

SLIDELL CHURCH OF CHRIST

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July 19, 2015

Preacher's Point

By Dan Schillinger



Try It — You'll Like It!

But King Rehoboam rejected the advice the elders gave him and consulted the young men who had grown up with him and were serving him. (1 Kings 12:8)

Who has never been urged by acquaintances to do something against our wills, against our own best interests, and in violation of our own consciences? Someone says, "Oh come on try it once, you don't know what you're missing." It may be that we have been introduced to some pretty good things this way, but probably most have been led into some pretty horrible practices.

The reasoning behind such an appeal is faulty to the core. The truth is that you don't have to try something before you know whether you will like it or not. Those who have never been put in jail for a crime don't have to wonder whether they would like the experience or not. If you've never jumped head first with no parachute from a high building to the concrete pavement, I doubt that you wonder what it would be like or what you may have been missing all these years. Don't try it.

The "do your own thing" existentialist view of life is very faulty also. Should you really have to taste the full cup of life before you know what is bad and what is not? Do you really need to participate in the seamy side of life as well as the good life to become a full human being? It is faulty to think that one can experiment with things that endanger the soul and destroy the health of an otherwise intelligent being.

Today's Sermon

a.m. *"Where Two or Three Are Gathered Together in My Name"*

Mathew 18:15-20

p.m. *Opportunity for discussion and reflection on the morning message*

Many things lure all of us into sin. Falling for the stupidity of "Try it, you don't know what you're missing," has led a host of people to take-up their first misuse of alcohol or to the drugs. Ask a heroin addict or prescription-drug abuser how much fun he or she is having. Ask them if they wish now that they'd not been so foolish as to take their first halting steps into the misuse of drugs.

Think about just how really dumb it is to do anything without first researching the experience. Here are a few good research questions.

1. Would God approve of this?
2. Will this be good for me?
3. How will this affect me now and in the future?
4. It is something I want everyone to know that I do?
5. Will it damage my health?
6. Could I recommend it to others?
7. Will it cause me to violate my conscience?
8. Will it cause me to grow in Christ?
9. Will it hurt my reputation with good people?
10. Why should I do it anyway?

Welcome Visitors

We are pleased to have the opportunity to welcome you to our service. We think you will find our congregation family to be one that enthusiastically embraces newcomers and warmly welcomes them into our fellowship. We hope you feel right at home as you join us in worship, praise and thanksgiving.

“REMEMBER IN PRAYER & ENCOURAGE”



With Visits, Calls, & Cards

The flooding victims, and relief workers, throughout Texas.

Angel Mangus (of Houston, TX, niece of Carl Mangus) - afflicted with inoperable stage 4 brain cancer.

Charles Espadron (Claudia's brother, in Atlanta) - diagnosed with cancer in one lung.

Carl Mangus - afflicted with congestive heart symptoms, feeling weak, and losing weight.

Claudia Molina - thanksgiving that her new endocrinologist has helped her to experience better management of her diabetes than she has had in years. She is feeling pretty well!

Dwight Jones - awaiting biopsy results following elevated PSA levels.

Jeff Vaccaro - for the healing a recent sun-burned blisters on both legs.

Elery Martin (friend of the Caseys, near Montgomery, AL) - five year old girl experiencing seizures, has had tests re-scheduled for tests on July 23.

Zach Steele - for success and healing through the process of receiving his long-awaited bone marrow transplant.

Cecilia McDonald (Kate's mom, in Pleasanton,

Texas) - thanksgiving that she has successfully changed some medications and is no longer afflicted with fluid retention. Pray that her health continues to improve while she receives in-home care.

Eddie Greene (of Atlanta) - afflicted with sciatica.

Karen Besser (friend of Kathy Pederson's granddaughter) - has pneumonia and a lung clot.

Dorothy Bryan - suffering hearing loss.

Walter Acker - thanksgiving that he now has sight restored to one eye, following recent cataract surgery.

Rosa Nuñez (good friend of the Vargas family) - having serious painful health problems.

Ken Cheri (Courtney's brother) - healing well following recent successful hip replacement surgery. He is getting around with a cane.

Jessica Fowler (Jesse and Shirley's granddaughter, and a resident of Lockport, LA) - has some vexing problems besetting her.

Van Kreh (Margaret's eldest brother, in Estill Springs, TN) - thanksgiving that he is eating and drinking better, despite suffering from Alzheimer's and Parkinson's diseases.

Terri Jones - pray that she'll come to feel better through her current negative phase in her Epstein-Barr disorder.

Dale Epperley - Awaiting a date to be set for surgery to remove a 70% blockage from his right carotid artery. Later, another surgery is supposed to be scheduled to remove the 40% blockage on his left side.

Gerald Molina - tests have indicated that his lower-back pain issues are confined to that area. He has an appointment to see a surgeon on 03 Aug. for possible scheduling of surgery in the near-future. He also thankfully now has less fluid build-up throughout his body.

Jace Roig (newborn son of Colton Roig) - health has improved enough for him to be transferred to Ochsner-Northshore Hospital in

Slidell. But he is afflicted now with a strep B infection, and still has an arachnoid cyst in his brain, and cardiac openings that have not yet healed.

Bill Tansil - most pressing health issue now is pain from arthritis in his back and shoulders.

Phyllis Tansil - thanksgiving that she continues at long last to experience lasting substantial pain relief in her lower back. She was able to use a treadmill this past week for the first time in 14 months!

Sharon Honoré (sister of Anita, and a member at the Crowder Blvd. church) - has advanced breast cancer.

Donald Boudreaux (Joyce LeBlanc's brother-in-law, of the Barataria area) - fighting cancer in the area of the kidney ureters.

Maria Aurelia Alsaro (Marisol's mother, in Costa Rica) - afflicted with kidney problems.

Clara Leonard - pain has slightly subsided, and she was able to drive recently.

Wyatt (Kristi Ford's son) - for his being well-adjusted as he stays with his dad's side of the family this summer, and for those family members to experience reconciliation with one another.

Bobby Leonard - seeing a kidney specialist on July 22.

Chad Michael - a recent visitor who is undergoing hardships.

The family of Velma Hartley (a sister who occasionally visits here from Mobile) - bereaved at the recent passing of her step-son Mitchell.

Schillinger family - thankful that their household has now shrunk to just 5 people. Sarah & others moved back to Tennessee last Thursday.

Pray for all who are travelling.

Pray for Latino evangelism in our area.

Pray for our elders: Courtney Cheri, Dwight Jones and Gerald Molina.

Pray for President Obama and all our elected officials.

Pray for our men and women in our armed forces, both here and abroad!

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Congratulations to Shane Hicks! - He has just been hired in one full-time and one part-time job now, following his recent discharge from the U.S. Navy. Way to go, brother! And thank you for your fine service to our country against some very evil people! We are so proud of you!

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The Epistles: Learning to Think Contextually

Adapted from Fee & Stuart, *How to Read the Bible for All Its Worth* (3rd edition)

The Problem Passages

In texts like Philippians you should be able to do most of this kind of exegesis on your own, given that you have learned to *think paragraphs and to ask the right historical, literary and contextual questions*. But there are all those other texts, the kinds of texts that repeatedly leave readers wondering-- the meaning of "*because of the angels*" in 1 Corinthians 11:10, or "*baptism for the dead*" in 1 Corinthians 15:29, or Christ's preaching to the "*spirits in prison*" in 1 Peter 3:19, or "*the man of lawlessness*" in 2 Thessalonians 2:3 (NASV, NIV). In short, how do we go about finding the meaning of the problem passages? Here are some guidelines:

1. We must face the fact that in many cases the reason the texts are so difficult for us is that they were *not written to us*. That is, the original author and his readers are on a similar wavelength that allows the inspired author to assume a great deal on the part of his readers. Thus, for example, when Paul tells the Thessalonians that they are to recall that he "*when I was with you I told you these things,*" and therefore "*you know what is restraining [him]*" (2 Thessalonians 2:5, 6), we

may need to learn to be content with our lack of knowledge. What he had told THEM orally they could now fit into what he was saying by letter. But our lack of the oral communication makes the written one especially difficult. The bottom line is that what God wants us to know he *has* communicated to us; what he has not told us may still hold our interest, but our uncertainty at these points should make us hesitant about being dogmatic.

2. Nonetheless, even if one cannot have full certainty about some of the details, very often the point of the whole passage is still within one's grasp. Whatever it was the Corinthians were doing in "*baptizing for the dead*," we *do* know *why* Paul referred to this practice of theirs. Their own action was a kind of "proof from experience" that they were not consistent in rejecting a future resurrection of God's people.

3. Despite some uncertainty as to some of the precise details, one needs to learn to ask *what can be said for certain about a text*, in contrast with what is *possible* but *not* certain. Look at 1 Corinthians 15:29 again as an example.

What can be said for certain? Some of the Corinthians really were being "*baptized for the dead*," whether we like to admit that or not. Moreover, Paul neither condemns nor condones their practice; he simply *refers* to it--for a totally different reason from the actual practice itself. But we do not know and probably never will know exactly *who* was doing it, *for whom* they were doing it, and *why* they were doing it. The details and the meaning of the practice, therefore, are

probably forever lost to us.

4. On such passages one needs to consult a good commentary. *It is the handling of just such a passage that separates the good commentaries from all the others.* The good ones will list and at least briefly discuss the various options that have been suggested as solutions, with reasons for and against. You may not always go along with the individual commentator's choices, but you do need to be informed about the variety of options, and good commentaries will do that for you.

Finally, we note that even scholars do *not* have all the answers. You can more or less count on it that when there are four to fourteen viable options as to what a text meant, even the scholars are guessing! Texts like 1 Corinthians 15:29 should serve to give us proper humility.

Conclusion

What we have done with the epistles in these articles is only *half* the task. It is the essential first half; we have learned to hear God's word to *them* (exegesis). But now we want to go on to ask *how these various texts apply to us* (hermeneutics). What about this word to *us*? That is the concern of the next article. (*to be continued*)



Our Leaders!

Elders

Dwight Jones
Courtney Cheri
Gerald Molina

Preacher

Dan Schillinger

Deacons

Jesse Fowler
James Richardson
Hector Urbina

Our Services

Sunday Morning Bible Class 9:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship 10:30 a.m.

Sunday Evening Worship 5:00 p.m.

Wednesday Evening Bible Class 7:00 p.m.

Stitches of Love Tuesday 9:30 am