

The Gospel Truth

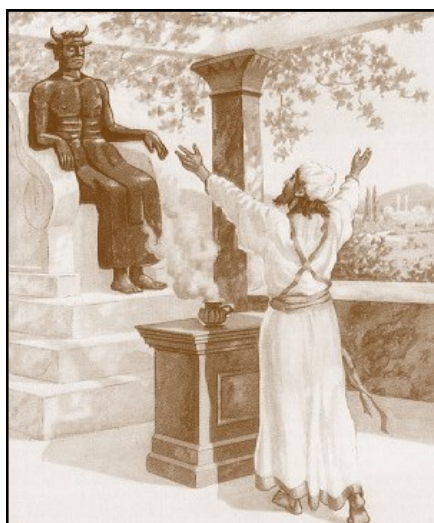
BIBLICAL INSTRUCTION AND ENCOURAGEMENT FOR THE
MISSION FIELD WORLDWIDE.

THE RUIN OF A WISE MAN

“Ask what I shall give thee,” the Lord God said to King Solomon (1 Kings 3:5). Instead of asking for riches, fame, or long life, Solomon asked of the Lord, “Give therefore thy servant an understanding heart to judge thy people, that I may discern between good and bad...” (9). The Lord was pleased at Solomon’s request and gave him wisdom such as never was or will be in the future (12). The fame of Solomon was spread abroad because of his great wisdom and understanding.

Solomon prospered and was blessed because of this divine gift of wisdom. He built a beautiful temple for the worship of the Lord. In spite of all his wisdom, Solomon disobeyed God and loved women of other lands who were idolaters. God had given specific command: “Ye shall not go in to them, neither shall they come in unto you: *for* surely they will turn away your heart after their gods: Solomon clave unto these in love” (1 Kings 11:2).

“For it came to pass, when Solomon was old, *that* his wives turned away his heart after other gods: and his



*Solomon’s wives
turned away his heart
after other gods.*

heart was not perfect with the LORD his God, as *was* the heart of David his father.” How sad to see the ruin of a

wise man such as Solomon. At the time, Solomon most likely believed he was astute in marrying women of other nations as he formed political alliances. He disregarded the instruction of the Lord, being persuaded his heart was fixed on the Lord and that he would never deviate from the way of righteousness.

Solomon did not immediately turn away from God. He was influenced by his pagan wives over a process of time. Envision one of his wives coming and asking for money to build a temple to her pagan God. Hear Solomon responding with, “I don’t believe in your gods, but here are the funds you request.” Later the wife returns and says, “Dear Solomon, love of my life, would you please come to the dedication of the wonderful temple you had built for my god?” After multiple times and interaction with his wives who did not worship the true God, Solomon’s resistance to evil was slowly but surely

(Continued on page 2)

Editorial

Page 3

Bible Study:
The Power of Influence

Page 4

Companion Article:
The Power of Influence

Page 5

Bible Standard on
Movies and TV
Page 7

Q & A: Page 9

Did You Know?

A Word in Season

Page 10

WHAT THE BIBLE Teaches About...

Word of God

2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21; Matt. 24:35

Relationship of Love

Matt. 22:37-40; John 14:21-23; 1 John 4:7-11

Repentance

Acts 3:19; Acts 17:30; 2 Cor. 7:10

New Birth

John 3:3-7; 2 Cor. 5:17; Rom. 6:1-4;

Eph. 2:1, 5-6

Freedom From Sin

1 John 5:18; Matt. 1:21; John 8:11

Infilling of the Holy Spirit

Acts 19:2; Acts 15:8-9; Acts 1:8

Holiness

Luke 1:73-75; Heb. 12:14; 1 Peter 1:15-16;

Titus 2:11-12; Rom. 6:22

Kingdom of God

Luke 17:20-21; Romans 14:17; John 18:36

The Church

Acts 2:47; Eph. 4:4-6; 1 Cor. 12:12-13; Col 1:18

Unity

John 17:20-23; Gal 3:28; Rev. 18:2-4

Ordinances

Matt. 28:19-20; Matt. 26:26-30;

1 Cor. 11:23-27; John 13:14-17

Divine Healing

Luke 4:18; Isaiah 53:4-5; James 5:13-16

Sanctity of Marriage

Matt. 19:5-6; Luke 16:18; Rom. 7:2-3;

1 Cor. 7:10-11

Outward Appearance

1 Tim. 2:9-10; 1 Cor. 11:14-15; Deut. 22:5

End of Time

2 Peter 3:7-12; John 5:28-29; 2 Cor. 5:10;

Matt 25:31-46

Pacifism

Luke 6:27-29; Luke 18:20

Worship

John 4:23-24; Eph. 5:19; 2 Cor. 3:17

Great Commission

Mark 16:15

(Continued from page 1)

worn down. Over many years, his heart was turned away from God until he eventually did evil in the sight of the Lord.

Solomon turned away from God because of the influence of his wives. Let us learn from this tragic story as we reflect on the ruin of this wisest of men. We must be cautious and beware of the influences being exerted on our lives. We will never be so spiritual that we are exempt from evil influences if we willfully subject ourselves to them. With best of intentions, the strongest will become desensitized to evil; and spirituality will decline when holiness is not paramount in the life. Even a rock will get a hole in it after water drips on it for years.

The devil does not care how long it takes to steal your salvation. He will try to wear you down spiritually by the subtle influences that are abounding in the world. People are letting down their spiritual guard and allowing the things of this world to fill their lives. Everything you do, everywhere you go, what you listen to and watch, the people with whom you fellowship, etc. all have great influence on your life. Remember the ruin of Solomon in his old age. Walk carefully and prayerfully and ever beware of the pressures and influences around you.

-mws

THE GOSPEL TRUTH

The Gospel Truth periodical is published in the name of the Lord for all people of all lands in the interest of establishing and encouraging them in the truth of God's Word. This publication teaches and promotes the truths of the Bible that have been established since the time of Christ and the apostles.

The Word of God is the singular, acceptable rule of faith. It teaches salvation and deliverance from sin through the atonement of Jesus Christ; a subsequent infilling of the Holy Spirit to lead, direct and empower; practical holiness in every area of life; and the unity and oneness of God's people. Acceptable service to God is through a personal relationship of love founded in truth.

Editors: Michael & René Smith

SUBSCRIPTION

The Gospel Truth is an electronic publication that is published quarterly as the Lord leads. Visit us online at www.thegospeltruth.us to subscribe to the email notification list and receive current publications. Feel free to send lists of names and email addresses of others who might be interested in receiving this publication to the editor.

CONTACT

The Gospel Truth is printed in various countries for local distribution. This and other missionary efforts from this office are supported by free-will offerings in the name of the Church of God.

The Gospel Truth, 605 Bishops Ct., Nixa, MO 65714 USA
editor@thegospeltruth.org

Editorial



For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world. —Titus 2:11-12

In spite of the fact that sin is abounding on every side, Christ has provided everything that we need to live godly in this present, evil world. In a time of lust and ungodliness, we are called to a life of righteousness. The burden God placed on my heart this quarter is on the subject of ‘Influence.’ The influences of the world are growing stronger as time goes on. I have had older saints testify to me that they feel the pressure of the world more than ever before. We are going to have to be wise and aware of the influences around us.

It saddens my heart to see so many professing Christians, who have such a rich heritage of holiness, act as if standards of holiness are mere traditions and that ‘things’ do not really matter. Many parents are giving in to the drift of the world and their children will be the ones paying the greatest price. There is a reason so many people are lacking power and true anointing in their lives. We must lift up a standard of holiness to withstand the sinful tide.

The influences of this world are so subtle and it takes time to see the results in people’s lives. It would behoove us to look around and see the long-term effects on people who have let go of holy living. I have yet to see true spirituality coming from those who have opened the door to the influences of the world. As the world grows worse and worse, there will be a greater divide between God’s people and people in our communities. We must never measure ourselves by the world but by the standard of God’s Word.

I have addressed, by the help of the Lord, a few controversial issues in this edition of *The Gospel Truth*—internet, movies, television, music, etc. It is vital that we not be dogmatic or defensive of our way of thinking. Let us honestly examine their power of influence. May we open our hearts and be led by the Holy Spirit.

Child of God, can you really say every thing in your life is holy and clear before God? Is it possible that you have already become desensitized? The influence of the world is trying to cause us to be sympathetic, understanding, and tolerant toward sin. Let us be true and faithfully cry out against the evils of the world.

Michael W. Smith

January 2014



Visit us at

www.thegospeltruth.org

to subscribe and access

newsletter archives.



Worldly Influences

Unbelieving Companions

Movies

Television

Entertainment

Music

Sports

Media

Sinful Environment

Immodesty

Lust

Uncleanness

Witchcraft

Alcohol

Drugs

“YOU WILL NEVER
INFLUENCE
THE WORLD
BY TRYING
TO BE LIKE IT.”

BIBLE STUDY GUIDE

SUBJECT: THE POWER OF INFLUENCE

Scripture Reading: *A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump.* —Galatians 5:9

Summary: The enemy is using many subtle influences in the world to draw people away from holiness. God’s people must beware of where and how the devil is working and eradicate ungodly influences from their lives and replace them with that which is good and holy.

Definition: Influence —*The power or capacity to change or affect the character, development, or behavior of someone or something in indirect or intangible ways; to sway.*

I. All are Influenceable

- A. Acts 14:14-15 Men of like passions.
- B. Psalm 103:14 We are dust.
- C. Matthew 26:41 The flesh is weak.
- D. Proverbs 6:27-28 Fire in the bosom.
- E. Matthew 6:22-24 Cannot serve God and mammon.

II. Biblical Examples

- A. Genesis 3:1-8 Adam and Eve.
- B. Judges 16:18-20 Samson.
- C. 1 Kings 11:4 Solomon.
- D. Luke 22:55-62 Peter.

III. Beware

- A. Galatians 6:7-8 Reap what you sow.
- B. Isaiah 5:20-22 Call evil good.

IV. Power of Little Things

- A. 1 Corinthians 5:6 A little leaven.
- B. Song of Solomon 2:15 The little foxes.
- C. Ecclesiastes 10:1 Dead flies.

V. Negative Influences

- A. Galatians 5:19-21 Works of the flesh.
- B. 1 Corinthians 15:33 Evil companions.
- C. 2 Corinthians 6:14-17 Unbelievers.
- D. Proverbs 7:7-26 Lust.
- E. Ephesians 5:18 Wine.

VI. Reject Ungodly Influences

- A. Proverbs 4:14-15 Enter not.
- B. 2 Timothy 2:22 Flee youthful lusts.
- C. Ephesians 5:6-13 Reprove them.
- D. Psalms 141:4 Incline not.
- E. Ephesians 4:27 Neither give place to the devil.
- F. James 4:7-8 Resist the devil.

VII. Guard the Mind and Heart

- A. Proverbs 4:23 Keep thy heart.
- B. Matthew 5:29-30 If thy eye offend.
- C. Psalms 101:3 I will set no wicked thing.
- D. Hebrews 12:13-15 Follow holiness.
- E. 1 Corinthians 6:12 Not all is expedient.

VIII. Positive Influences

- A. Hebrews 10:24-25 Assembling of ourselves.
- B. 1 John 1:5-7 Fellowship.
- C. Proverbs 27:17 Iron sharpeneth iron.
- D. Psalms 119:11 The Word of God.
- E. Psalms 1:1-2 Blessed is the man.

Conclusion

And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.
—Romans 12:2

THE POWER OF INFLUENCE

Companion article for Bible Study

THE ENEMY OF SOULS IS AT WORK

Satan is warring against God's people. His purpose is to destroy the very essence of their spirituality. The enemy is crafty and aware of every weakness. While temptation to sin is a reality, the greatest danger often lies in the influences that are exerting themselves over time against the children of God.

ALL ARE SUSCEPTIBLE TO INFLUENCE

Influence is the power to change the behavior or character of someone. As long as man is in this mortal flesh, he will be subject to the power of influence.

Paul and Barnabas declared that they were "men of like passions with you" (Acts 14:15). Hence, Jesus warned His disciples to "Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak" (Matthew 26:41). Be not ignorant of the power of evil influences. Many Christians are participants of worldly activities and entertainments which are polluted with the corruption of sin. They wonder why they don't have victory and power with God. "Can a man take fire in his bosom, and his clothes not be burned?" (Proverbs 6:27).

SCRIPTURAL EXAMPLES

The scripture holds many examples of mighty men who fell to the power of evil influence. In the beginning, Adam and Eve lost their purity and integrity with God because they listened to the subtle lies and deception of the serpent (Genesis 3:1-8). Samson flirted with Delilah, never intending to tell her the secret of his great strength (Judges 16:18-20). There are influences at work in life that will slowly tear down the resistance to evil until, in weakness, sin is committed. Solomon turned

away from God in his old age because of the influence of his wives (1 Kings 11:4). The disciple Peter denied the Lord because of the pressure of the crowd (Luke 22:55-62). Many have deviated from a life of holiness by being open to the influences of the world and not taking a firm stand against them.

THE POWER OF SMALL THINGS

There is great power in little influences. "Know ye not that a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump?" (1 Corinthians 5:6). It is often the "little foxes, that spoil the vines" (Song of Solomon 2:15). It is not always a large sinful thing that causes Christians to lose their salvation. It is the subtle, little influence that begins to affect one's thinking and perspective of holiness and truth. "But it is not sin," you say. "I can go there. I can listen to that music. I can watch that movie. I am saved and I won't do anything wrong." Those words have preceded the spiritual downfall of many a person. Consider the

influence of these things in the life. How does it affect you spiritually? Do you feel pressure to do things that are not right? Are you feeding your mind with things that are not pure or holy? Be wise and know the power of little things.

EVIL INFLUENCES ABOUND

The works of the flesh—adultery, fornication, uncleanness, idolatry, witchcraft, envyings, drunkenness, etc. (Galatians 5:19-21)—are rampant in the world. They have infiltrated music, entertainment, sports, etc. A child of God cannot voluntarily bring evil influences into his life without great spiritual repercussions. The scripture

(Continued on page 6)



*As long as man is in this mortal flesh,
he will be subject to the
power of influence.*

(Continued from page 5)

teaches that “evil communications [companionship] corrupt good manners” (1 Corinthians 15:33). If someone stays in the company of unholy people, he will over time be weakened spiritually and his faith and holiness will be corrupted. A warning is given against being “yoked together with unbelievers” (2 Corinthians 6:14). How careful one must be in choosing close friends and especially a marriage companion.

REJECT UNGODLINESS

The scripture gives instruction to completely reject and distance oneself from the influences of sin. “Enter not into the path of the wicked... avoid it, pass not by it, turn from it, and pass away” (Proverbs 4:14-15). Reprove the works of darkness (Ephesians 5:11). So many people try to justify things

in life that are less than holy. The child of God who will be faithful to the end will be that Christian who takes a firm stand against all unrighteous influences and who gives no place to the devil (Ephesians 4:27). The further one gets from wrong influences, the less power they exert on the flesh. “Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart” (2 Timothy 2:22).

GUARD THE MIND AND HEART

Guard the mind and heart from the power of sin and do not even entertain those things which feed unrighteousness. “Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life” (Proverbs 4:23). As David, “I will set no wicked thing

before mine eyes...” (Psalms 101:3). Keep your life and your home a fit temple for the Holy Spirit. If there is something that is a negative influence spiritually, get rid of it even if other Christians are doing it. “If thy eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee...” (Matthew 5:29-30). It is not always an issue of being sin.

Consider the power of the influence. As Paul said, “All things are lawful unto me, but all things are not expedient: all things are lawful for me, but I will not be brought under the power of any” (1 Corinthians 6:12).

GOOD INFLUENCES

Rather than be in a dangerous place under the influences of this world, follow after holiness (Hebrews 12:13-15) and those things which will edify and be a positive influence. Be diligent and faithful to fellowship with God’s people regularly (Hebrews 10:24-25). Fill your life with activities and service which promote spiritual

growth. Be influenced by holy people and most of all by the Word of God. “Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee” (Psalm 119:11).

THE CHOICE IS YOURS

There are great powers of influence surrounding every Christian, but every child of God has a choice as to what he will allow in his life. Choose the positive and holy influences. “Be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God” (Romans 12:2).

-mws



*The child of God ...will take a firm stand
against all unrighteous influences
and give no place to the devil.*

The Bible Standard on **Movies and Television**

The Bible standard concerning watching movies and television is encompassed in one word: holiness. To be holy is to be clean, pure, sanctified, set apart, homogeneous. The scripture teaches to “glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s” (I Corinthians 6:20). “For God hath not called us unto uncleanness, but unto holiness” (I Thessalonians 4:7). Without holiness, “no man shall see the Lord” (Hebrews 12:14). One must consider the power and influence of movies and television and weigh it against the above scriptures. As children of God, we are to “do all to the glory of God” (I Corinthians 10:31).

There is nothing sinful in the technology itself nor in the wires and the screen. The issue has to do with the content of the program or movie itself and the long-term effects it can have. Television and movies today are full of uncleanness and unrighteousness. Galatians 5:19-21 lists the works of the flesh as: “adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings...They which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.” Movies are full of portrayals of these listed works of the flesh. Why would a child of God who desires to live a holy life fill his heart and mind with things that are clearly ungodly?

The home of a saint should be a refuge and haven from the filth of this world. There are enough influences and powers of the flesh at work in the world without bringing them into the home and willfully feeding on them. Movies and content found in television programming can be appealing to the flesh, but we are called to crucify the flesh with the affections and lusts and to walk in the Spirit. The scripture instructs the body of Christ upon what to think:



Why would a child of God who desires to live a holy life fill his heart and mind with things that are clearly ungodly?

“Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things *are* honest, whatsoever things *are* just, whatsoever things *are* pure, whatsoever things *are* lovely, whatsoever things *are* of good report; if *there be* any virtue, and if *there be* any praise, think on these things” (Philippians 4:8).

These issues become self-evident to honest hearts when measured to the Word of God. Does someone sin just because they watch a movie? No; but when one considers the power of unholy influences behind most movies and programming, it would be safer to abstain from that in-

fluence. The enemy has used the great influence of movies and television to be a great spiritual and moral detriment to generations. The sinful media has an agenda and it does not take very much discernment to see sinful philosophies and lifestyles being heavily promoted.

Statistics and research prove and confirm over and over the negative effects watching television has on children. The largest percentage of movies and

television programs contain very ungodly behaviors. This causes great damage to children and can cause violence, aggression, substance abuse, sexual activity, obesity, poor self-image, and decreased school performance. The more a child is exposed to ‘normal’ television shows, the higher the probability of that child trying to emulate what was seen. Most movies portray a false sense of reality and a lack of consequence of sinful behavior. They instill wrong values and promote sin as fun and acceptable.

Everyone, but especially children and young people, are greatly swayed by what they see and watch. I remember talking to a young boy at a church meeting who was in awe that I had traveled there on a plane. “I would never

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7)

do that," he told me. He was scared of planes because of a horror movie he had watched about snakes on a plane. He further told me how he would not ride on a train because of something else he had seen. Let us beware and recognize the great power of movies.

"I only watch good movies and programs," some people say. This might be true, but when it is honestly assessed, are they really holy movies? Do you have to overlook a few words or scenes? Do they dull the spiritual senses and waste a lot of time? When one begins to feed on movies, it often increases the appetite and desire for more and more. What might begin innocently can quickly lead to 'addiction' and greater allowances in what is watched.

Many good people have started watching movies they deem fine; and over time, if they do not heed the gentle voice of the Spirit, they excuse more ungodliness. It is difficult for them to draw a line and stop watching. It has been the mercy of God when they wake up to what they have been allowing. Television is used primarily as a source of entertainment, and it contains the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eye and the pride of life. These things are not of God and should be rejected from our lives. Many of the commercials which play on television between acclaimed 'good programs' should be enough to bring embarrassment to a holy child of God. As influence goes, after a while the person watching it so often will become numbed and desensitized to the ungodliness. This begins to undermine the principles of truth and holiness of the heart. These unholy influences have been a snare and a trap to many Christians. Beware!



**When one begins to feed on movies,
it often increases the appetite and desire
for more and more.**

Movies have stolen much time that God would liked to have had in His service and worship. Watching movies and television affects concentration and increases fatigue. It has a dulling effect on the senses. It is more difficult to read and pray. It becomes more difficult to be attentive in the classroom or church services.

Television and movies have been used to spread evil around the world. I have personally watched this take place in primitive areas. I have seen the spread of 'sinful westernization'

which is promoted by the entertainment industry. Christians in some of these countries recognize the evil and powerful influences television is exerting on the people around them. Immodesty is introduced and idolized and people then try to follow this example of purported glamour and fun. God has called us to live holy and we must place barriers between ourselves and the wickedness of our time.

So again, what is the Bible standard on watching movies and television? Judge in yourself before God and His Word. Holiness is the

watchword. It isn't the medium (reel to reel, video, DVD, television, internet) but the power of the influence of what you watch. Be careful and wise.

God's children are called to be examples and to be the light of the world. This alone should bring a caution and carefulness in those things which are allowed in the life. Leaders and ministers should be living a clear standard of holiness and godliness.

King David said it right and true in Psalms 101:3: "I will set no wicked thing before mine eyes: I hate the work of them that turn aside; *it shall not cleave to me.*"

-mws



Question: What role should internet use have in the life of a Christian?

Answer: Many questions have been asked about whether a saint should have internet access or not and what role it should have in the life of a Christian. What is the difference between the internet and a television? Is there a double standard?

It is important to recognize the difference between television and the internet. The primary purpose of the television is for entertainment, whether it be movies or sports. News is also a part of the programming, but consider its use as a whole.

On the other hand, the internet is a web of interlinking information across the globe. The internet is used for work, communication, research, etc. It has proved to be a wonderful tool, but it has also been used for much evil. The internet now provides access to movies and many of the programs which are aired on television. In sum, it has greater access to evil than the television has ever held. There still remains a difference. There is greater control over the internet as a tool than

there is over the television which is controlled by the networks. On the other hand, gross evil is at the fingertips of the internet user. No longer do people have to go secretly to places to fulfill lustful desires. They have access in the privacy of their homes. Hence, the internet is powerful and can be very dangerous.

The doctrine of holiness must be strictly applied to the internet as a tool. If it becomes a source of entertainment, it is most likely going to encroach on the principles of holi-



ness. The internet has offered people a way to escape painful feelings and troubling situations. People have sacrificed many hours of needed sleep to spend online. Many withdraw from family and friends to escape into a comfortable online world that they have created and shaped. Great caution must be used.

The internet is like a loaded gun. It is not to be played with but is to be used carefully and with caution as a dangerous, but useful tool. Some people should not use or have a gun. This is the same of the internet. There are some people that need to completely get rid of it as a safety and guard against their weaknesses.

If the internet is used properly, it can serve many beneficial purposes. Keep it sanctified. Too often it has taken priority over devotions and becomes a time killer. People become overcharged with the use of it and become inundated with too much information. Temperance must be used and it is good to reexamine its role in the home.

Social networks can be valuable for spiritual causes and for reconnecting with friends. This again can be very dangerous when misused. Many

homes have been broken over what started as innocent communication. It has caused barriers to be broken down between both young people and adults that the Lord would like preserved.

As a loaded gun is kept in a safe place, so should the internet be in people's homes. The chil-

dren should be carefully monitored if they have to use the internet for school or research. It is good to use a filter to help protect children from temptation.

We live in a technological age where the internet has become a vital tool. We must also recognize the inherent danger of it. Your soul is more important than anything else. Let your decisions reflect that and may holiness, temperance, and caution be exercised in the moment by moment use of the internet.

-mws



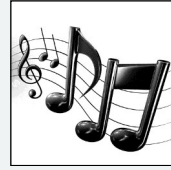
DID YOU KNOW?

Music has a major influence on people.

It reflects various moods and emotions and has the power to make people happy, sad, angry, etc. Different music with various words and beats influences the way a person feels and sees the world. Many people turn to music to find solace and companionship. It

can be used for worship or as an outlet of temporary escape.

What role does music play in your life? Is it good, pure and holy? Is it filling a void that God would like to fill?



A Word
In Season

The Battle Is Not Yours

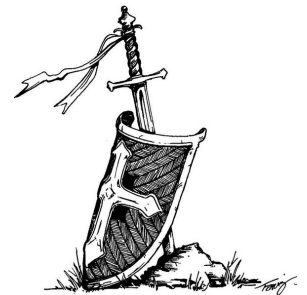
Contact

The Gospel Truth
605 Bishops Ct.
Nixa, MO 65714
USA

Email:
editor@thegospeltruth.org

Thus saith the LORD unto you, Be not afraid nor dismayed by reason of this great multitude; for the battle is not yours, but God's. —2 Chronicles 20:15b

Jehoshaphat received news of a mighty force coming against him in battle. He acknowledged to the Lord that “we have no might against this great company that cometh against us; neither know we what to do: but our eyes are upon thee” (12).



The enemy is working on every hand to try and discourage God's people. The devil is paying special attention to the true, Holy Ghost-filled ministers whom are sacrificing all for the sake of the gospel. There are many situations that arise in which the battles we face seem overwhelming and too great for us. We are safe when we acknowledge our need, as did Jehoshaphat, and keep our eyes on the Savior.

The wonderful news that the Spirit of God gave to Jehoshaphat is the same message the Lord is telling His people today. “Don't be afraid. This is not your battle, but God's.” Great peace is found when we realize that God is in control and we don't have to have all the answers or the ability to defeat the great multitude in our own strength.

Jehoshaphat was told to “stand ye still, and see the salvation of the Lord” (17). Let us stand still and rest in the assurance that God will take care of His own.

-mws

HOLINESS UNTO THE LORD