

The Old Paths

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"A Stopped Clock ..."

Jarrold Jacobs

- A stopped clock
- Is right twice a day.
 - Implies that there was a clockmaker.
 - Might have once run well.
 - Could be started again.
 - Could be such because of only one defective component.
 - Could be such because of someone's negligence.

If human reasoning could find so many "positive" lessons from a stopped clock, is it any wonder why many of our brethren can find justification for the fellowshiping of certain false teachers among us? Could we not justify most any man who privately or publicly teaches falsehoods with similar reasoning as was offered on behalf of the stopped clock? See for yourself. Some might say

- A false teacher
- Is right on most things.
 - Believes in the same God we do.
 - Has done many wonderful things for God in the past. (Compare: Ezek. 18:24, 26)
 - Might change if he is given enough time.
 - Only teaches falsehood in one area of Bible teaching.
 - Teaches the truth on all other subjects.
 - Took this position because of (sins in the family, a friend, etc.) and not because he really believed it.

Some might suggest that in the case of the stopped clock, if someone would merely work with that clock, it may be possible that the clock can work correctly again. This is a true statement. So also is it true that if we will take the time to work with false teachers, (not compromising the truth, but taking the time to teach them the truth) we may be able to win them to the Lord when they repent of their false doctrine and preach the truth.

However, if our clock is beyond repair, we need not keep it around. In like manner, the Holy Spirit speaks of some who were "past feeling" (Eph. 4:19), some "who concerning the truth have erred" (II Tim. 2:16), and some who "shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron" (I Tim. 4:1-2), etc. In such cases, we must not continue in fellowship with them, pretending as if nothing is wrong, but "mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them" (Rom. 16:17). John condemned our continuing in fellowship with those in error stating, "If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds" (II Jn. 10-11).

One evident problem today is that while most people will do what is necessary to fix a stopped clock, many are not willing to do what the

Bible describes as necessary to stop a false teacher. Another evident problem is that while most are not afraid to fix the stopped clock, and in fact are appreciative when someone calls attention to their clock not working; when it comes to false teaching and false doctrine, we find just the opposite attitude. Often, we find people afraid to speak to those in error, and those in error often becoming angry that someone might suggest that they are wrong. How sad!

Let us not be afraid to call a "spade" a "spade." If there is false teaching being promoted, the one who is the friend to the teacher is the one who points it out; not the one who is so afraid of hurting feelings or friendships, that they keep it bottled up. Jesus said, "But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death" (Rev. 21:8). Notice the first group mentioned as having their part in the torment of the second death are the "fearful"! I myself have had to work on this problem this year, and by God's grace I plan to improve in 2003. What about you, dear readers? Brethren, where are our priorities?

**Brethren, it is later than we think.
We are drifting!**

"In the midst of all the turmoil, the mock trials, the false witnesses, Jesus was the calmest, the most self possessed person in the whole affair. None but a divine person could have been calm and serene under such circumstances. It behooves us to seek to imitate him."

R.L. Whiteside, Reflections, p. 256

"He Made One Mistake"

Author Unknown

1. He brushed his teeth twice a day - with a nationally advertised toothpaste!
2. The doctor examined him twice each year.
3. He slept with a window open each night.
4. He stuck to a daily diet of fresh vegetables.
5. He walked three miles everyday checking his heart rate along the way with his \$100.00 Casio watch!
6. He got at least eight hours of sleep each night.
7. He never smoked nor drank nor lost his temper!
8. He was all set to live to be one hundred!

He made one mistake! He forgot God! He lived as if this world was all there was to life. He is now with those who say, "*The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved*" (Jer. 8:20).

IF YOU WERE TO DIE TONIGHT, WHERE WOULD YOU SPEND ETERNITY?

Editor's Note:

God has granted us life up to this present hour. We're not guaranteed anything beyond right now, though. Will 2003 be the year you die? Many will die in this coming year! Will it be you, too? Why not put that concern to rest by becoming a Christian today? (Heb. 3:15; II Cor. 6:2)

Planning On Reading The Bible This Year?

Jarrold Jacobs

Most of us have received our Bible reading calendars by now. (If not, then please pick one up off of the shelf in the foyer, or visit the website for your copy.) Many times, this is a "New Year's resolution" for people, and they attempt to read the Bible through for the new year. Even with Bible reading calendars, and similar helps, reading sixty-six books can seem like a monumental task to some. Sometimes, people give up on reading the Bible soon after starting because they think it is impossible to finish. Let me encourage you not to do that. I found a very interesting chart that I hope will help us in accomplishing the goal of reading the Bible through in one year. Perhaps on days when you are feeling discouraged, or think the task is too large to finish, you can look at this chart in the next column, and it will help you to see that your task is not impossible after all.

In order to appreciate the chart, let us understand that reading 200 to 250 words per minute (wpm) is considered the normal reading rate of 8th grade students. Reading 295 to 325 wpm is high school level, and 325 to 350 wpm is college level. Where do you fit in? If one sat down and read the

Bible from Genesis to Revelation without stopping, how long would it take? Surprisingly, it wouldn't take as long as one might think!

Reading Speed Time To Complete Reading The Bible

If one reads at a speed of:

200 wpm =	64 hours, 34 minutes
225 wpm =	57 hours, 23 minutes
250 wpm =	51 hours, 39 minutes
275 wpm =	46 hours, 57 minutes
300 wpm =	43 hours, 2 minutes
325 wpm =	39 hours, 44 minutes
350 wpm =	36 hours, 53 minutes

Therefore, at the slowest speed, one could read the Bible in one sitting in less than three days. Our Bible reading calendar breaks the Bible up into much smaller pieces than this, and certainly, we could carve out an hour (or less, depending on how fast you read) a day to read God's word. This is the least we can do in service to God! Instead of looking at reading the Bible all the way through as an impossible task, let us give thanks to God for His wonderful written word which says so much in such a short volume!

Our Website For Bible Studies:
www.southside-churchofchrist.com



I want the truth, give me book, chapter, and verse!

Come and meet with the church at Southside.
Our address is: 2920 New Hartford Rd. Owensboro, KY 42303.

MEETING TIMES:

Sunday Morning Bible Study _____ **9:30 am**
Sunday Morning Worship _____ **10:20 am**
Sunday Evening Worship _____ **6:00 pm**
Wednesday Evening Bible Study _____ **7:00 pm**

Don't forget the call-in radio program on **WBIO, FM 94.7**, Sunday afternoon from 12:30-1:00 pm. **Call: 683-5200** with your Bible question.

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"Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls." (Jer. 6:16)