

# The Vincennes Voice

“...The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight...” (Matt. 3:3)

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## THEY BRING NO PROFIT

Larry R. Ping II

We all desire to be part of things which are profitable. Often, however, we find ourselves in circumstances which are unprofitable. Be sure to work hard to avoid these unprofitable things.

**1) THERE IS NO PROFIT IN ATTEMPTING TO CONCEAL SIN.** Judah told his brothers concerning the possible murder of Joseph, “What profit is it if we slay our brother, and conceal his blood” (Gen. 37:26)? There is a simple reason why this action brings no profit! It cannot be done. The Psalmist wrote, “Whither shall I go from thy spirit? or whither shall I flee from thy presence? If I ascend up into heaven, thou art there: if I make my bed in hell, behold, thou art there. If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea; Even there shall thy hand lead me, and thy right hand shall hold me. If I say, Surely the darkness shall cover me; even the night shall be light about me. Yea, the darkness hideth

*not from thee; but the night shineth as the day: the darkness and the light are both alike to thee”* (Psa. 139:7-12). Do not try to hide your sin from God. It brings no profit.

**2) THERE IS NO PROFIT IN THE WORSHIP OF IDOLS.** In his farewell address to God’s people, Samuel warned, “*And turn ye not aside: for then should ye go after vain things, which cannot profit nor deliver; for they are vain”* (I Sam. 12:21). The aged prophet made sure the people understood the absolute absurdity in believing and following something which can do nothing for them. Once again, the Psalmist said, “*Their idols are silver and gold, the work of men’s hands. They have mouths, but they speak not: eyes have they, but they see not: They have ears, but they hear not: noses have they, but they smell not: They have hands, but they handle not: feet have they, but they walk not: neither speak they through their throat. They that make them are like unto them;*

*so is every one that trusteth in them”* (Psa. 115:4-8). There is a reason why Paul referred to idols as “*dumb*” (I Cor. 12:2). Do not worship idols like sports, work, sleep, money, or fame, for they bring no profit.

**3) THERE IS NO PROFIT IN SOME TALK.** Eliphaz, in conversing with Job queried, “*Should he reason with unprofitable talk? or with speeches wherewith he can do no good”* (Job 15:3)? It must be learned from these words, some language is unprofitable. James cautioned, “*Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth! And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell”* (Jam. 3:5-6). The wise man pointed out, “*Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof”* (Prov. 18:21). Paul affirmed, “*Let no corrupt communication proceed out of*

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*your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers” (Eph. 4:29). When we take God’s or the Lord’s name in vain, when we use course and vulgar language, when we lie and deceive, it is an unprofitable use of our mouth. Let us not involve ourselves in these activities.*

#### **4) THERE IS NO PROFIT IN RICHES ON THE DAY OF JUDGMENT.**

The book of wisdom iterates, *“Riches profit not in the day of wrath: but righteousness delivereth from death” (Prov. 11:4). Paul says, “So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God” (Rom. 14:12) and “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad” (II Cor. 5:10). When we appear before Jesus to answer for our lives, money will not be able to alter His decision or our eternal destination. Hence, we should not trust riches upon Earth “where moth and rust doth corrupt” (Matt. 6:19-21),*

nor should we think they will be an aid on the Last Day. They will bring no profit then.

#### **5) THERE IS NO PROFIT IN THE KEEPING OF THE LAW OF MOSES.**

In Paul’s epistle to the Romans he said, *“What advantage then hath the Jew? or what profit is there of circumcision” (Rom. 3:1)? Paul, on several occasions in his writings, made it evident the Law of Moses was in the past, and in attempting to mind it would bring no gain. He wrote things like, “For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth” (Rom. 10:4). As well, “Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law” (Rom. 3:28). To the Galatians he said, “Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified” (Gal. 2:16). While we surely learn from and are warned by the words of the Old Testament*

(Rom. 15:4; I Cor. 10:11), we must know there is no profit in keeping its laws.

#### **6) THERE IS NO PROFIT IN ACTION WITHOUT LOVE.**

In the apostle’s discourse on love he states, *“And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing” (I Cor. 13:3). Paul would tell the body at Rome, “Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law” (Rom. 13:8). Folks must know we love them, or our efforts are in vain, or profitless. This calls upon God’s followers to observe the golden rule which states, “Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets” (Matt. 7:12). We, too, must abide by John’s edict which says, “My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth” (I Jn. 3:18). To not do so is to act in unprofitable ways!*

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## MEETING TIMES (EST)

### SUNDAY

Bible Study – 10:00 am

Worship – 11:00 am & 3:00 pm

### WEDNESDAY

Bible Study – 7:00 pm