

The Old Paths

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“What Is Your Attitude Toward The Bible?”

Jarrod Jacobs

Attitude is defined as: “*manner, disposition, feeling, position, etc., with regard to a person or thing*” (Webster’s). I know there are many who possess a great attitude toward the Bible. Yet, certainly not all men do. Some deny that it is truth (Jn. 17:17). Others deny that it is inspired (II Tim. 3:16-17). Therefore, we have a generation of people (including some Christians) who are ignorant of God’s word. What is our disposition toward the Bible? Are we interested in learning more about God’s word? Are we striving to live it daily?

All Christians ought to strive daily for a fuller and more complete comprehension of the word of God. If one asked you: “What must I do to be saved?” what would you tell them? If one wished to know of our origins upon this globe, or asked you what the purpose of life is, could you tell them? Be honest! Some people don’t know the apostles from the epistles! What about you? Me? All men must know and understand God’s word (Eph. 5:17).

Because of the rotten attitude many have toward the Bible, we are living in a time of starvation. No, not because we have a shortage of food, but we are starving spiritually in this country because people do not know the word of God! Sadly, this is nothing new. God told Israel: “*Behold, the days come, ... that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of*

hearing the words of the LORD” (Amos 8:11). Again we read: “*And the word of the LORD was precious (rare) in those days; there was no open vision*” (I Sam. 3:1).

May I suggest that we are in much the same situation as those people were. We are starving spiritually! No, this is not a famine, for the word “famine” implies a lack of something. God’s word is not scarce in our country! We have Bibles aplenty, CD’s, audio tapes, computer programs, websites, printed materials, etc., that are all filled with God’s word. “Then why say we are starving?” one may ask. The reason why men are starving today is not because we lack (spiritual) food, but because we REFUSE TO EAT! Did you know that if we refuse to partake of food, we’ll starve just as quickly as the one who lacks food to eat? Clearly, we have Christians today who are emaciated spiritually because they refuse to partake of that spiritual food (milk/meat), called God’s word. Remember, it is the soul which is eternal, not the body (II Cor. 4:16)!

How can we change our attitude to establish good “eating habits” for the soul? It can be done! Let us consider three guidelines that will help.

1) ***Spend time in God’s book.*** There is no shortcut! David said, “*Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee*” (Ps. 119:11). He said the “*blessed man*” is the one who meditates “*day and night*” in God’s word (Ps. 1:1-2). Are we doing this? How can we expect to know the Bible if we don’t spend time in it? Let’s remove the distractions, and our poor attitude,

and spend time in God’s book! You’ll be amazed at the good that will come from it! Stop making excuses and make time for God’s word!

2) ***Pray to God.*** What would you think if your children stopped talking to you? Would this matter to you? Remember, communication is a two-way street. As God speaks to us through His word, so ought we then to speak to Him through prayer (I Thess. 5:17-18). Christ taught that “*men ought always to pray*” (Lk. 18:1). Usually, when one’s attitude toward the Bible is poor, he’s not praying, either!

3) ***Worship God with those of like-minded faith.*** One thing which will help us to improve our attitude is to discuss God’s word with others who love it. When we gather to worship God (Jn. 4:24), this is also an occasion for speaking God’s word with others and encouraging each other. Yet, we find some Christians who, when it comes to spiritual matters, it is like pulling teeth to get them to talk. (One speaks about what is of interest to them, you know!) Can you imagine living on 3 meals a week? No, we eat 3 meals a day (and sometimes more than this)! Yet, for some Christians, 3 “meals” of God’s word in a week (i.e., occasions when the church assembles together) is considered extreme! What does this say about our attitude and priorities?

Other problems besides a lack of Bible knowledge are associated with those who have a poor attitude toward the Bible. Generally, it is this same person who will complain about sermon length, “boring” worship services, “unfriendly” members, etc. He is not interested in spiritual things, so it naturally follows that he will be bored when gathered for a spiritual purpose. Yet, the answer is not to cater to that carnal attitude. The answer is to repent of carnality and strive to be more spiritually minded. Let us fix our attitude and allow God’s word to have first place in our lives!

“Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk

Is Modesty For Real?

J.F. Dancer, Beaver Dam, KY

When Paul wrote to Timothy (guided by the Holy Spirit) he told him to teach the women to dress "...in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety" (I Tim. 2:9). Had he been writing of the dress of men, he would probably have written the same thing. It seems unreasonable to expect female saints to dress in such a manner, and then allow the male saints to dress (or undress) as they choose. God is no respecter of persons.

But many people tell me there is no way to decide what is "modest." They say that all women dress immodestly today compared to how they dressed in Paul's day and that we are to just ignore the whole matter. In fact, one young man asserted in a Bible class that saints could come to worship nude and it would be OK with God. Wonder where he learned that?

Before sin came into the world, there were just 2 people. They were both naked and not ashamed (Gen. 2:25) and God did **not** make any clothing for them. But, after sin came into the picture (Gen. 3), they made themselves some clothing. Evidently, God did not think what they made was sufficient, so He made some more. There were still just 2 people (maybe with children) who were husband and wife, but God knew they needed to be properly clothed.

Moral standards in our society continue to decline. Some folks have none! Almost any kind of clothing is acceptable and we find many children of God following this standard in spite of Romans 12:2.

Women who call themselves Christians go into public places dressed in almost nothing. Some

have told me, "I am not responsible for what people think of me. Evil people are going to have evil thoughts regardless of how I dress."

These people admit Jesus said that one who looks on another and lusts after them has sinned, but they don't see that how they dress may contribute to this lustful thinking. One can cause another to sin (Matt. 5:28).

Mothers dress their little children in almost nothing when they are infants and continue this practice for the next 10 or 12 years. By the time the teenager is selecting their own clothing, their pattern of dress has already been established and it is not surprising that tank tops, shorts, and halters, etc., are the thing of the day. This is what they have been trained to wear.

Paul said the older women should teach the younger ones to be "discreet, chaste..." (Titus 2:5). Many are failing to do this for they obviously don't know the meaning of these words (or maybe they don't care).

Christians (men and women) are to deny ungodliness and worldly lusts, and live soberly, righteously and godly in this present world (Titus 2:11-12). This includes their dress and where they go. Proms, dance halls, taverns, gambling halls, etc., are no place for the godly person to spend time. Immodest dress and ungodly behavior are contrary to the spirit of holiness.

One can determine what is *modest* and what is *godly* if they really want to do so. Customs do change and things acceptable to the world vary from generation to generation. I grant some of this will have an effect on how Christians dress. But the principles of godliness remain constant. We simply have to learn what they are and then determine to live by them. Will you do it? God expects you to!

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Editor's Note:

Brother Dancer's article was very good. I was glad to include it here since many brethren do not seem to appreciate the dangers and sins associated with summertime. Related to this subject, I found it interesting to learn this last week that in those states which have less days of warm weather per year, the divorce rate is less than in the states which have many days of warm weather, and therefore more opportunities for people to bare their bodies in public (www.nandotimes.com; William R. Maddox Jr., author). Think about it!

Regardless of where one lives, God's word is still the same. May each of us exhibit the attitude of godliness and sobriety in our dress. Remember that in the Garden, He clothed the woman AND the man, not just the woman (Gen. 3:21)! God is no respecter of persons. May we remember who we are in all seasons of the year, and may our thoughts, our clothes, our speech, and our actions be a reflection of Christ living in us (Gal. 2:20).

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