

Rom. 14:19 So then let us follow after things which make for peace, and things whereby we may edify one another.



John 8:32 and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

**March**

**12**

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## **AN ANCIENT PROVERB FOR MODERN TIMES**

by Dennis Freeman

Soul-winning is an expression that has been used among the brethren for many years. It is a good one. It aptly depicts in only two words the enormous task set before us of making disciples of all the nations (**Matt. 28:19**) The expression has as its source God's word and thus is thoroughly scriptural and should be used with regularity. **Proverbs 11:30** talks of wisdom, of winning, and of the essential nature of man. It makes a statement so clear and precise that every student of scripture must sit up and take notice. This inspired statement, however, demands more than a mere consent to its truthfulness. It calls forth from our inner being a desire to execute what seems to be the most uncomplicated yet noble errand on which a child of God could find himself: winning souls for the Master!

As the major undertaking of Spreading the WORD is to enlighten and instruct as to the need of and the how-to's of spreading God's word throughout our world, let this proverb be our cornerstone. It is fundamental to true, pure New Testament Christianity. Take a brief excursion into this ancient proverb with me for the next few moments and see if it does not express those deep yearnings that each of us has for the lost of the world.

### ***"He who is wise..."***

It is important to notice that this proverb comes not in *command form*, but in the form of a simple statement. This does not mean that the disciple of Jesus today has the option of heeding its instruction, it means that the Spirit is appealing to a higher sense of duty than our "have to." He is building on our "want to." "***Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation***" is a definite command. God has made it clear that I have no choice in the matter. "Go" places upon; me an obligation not to be ignored. Saving souls thus becomes a requirement. If that is all God ever said on the matter that would be

enough for me! God has the right to make requirement (**Deut. 10:12**).

But the Bible presents God not only as the General of His army but as the loving Father of His family. Personally, I'm thankful for this. I can recall my father taking me aside when I was young and giving me good, sound advice. I always listened because it was obvious to me that Dad had the wisdom and experience to offer advice. Besides that, it was always given in loving concern for my welfare and the welfare of others. His advice always helped me. It built character and often became a blessing not only for me but for others as well. Truly, "***the words of wise men are like goads...***" They prod us on to a greater level of spiritual existence. Isn't it just so with the advice of **Proverbs 11:30**?

When God says, "***The fruit of the righteous is a tree of life,***" He is telling us that we can draw others to us if we are careful to bear the right kind of fruit. This is sometimes overlooked in "soul-winning." Perhaps the very first step in winning souls is that of removing our candle from under the bushel and placing it where it will do some good! Our Father is saying, "Son/daughter, if you would truly be noticed for your wisdom, treat others with love, kindness, and goodness. Be gentle in dealing with others. Don't forget to be patient because everyone is different and the message will severely test the hearts of some. Exercise self-control so that you will give others a good example to follow. Be dependable. Be at peace with yourself and when others see the true happiness that results from such a life, they will want what you have (**Gal. 5:23-24**) Now, this is real "fruit-bearing." This is a good way to bring others to eternal life. This is a "wise" way to win souls. Now, is that great advice?

### “wins souls”

For every battle that is won for the Lord, one is lost for the devil. Every time a soul is “won” to Christ, a life has been snatched *“from the snare of the devil, having been held captive by him to do his will”* (II Tim. 2:28)

In our efforts to spread the word, let us not forget with whom we are doing battle. If it seems difficult at times (and it will) let us be reminded that we are struggling against the world forces of darkness and spiritual forces of wickedness (Eph. 6:12). Every preacher, elder, Bible teacher, yes, every soldier in the Lord’s army who sees into the “heavenlies” through the eye of faith must constantly keep alert, pray and persevere in the world of winning souls (Eph. 6:12). Satan *“falls like lightning”* each time a precious soul is translated from the *“domain of darkness”* to the kingdom of God’s Son (Col. 1:13).

There are many things in life worth winning I’m sure, but when one is won over to the side of truth and we beat the devil in the battle over the eternal soul of man, brother, we have accomplished that which outshines and outlasts all the achievements of the world put together times ten. *“For what will a man be profited if he gains the whole world, and forfeits his soul?”* (Matt. 16:26). Let us cultivate within us the attitude of the apostle Paul. *“For though I am free from all men, I have made myself a slave to all, that I might win the more”* (I Cor. 9:19).

As the words to a beautiful hymn express, let us pray:

*Lead me to some soul today; O teach me, Lord, just what to say;*

*Friends of mine are lost in sin, and cannot find the way.  
Few are they who seem to care, and few there are who pray;*

*Melt my heart and fill my life; Give me one soul today.*

## TEEN GETS 2 TO 6 YEARS FOR ROBBERY THAT NETS 7 CENTS

A Syracuse teen will be locked up for the next 2 to 6 years for a robbery that netted him 7 cents, a judge ruled. Onondaga County Judge William Walsh said on Monday that he decided to throw the book at Anthony Stewart, 15, because the teen didn't plead guilty to robbing a 73-year-old man last December. Stewart and

a pal, Skyler Ninham, 16, were charged with jumping and robbing the man on Dec. 22. The two were toting BB guns that resembled real pistols when they knocked the victim to the ground, broke his glasses and robbed him of just 7 cents, the only money the man had on him at the time, prosecutors said. Ninham pleaded guilty in July and was sentenced. Stewart decided to fight the case. A jury found him guilty of first-degree robbery. He'll serve time in a juvenile detention facility. Walsh said the victim fingered both Stewart and Ninham in the caper, "and yet you still denied it. Well, that cost you," the judge said. Stewart's lawyer, Laurin Haddad said after the sentencing that she was disappointed with Walsh's decision. The judge's decision means the felony conviction will remain on Stewart's permanent record. "For 7 cents, now you're making someone a felon for the rest of his life," Haddad said. (NY Daily)

## IF YOU'RE GUILTY THEN SAY YOU'RE GUILTY ALREADY!

Notice that after the verdict was handed down the lawyer admits that the crime was done? What they do not get is that the young man is not being punished for 7 cents. He's being punished because he committed a crime, assaulting and robbing a 73-year-old man. If the man had had \$10,000 would that have validated the verdict in the lawyer's eyes? Doubtful. The older man knew he was guilty. The judge knew he was guilty. The lawyer knew he was guilty, and the boy knew he was guilty. Why not just admit it? We face the same thing in dealing with our own sins. *“If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins... If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us”* (1 Jn 1: 9,10). He knows we have sinned. Better to repent and pray for forgiveness, lest something worse happen (Acts 8:20-22). Of course, we will never repent if we have no *“godly sorrow”* (2 Cor 7:9). If we never think of the harm we have done, we will find no mercy waiting for us, and though our Judge is merciful, He is also just. If we fight Him, He will win. This boy brought shame on himself and his whole family. What do we bring on our brethren? What do we bring on our *“Advocate”* (1 Jn 2:1), Christ? Better to plead guilty and let the Advocate also be the *“propitiation”* (1 John 2:2). Better to not try to fight the system.

*Taken from 25th St. Bulletin*

## SERVING GOD EVERY DAY

*Randy Harshbarger*

There are powerful forces at work in our world that seek to diminish the good influence of New Testament Christians. Satan's domain of darkness presents many opportunities for conformity (**Ephesians 6:12**). Yet, as we carry the banner of Christ, we must not form any allegiance with this age. While it is true that the gospel saves, there is also the need for an on-going, daily application and demonstration of the Lord's will in our lives (**Romans 1:16; 12:21**).

Atheism, agnosticism, and other forms of unbelief all pose threats to the faith of God's people. The cry of the day is "there are no absolutes" and thus, man becomes his own standard, his own god. Pride and pleasure are powerful weapons the Devil uses to his advantage. We must recognize that New Testament Christians are often influenced and challenged by these obstacles to the vitality of a good influence. We must stay in the world but cannot allow the world to trap us. Daily contact with the Lord's word and daily prayer, will place us in good spiritual stead, as we do battle.

The Apostle Paul provided good instruction about consistency of life when he said: *"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. 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 12:1-2**). Our sacrifices to God must be living! Our dedication to God must be complete! Whether we are talking about our jobs, our homes, our hopes and dreams, everything must be evaluated in light of our duty to be living sacrifices. We must present our bodies, our lives, etc., over to the Lord as living sacrifices. A living sacrifice speaks to the need for our service to the Lord to be genuine. The Jews under the Levitical system were commanded to offer only the best that they had and we must give only our best to Him. Yet, all the animals that were slain and all the blood that was shed could not atone for sins (**Hebrews 10:4**). It took the sacrifice of God's Son to make salvation possible for every man (**Hebrews 2:9**).

The Jews of old were commanded to embrace holiness in the personal application of God's will for their lives, and God's people today must do the same. We must be holy because God is holy (**1 Peter 1:15-16**). We must be separate and distinct from the world in which we live. We must not conform. Paul challenges the Corinthians

to come out or separate themselves from the things in the world that stand in the way of a life of holiness and dedication to God (**2 Corinthians 6:17-18**). It is only when we do this that we are truly children of God. Holiness is not something we put on Sunday morning; rather, holiness becomes a part of who we are.

We are transformed by daily spiritual exercise. The mind or heart of man must always be sensitive to the things of God. Paul's prayer for the spiritual enlightenment of the Ephesians provides a good example of this need (**Ephesians 1:18-19**). In order to understand the hope of heaven, the blessings of Christ, and the power of God, one must be open and attuned to God's will. Conformity thwarts that desire, while being transformed whets our spiritual appetites. Christians prove or test or argue or demonstrate what God's will is all about. Paul says that it is *"good and acceptable and perfect"* (**Romans 12:2**). Our reasonable service is a "logical" service. God's demands have an appeal because of how we were made by the Lord. Our response to Him demonstrates the depth and sincerity of that response. It comes from the heart. In fact, it must come from the heart! Daily living for the Lord honors the Lord. It says: Lord, you are the important consideration in my life. You died for me; I will live for you.

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***We believe in worshiping and serving the Lord as He has instructed in His word.***

*And walking by the sea of Galilee, he saw two brethren, Simon who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother, casting a net into the sea; for they were fishers. And he saith unto them, Come ye after me, and I will make you fishers of men. And they straightway left the nets, and followed him. And going on from thence he saw two other brethren, James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother, in the boat with Zebedee their father, mending their nets; and he called them. And they straightway left the boat and their father, and followed him.* (**Matthew 4:18-22 ASV**)

**Psa. 1:1** Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the wicked, Nor standeth in the way of sinners, Nor sitteth in the seat of scoffers: 2 But his delight is in the law of Jehovah; And on his law doth he meditate day and night. 3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the streams of water, That bringeth forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also doth not wither; And whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. 4 The wicked are not so, But are like the chaff which the wind driveth away. 5 Therefore the wicked shall not stand in the judgment, Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. 6 For Jehovah knoweth the way of the righteous; But the way of the wicked shall perish.

## HOURS OF WORSHIP

Sunday A.M. 9:30 Bible Study

Sunday A.M. 10:20 Assembled Worship

Sunday P.M. 5:00 Assembled Worship

Wednesday P.M. 7:00 Bible Study and Worship

**Visitors welcome**

## OUR ADDRESS IS:

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### Evangelist and Editor

Jim Stauffer

### Elders

Ron Peck

Jim Stauffer

### Deacons

Bill Miller

Troy Armstrong

### NEWS AND NOTES:

#### THOSE IN NEED OF PRAYERS:

Alma Baumgartner, Denese Goring, Brooklyn Boyer, Tracy Richardson, Matt Bassford, Wayne Moody, David and Joanne Beckley, Ken Kling, Mark Walker, Pat McLoud, Jan Patrick is at Nottingham in Olathe. Jordan Shouse and Freda Walker.

Bible Classes: Sunday Morning

**James** - Jim Stauffer

Wednesday Evening

**Joshua, Judges, Ruth**

Bill Miller

Sunday Sermon: **God's Discipline**  
- **Why so Severe?**



## **What Must I Do To Be Saved?**

**Hear** the gospel - Romans 10:17

**Believe** in Jesus Christ - Hebrews 11:6

**Repent** of sins - Acts 17:30

**Confess** Christ as Lord - Romans 10:9,10

**Be Baptized** for remission of sins - Acts 2:38

**Be Faithful** unto death - Revelation 2:10