

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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“IT IS BETTER”

Larry R. Ping II

We are constantly looking for better things and better ways. Several television and radio ads incorporate the word better. Man’s idea of better is not always God’s concept of better. In fact, the two rarely agree.

To determine what truly is better, one must direct his eyes to God’s Word. Consider!

1. “It Is Better To Trust In The Lord.” The Psalmist, in fact, wrote “It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in man. It is better to trust in the Lord than to put confidence in princes” (Psa. 118:8,9). Man can, and inevitably will fail (Rom. 3:23). This is why Paul taught “That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God” (I Cor. 2:5). Man is happiest when he trusts God, evidenced by David’s pen which wrote “Blessed are all they that put their trust in him” (Psa. 2:12).

2. “It Is Better To Find Wisdom.” Solomon comprehensively wrote about the values of wisdom. He authored, “Happy is the man

that findeth wisdom, and the man that getteth understanding. For the merchandise of it is better than the merchandise of silver, and the gain thereof than fine gold” (Prov. 3:13,14). Simply stated, wisdom is knowledge applied. It is important to gain knowledge, for without it, destruction is near (Hos. 4:6). Recall though, “Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin” (Jam. 4:17). Remember, too, “be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves” (Jam. 1:22).

3. “It Is Better To Dwell In A Corner Of The Housetop.” In all, the wise man wrote, “It is better to dwell in a corner of the housetop, than with a brawling woman in a wide house” (Prov. 21:9, 25:24). Additionally, he said, “It is better to dwell in the wilderness, than with a contentious and an angry woman” (Prov. 21:19). He also iterated, “the contentions of a wife are a continual dropping” (Prov. 19:13).

For a house to be peaceful and happy, the residents within it must work towards that goal (Rom. 14:19). Far too many homes are void of this happiness. Be sure you are doing your part to do the necessary things to have a harmonious home.

4. “It Is Better To Go To The House Of Mourning.” The preacher made note of this in Eccl. 7:2. This is true, as a house of mourning is where “living will lay it to his heart.” It is in a funeral home where one is forced to think about his own mortality, and the fact he will one day “give account” (Rom. 14:12) of his life’s activities.

5. “It Is Better To Hear The Rebuke Of The Wise.” The book of vanity says, “It is better to hear the rebuke of the wise, than for a man to hear the song of fools” (Eccl. 7:5). No one I know of enjoys being rebuked, or corrected. Many would rather hear a lie about their life than to confront the truth. Rebuking and correction are necessary parts of life. (cont.)

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Consider, “Faithful are the wounds of a friend; but the kisses of an enemy are deceitful” (Prov. 27:6). Jesus said, “As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent” (Rev. 3:19). And always recollect, “no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby” (Heb. 12:11). May each of us have friends who love us enough to correct us when necessary.

6. “It Is Better For Thee To Enter Into Life Halt Or Maimed.” Our Lord, in calling for superior discipline in his followers’ lives, said, “Wherefore if thy hand or thy foot offend thee, cut them off, and cast them from thee: it is better for thee to enter into life halt or maimed, rather than having two hands or two feet to be cast into everlasting fire” (Matt. 18:8). He followed that by saying, “And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: it is better for thee to enter into life with one eye, rather than having two

eyes to be cast into hell fire” (Matt. 18:9). We must exercise exceptional self-control, being temperate in all which we do and which we say (II Pet. 1:6).

7. “It Is Better For Him That A Millstone Were Hanged About His Neck.”

The Lord uttered, “And whosoever shall offend one of these little ones that believe in me, it is better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and he were cast into the sea” (Mk. 9:42). This action would bring certain death and destruction. To offend is to “cause one to sin.” May we not be involved in such activity. Paul warned not to, “put a stumblingblock or an occasion to fall in his brother's way” (Rom. 14:13).

8. “It Is Better To Marry Than To Burn.” These words are found in Paul’s teachings of I Cor. 7. Paul desired “that all men were even as I myself” (I Cor. 7:7). That is, single. However, he knew most could not and taught “to avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband” (I Cor. 7:2).

He further noted, “But if they cannot contain, let them marry: for it is better to marry than to burn” (I Cor. 7:9). The “burn” here is with regard to lust, not Hell. Fulfilling these lusts is Biblical only within the marriage bed (Heb. 13:4).

9. “It Is Better... That Ye Suffer For Well Doing.”

Peter reserved a large amount of ink for the topic of Christian suffering. He composed, “For it is better, if the will of God be so, that ye suffer for well doing, than for evil doing” (I Pet. 3:17). Later, he added, “But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a thief, or as an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men's matters. Yet if any man suffer as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf” (I Pet. 4:15-16). Suffering as a Christian is part of the life of a child of God. Paul reminded Timothy, “Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution” (II Tim. 3:12).

These are the “better things in life!” May we learn to appreciate them always.

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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