

That Was Simple!

Solomon once said, “And further, because the Preacher was wise, he still taught the people knowledge; yea, he pondered, and sought out, and set in order many proverbs. The Preacher sought to find out acceptable words, and that which was written uprightly, even words of truth. The words of the wise are as goads; and as nails well fastened are the words of the masters of assemblies, which are given from one shepherd. And furthermore, my son, be admonished: of making many books there is no end; and much study is a weariness of the flesh. This is the end of the matter; all hath been heard: fear God, and keep his commandments; for this is the whole duty of man. For God will bring every work into judgment, with every hidden thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil” (Eccl. 12:9-14)

That was simple enough! There are many things in life that attempt to captivate our time. Man’s life is often spent in contemplating what he thinks ought to be accomplished, or what others think should be accomplished.

When I first started working with the brethren, on a full-time basis (with very little wisdom or knowledge, which may STILL be the case), I made inquiry into the work from one preacher that has resonated over the years, i.e., “Do not become a honey-do,” i.e., “honey do this, or honey do that.” I think I have learned that lesson, whether it be on the home front, or with brethren generally.

I have also called preachers about tragic events; “what do I do?!?!?!” to which I usually received one of two answers, i.e., “Preach the word,” or, in the case of perceived attacks, “They haven’t crucified you...yet.” So, anytime I fall into such melancholy I’ve learned not to call <grin>. You see, life is simple, as was stated by Solomon. But, keeping one’s foot out of one’s mouth...well, still working on that.

Although the following “foot” and “mouth” analogy is not so stated in the context, it also sets forth the simple responsibilities of life: “Keep thy foot when thou goest to the house of God; for to draw nigh to hear is better than to give the sacrifice of fools: for they know not that they do evil. Be not rash with thy mouth, and let not thy heart be hasty to utter anything before God; for God is in heaven, and thou upon earth: therefore let thy words be few. For a dream cometh with a multitude of business, and a fool’s voice with a multitude of words. When thou vowest a vow unto God, defer not to pay it; for he hath no pleasure in fools: pay that which thou vowest. Better is it that thou shouldest not vow, than that thou shouldest vow and not pay. Suffer not thy mouth to cause thy flesh to sin; neither say thou before the angel, that it was an error: wherefore should God be angry at thy voice, and destroy the work of thy hands? For in the multitude of dreams there are vanities, and in many words: but fear thou God” (Eccl. 5:1-7).

Ross Triplett, Sr.