

The Old Hickory Bulletin

Old Hickory Church of Christ

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Remember These Quotes From The Vice-President?

In a speech in San Francisco (1992), Vice President Dan Quayle criticized the Murphy Brown show (Candice Bergen, the star, was a single woman, who, as part of the show had a baby) as an evil influence on our society. There was immediate reaction and outrage from the liberal news media. That is to be expected, for the networks are controlled or influenced by humanists [with] no standard of morality.

What did Mr. Quayle say? Here are some excerpts:

"When I have been asked during these last weeks who caused the riots and the killing in Los Angeles my answer has been direct and simple: Who is to blame for the riots? The rioters are to blame. Who is to blame for the killings? The killers are to blame. Yes, I can understand how people were shocked and outraged by the verdict in the Rodney King trial. But there is simply no excuse for the mayhem that followed. To apologize or in any way excuse what happened is wrong. It is a betrayal of all those people equally outraged and equally disadvantaged who did not loot and did not riot - and who were in many cases victims of the rioters. No matter how much you may disagree with the verdict, the riots were wrong. And if we as a society don't condemn what is wrong, how can we teach our children what is right?"

"Our (government) policies must be premised on, and must reinforce, values such as: family, hard work, integrity and personal responsibility."

"... the failure of our families is hurting America deeply. When families fail, society fails. The anarchy and lack of structure in our inner cities are testament to how quickly civilization falls apart when the family foundation cracks. Children need love and discipline. They need mothers and fathers. A welfare check is not a husband. The state is not a father."

" ... marriage is probably the best anti-poverty program of all. Among families headed by married couples today, there is a poverty rate of 5.7 percent. But 33.4 percent of families headed by a single mother are in poverty today. Nature abhors a vacuum. Where there are no mature responsible men around to teach boys how to be good men, gangs serve in their place."

"It doesn't help matters when prime time TV has Murphy Brown - a character who supposedly epitomizes today's intelligent, highly paid professional woman - mocking the importance of fathers, by bearing a child alone, and calling it just another 'lifestyle choice.'"

"I know it is not fashionable to talk about moral values, but we need to do it. Even though our cultural leaders in Hollywood, network TV, the national newspapers routinely jeer at them, I think that most of us in this room know that some things are good, and other things are wrong."

Now you can see why the media was so outraged! We endorse the statements by Mr. Quayle. The hour is desperate for men of courage who will say and do what is right before God - even if it isn't politically correct. Let us all support such leadership!

The liberal TV people asked if we didn't know that Murphy Brown was fiction. Yes, and so are most TV commercials, but people believe them. If the Brown show was not designed to impress and influence viewers, what is the purpose of it?

Look at our society. Divorce is at an alarming rate, juvenile delinquency is at an all-time high, millions of couples are living together without marriage.

Shows like Murphy Brown, and those who apologize for such, will not help these moral and social problems. Teaching like that from Mr. Quayle will.

- Eugene Britnell, via The Sower, July/August, 1992 [Edited]

Are You a Discourager?

A soldier was court-martialed and dishonorably discharged from the army of a foreign country. This followed a brief engagement of that army in war. The man was not discharged for treason, desertion or sleeping at his post of duty. He was accused of being a "discourager" of men.

He did nothing more than go among his fellow soldiers with discouraging words and criticism of the military effort. He broke the spirit and tore down the morale of many who

would listen to him. His presence was more of a hindrance than a help to accomplish the task at hand.

It is alarming how often this same situation prevails in the Lord's army, the church. People do not violently fight against the Lord's program of work. They just mingle with other members and continually complain about the work of the church, criticizing the leaders, and voicing skepticism concerning plans and goals. In a very real sense these are "discouragers of men."

It is difficult to detect such action because it can be accomplished in some of the most subtle ways, and under many disguises. Thus, the Lord's cause is hindered. Often there are too many critics and not enough workers.

The discourager may not really intend to be an enemy and a traitor but he is exactly that. Jesus, the captain of our salvation, says: "He that is not with me is against me." Those who serve in the Lord's army as discouragers of men will receive a dishonorable discharge from His service. Are you really for the Lord?

- Unknown

A Quote from the Past ...

You cannot bring about prosperity by discouraging thrift. You cannot strengthen the weak by weakening the strong. You cannot help the earner by pulling down the wage-payer. You cannot further the brotherhood of man by encouraging class hatred. You cannot help the poor by discouraging the rich. You cannot establish sound security on borrowed money. You cannot keep out of trouble by spending more than you earn. You cannot build character and courage by taking away man's initiative and independence. You cannot help men permanently by doing for them what they could and should do for themselves.

- Abraham Lincoln

A FAITHFUL MESSAGE FROM THE PAST AND A TIMELY WORD FOR THE PRESENT

For there is some danger of falling into a soft and effeminate Christianity, under the plea of a lofty and ethereal theology. Christianity was born for endurance; and not exotic, but a hardy plant, braced by the keen wind; not languid, nor childish, nor cowardly. It walks with strong step and erect frame; it is kindly, but firm; it is gentle, but honest; it is calm,

but not facile; obliging but not imbecile; decided, but not churlish. It does not fear to speak the stern word of condemnation against error, nor to raise its voice against surrounding evils, under the pretext it is not of this world; it does not shrink from giving honest reproof lest it come under the charge of displaying an unchristian spirit. It calls sin sin, on whomsoever it is found, and would rather risk the accusation of being actuated by a bad spirit than not discharge an explicit duty. Let us not misjudge strong words in honest controversy. Out of the heat a viper may come forth; but we shake it off and feel no harm. The religion of both Old and New Testaments is marked by fervent outspoken testimonies against evil. To speak smooth things in such a case may be sentimentalism, but it is not Christianity. It is a betrayal of the cause of truth and righteousness. If anyone should be frank, manly, honest, cheerful (I do not say blunt or rude, for a Christian must be courteous and polite); It is he who has tasted that the Lord is gracious, and is looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God. I know that charity covereth a multitude of sins; but it does not call evil good, because a good man has done it; it does not excuse inconsistencies, because the inconsistent brother has a high name and fervent spirit; crookedness and worldliness are still crookedness and worldliness, though exhibited in one who seems to have reached no common height of attainment.

- Horatius Bonar (1808-89)

Passing the Torch!

Leaders in the Lord's church and parents in godly homes need to recognize the importance of passing the torch of leadership to a younger generation. The Scriptures inform us that Moses passed his authority on to Joshua, Elijah passed his prophetic authority on to Elisha, David passed his royal authority on to Solomon, and Jesus commissioned His chosen Apostles to continue the work He had begun. All Christians who have habitually followed the pattern of spiritual growth in knowledge and virtues must search out people who will be able to take their places when they move on, retire, or pass away.

Paul instructed young Timothy: "The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also." (2 Timothy 2:2). What happens with the church of the future depends upon "men of good reputation, full of the Spirit and of wisdom," (Acts 6:3).

In recent days we have been reminded of the brevity of life in the passing of fine Christians, both men and women, who have given themselves to the Lord and worked tirelessly for His cause. Most recently, as brother Don reminded brother Rick, we have lost Walter Pugh of Sunset View, Wayne Meggs of Chickasaw Drive, and Bobby Garrison of Tigrett. Personally, I still mourn the losses of Raymond and Anne Harville, and Billy

and Lois Ashworth. These Christians were such a great encouragement to me through the years! Their indelible words remain in my heart.

The torch must be passed on, maybe even sooner than our short-sighted plans imagine. As Paul said, “we are God’s fellow workers” (1 Corinthians 3:9). When we give ourselves to Christ and His work there will be no regrets! “If any man's work which he has built on it [the foundation of Christ -GFS] remains, he will receive a reward.” (1 Corinthians 3:14).

- Gary Smalley

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- * “Depend on it -- God’s work done in God’s way will never lack God’s supplies!”
 - * “God has history of using the insignificant to accomplish the impossible!”
 - * “Happiness is a perfume you cannot pour on others without getting a few drops on yourself!”
 - * “Swallowing angry words before you say them is better than having to eat them afterwards!”
 - * “Feed your faith and your doubts will starve to death!”
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THIS WEEK’S LESSON: The sermon for Sunday morning is: “*As For Me And My House ...!*” (Text: Joshua 24:15).

What Must I Do To Be Saved?

HEAR THE GOSPEL

(Romans 10:14-17; John 20:30-31; Romans 1:15-17)

BELIEVE IN JESUS CHRIST

(Acts 8:37; John 8:24; Hebrews 11:6)

REPENT OF PAST SINS

(Luke 13:3; Acts 2:38; Acts 17:30)

CONFESS CHRIST

(Romans 10:9-10; Acts 8:37)

BE BAPTIZED

(Romans 6:3-4; Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2:38; Acts 8:36-39; 1 Peter 3:21)

LIVE A FAITHFUL LIFE

(Revelation 2:10; 2 Peter 1:5-11; John 15:1-8; Hebrews 10:23-25)