

Provisions for the Worn Out: Part 3b

September 13, 2020

Discussion Question: What foolish, ignorant controversies that divided you from another individual do you wish you had avoided?

Daniel 7:25 “And he shall speak great words against the most High, and shall wear out the saints of the most High...” [KJV]

The enemy of our soul desires to wear us out.

1. Questions
2. Quaking (Fear)

Last week we began looking at

3. Quarreling

2 Tim 2:24 “And the Lord's servant must not be quarrelsome but kind to everyone, able to teach, patiently enduring evil.” [ESV]

We distinguish between quarreling and debating. Healthy debate has a desire for truth by both parties. Facts matter. A quarrel has no desire for truth; facts do not matter; it just wants to shout down the other opinion by any means necessary.

What is the provision for quarreling?

A. Avoid

Titus 3:2, 9, 10 “to speak evil of no one, **to avoid quarreling**”

B. Accurate

2 Tim 2:14-17 “Remind them of these things, and charge them before God not to quarrel about words, which does no good, but only ruins the hearers. 15 Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a worker who has no need to be ashamed, rightly handling the word of truth.” [ESV]

TODAY: (What is the biblical provision for quarreling?)

C. Accept

- a. Person that's Weak: Rom 14:1 “As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him (receive, KJV; accept, NASU), but not to quarrel over opinions.” [ESV]

Here we are reminded that not all are mature in the faith.

Accept here has to do with hospitality, admitting friendship and a desire to lead

The early church found itself quarreling as Jews and Gentiles come together. The different customs are beginning to clash. In judging each other brotherly love and mutual respect gets thrown out the window.

Paul said make room for things that don't matter. **Why?**

Rom 14:10-12 “Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God; 11 for it is written, “As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God.” 12 So then each of us will give an account of himself to God.” [ESV]

Rom 14:13 *“For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost.”* [KJV]

b. Accept Position of Contentment: 1 Tim 6:3-8 *“If anyone teaches a different doctrine and does not agree with the sound words of our Lord Jesus Christ and the teaching that accords with godliness, 4 he is puffed up with conceit and understands nothing. He has an unhealthy craving for controversy and for quarrels about words, which produce envy, dissension, slander, evil suspicions, 5 and constant friction among people who are depraved in mind and deprived of the truth, imagining that godliness is a means of gain. 6 Now there is great gain in godliness with contentment, 7 for we brought nothing into the world, and we cannot take anything out of the world. 8 But if we have food and clothing, with these we will be content.”* [ESV]

Note what he says these quarrels bring

The provision for this is contentment.

- Contentment carries the meaning of being satisfied. To possess sufficient strength; to be enough

Lack of contentment is ultimately a discontentment with God! When we are constantly fighting over what we don't have... resources, position, affirmation... etc. When we really do a spiritual diagnostic, we find out that we are really dissatisfied with God.

Phil 4:11-13 Learn to be content in any state

D. Attentive

The book of James deals with practical Christian living. James constantly rebukes the shameful neglect of how we are to live and urges us to demonstrate the validity our experience with Christ by our actions.

One of those practical things he deals with is quarreling. James 4:1 “What is the source of quarrels and conflicts among you? Is not the source your pleasures (passions, ESV; lusts, KJV) that wage war in your members?” [NASU]

He points to the root of our quarreling. It is our pleasure, our passions, and our lust.

How does James tell us to deal with it? We need to be attentive to what is going on inside of us.

- Standing with? – Friendship with world makes us an enemy
- Submitting to? – Surrender to the will and ways of God
- Satan resisting? – Actively pull away & counter his lies
- Showing deferential respect? Humble ourselves in HIS sight
- Speech? Are you speaking evil of a brother?

As we pay attention to what is happening in our own heart then we are able to live with eternity in mind. Our life is just a vapor... here for a little time and we choose to live by the will of the Lord.