:15PM; ages 3 – adult. Theme: Bible Roads]**

-- *Editor’s Note:* If you haven’t signed up to work at our booth at the fair, consider this as a way to redeem the time of your life that remains (Eph. 5:16). This is a unique opportunity. Pray for, prepare for, and participate in this and our upcoming Summer Bible Series!

We assemble each Sunday at 10AM, 10:45AM, 5PM & Wednesday at 7PM

Church of Christ—Quail Valley
4104 E. Harrison St.
Batesville, AR 72501
Office- (870) 793-6700

Evangelists:
David Halbrook 569-4491
Lenoard Westbrook 612-8409

The Exhorter

Acts 11:23 *Exhorted them all... cleave unto the Lord*

Church of Christ--Quail Valley

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MORE BABY-BOOMERS DIVORCING

Joe R. Price

The divorce rate among US adults age 50 and older doubled between 1990-2009 (“The Gray Divorce Revolution: Rising Divorce among Middle-aged and Older Adults, 1990-2009”, National Center for Family & Marriage Research, Bowling Green State University). This has happened when the overall divorce rate in America has declined slightly. God ordained marriage to last a lifetime (He hates divorce), yet many do not hold these convictions (Matt. 19:4-6; Mal. 2:14).

Why are baby-boomers divorcing more often as they get older? For one, they are more comfortable with divorce; their generation welcomed it with open arms. Plus, statistics show second marriages are more likely to end in divorce. So, the cycle repeats itself.

Blogger Casey Dowd asked Karen Stewart, a divorce and relationship expert, why many marriages that have lasted 20, 30+ years are ending in divorce (FoxBusiness.com). The answers are instructive to those wishing to honor their marriages and help them thrive.

The lack of communication. Stewart said this is by far the most universal reason behind marriage break ups, regardless of the specific catalyst of the divorce. Lesson: work on your communication skills early and often in marriage. Without effective communication every relationship suffers, especially marriage (Jas. 1:19). Communication is inherent in companionship (which marriage is designed to fulfill, Gen. 2:18-24).

Marital infidelity. 50-70% of the time this is the specific reason for ending a marriage. The vow of exclusivity, once broken, is difficult to repair. Protect yourself and your marriage by keeping a pure heart and honorable conduct (Prov. 6:32-35; Heb. 13:4).

Financial flexibility. Baby boomers are more financially capable of divorcing, and

many divorce over money. Add the factors of empty nests, restless mid-life crises and boredom, and trouble is sure to occur. Commitment, love and respect for one's spouse are mandatory for successful marriages (Eph. 5:22-33).

The Spirit's Sword, Vol. XV, No. 19, 7-1-12 (www.bibleanswer.com/ssword.htm)

WHY GOD'S PEOPLE MUST BE PEOPLE OF THE BOOK

Ron Halbrook (*Broadmoor Beacon* 2-10-75)

God is. The Bible is the Word of God. Also, Jesus Christ is the Son of God and Savior of the world. The God who IS, is unknown to us except through Christ. "No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him" (Jn. 1:18)

When Paul preached on Mars' Hill (Athens, Greece), he said, "For as I passed by, and beheld your devotions, I found an altar with this inscription, 'TO THE UNKNOWN GOD.'" Whom therefore ye ignorantly worship, him declare I unto you." Paul then declared unto them the true and living God in whom "we live, and move, and have our being" by declaring unto them the gospel of Jesus Christ (Acts 17). Jesus said, "For I have not spoken of myself, but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak. And I know that his commandment is life everlasting: whatsoever I speak therefore, even as the Father said unto me, so I speak" (John 12:49-50).

Upon the pages of the Bible, we find prophecies of the coming Messiah and then the fulfillment by Jesus of Nazareth (read Isaiah 53; Matthew, Mark, Luke, or John). It is impossible for man unaided to know the future; the prophecies show the prophets of the Old Testament were inspired of God. But the same God who provided the prophecies provided the fulfillment, PROVING JESUS IS THE CHRIST. Furthermore, the miracles of Jesus—especially the resurrection from death—proves that Jesus is the Christ (Messiah), the Son of God. "And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name" (John 20:30-31).

God's people must be a PEOPLE OF THE BOOK. That is, the more we learn, love, and obey God's Word, the closer we are to God Himself. Upon the pages of the Bible, Jesus Christ still lives, walks, and talks—REVEALING UNTO US THE FATHER. With many infallible proofs, the Bible proves Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God. No wonder the Bereans were noble in God's sight when they "SEARCHED THE SCRIPTURES DAILY" (Acts 17:11)

FOOLS & FOOLISHNESS

Mark Mayberry (2-12-12, <http://www.ascoc.org/?paged=2>)

In this lesson, let us consider the New Testament teaching on fools and foolishness. Just as there is a proper and improper usage of the word "damn," there is also a proper and improper usage of the word "fool." Avoiding crudity and crassness, let us approach this subject with caution and clarity.

Thomas defines the root adjective *mōros* as a primary word, meaning "dull, stupid, foolish" [3474]. BDAG say it refers to that which is "foolish, stupid," and is used of both persons and of things.

Thomas defines the noun *mōria* as from *mōros* [3474], meaning "foolishness" [3472]. BDAG say it refers to "foolishness, generally of worldly wisdom."

Thomas defines the verb *mōrainō* as from *mōros* [3474], meaning "to be foolish" [3471]. BDAG say it means to "(1) make foolish, show to be foolish; (2) make tasteless, become tasteless, insipid, of salt."

Thomas defines the related noun *mōrologia*, a compound of *mōros* [foolish] and *legō* [to speak], meaning "foolish talking" [3473]. BDAG say this word refers to "foolish/silly talk."

Foolish Actions

We must avoid the foolishness of not laying the proper foundation of obedience (Matt. 7:24-27). We must avoid the foolishness of not fulfilling our duty (Matt 5:13-16; Luke 14:34-35). We must avoid the foolishness of being unprepared for the Lord's return (Matt. 25:1-13).

Foolish Attitudes

We must avoid the foolishness of rejecting the revelation of nature (Rom. 1:18-23). We must avoid the foolishness of rejecting the revelation of Scripture (1 Cor. 2:12-16).

Foolish Words

We must avoid the foolishness of uttering derogatory insults (Matt. 5:21-26; 1 Cor. 4:8-10; cf. James 3:5-12). We must avoid the foolishness of making false oaths (Matt. 23:16-22). We must avoid the foolishness of filthy and silly talk (Eph. 5:3-5). We must avoid the foolishness of engaging in needless controversy (2 Tim. 2:23-26; Titus 3:8-11).

Conclusion

While the gospel message is counted as foolishness by unbelievers, it is actually a demonstration of divine wisdom (1 Cor. 1:18-31). So, do you seek the favor of men or of God (1 Cor. 3:18-23; cf. Gal. 1:10)?