

Questions & Replies by John T. Polk II, www.johntpolkll.com

QUESTION: Why is there so much outcry about the dangers of social media (such as Facebook, Twitter a.k.a. X, Zoom, etc.)?

ANSWER: One reason is because it is so difficult, or impossible, to be certain of a stranger's claim. Please read **Joshua 9:1-27** and notice:

1. V. 3-15 The Gibeonites presented a faked appearance, lied about their homeplace, falsely claimed to be "servants" and pleaded for peace when they were part of Israel's enemies! On "social media" it is practically impossible to verify the personal claims, or picture(!) a stranger may present. It is especially sad to learn of someone who has only communicated on "social media," who leaves home and family to meet that stranger! Because strangers may be lying like the Devil to our face, friendships are best made with those who are "face to face." "Having many things to write to you, I did not wish to do so with paper and ink; but I hope to come to you and speak face to face, that our joy may be full" (**2 John 12**). "Neighbor" means "those who live closest," thus friendships should begin with our own family, then those living in our community. "Covenants" a.k.a. "contracts" should very cautiously be entered into with "strangers."

2. V. 14-16 Before consulting God's Word ("He who is surety for a stranger will suffer, But one who hates being surety is secure" **Proverbs 11:15**), Joshua and "the rulers of the congregation," "made peace with them," promising "to let them live." When the truth was revealed (that they were actually living close by, and thus part of those to be destroyed, **Joshua 9:22**), it was too late. The Israelites, bound by their loyalty to God, kept their part of that covenant (**Joshua 9:17-19**). According to Jesus, Christians, as sheep, "will by no means follow a stranger, but will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers" (**John 10:5**). Meeting, mingling, marrying, or "merging" with someone you don't really know is never good! Promises made in ignorance may have serious consequences! Learn all you can before entering into agreements! (This also applies to all "charities," "causes," "good works" receiving donations!)

3. V. 17-27 The Israelites simply held the Gibeonites to their word, "We are your servants" (**Joshua 9:8**), and made them agree to be just that, "woodcutters and water carriers for all the congregation, as the rulers had promised them" (**Joshua 9:21**).

"Social media" may not be completely responsible for bad decisions or agreements people make, but rather the lack of diligence in determining the whole truth.

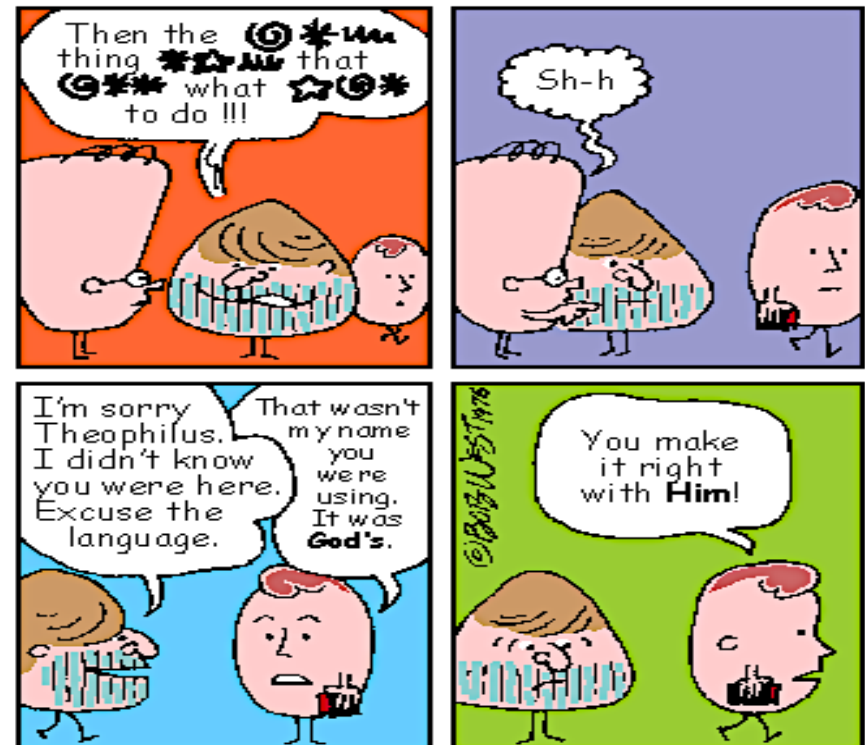
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~Time is too slow for those who wait, too swift for those who fear, too long for those who grieve, too short for those who rejoice, but for those who love, time is eternity.
~~Henry Van Dyke

~The reason why worry kills more people than work is that more people worry than work. ~~Robert Frost

~People are very open-minded about new things – as long as they're exactly like the old ones.
~~Charles Kettering

THEOPHILUS



When "Global Warming" Was SUMMER!

On this date 70-years ago in 1954, there was coast-to-coast heat. It was $\geq 95^{\circ}$ in a total of 37 states and 28 of those states were also $\geq 100^{\circ}$.

- 95° in New Jersey and Wisconsin
- 96° in Minnesota
- 97° in Oregon and Washington
- 98° in Delaware and Wyoming
- 99° in Utah and West Virginia
- 100° in Florida, Maryland, Nevada, New Mexico and Ohio
- 101° in Idaho, Iowa and Pennsylvania
- 102° in Louisiana and Virginia
- 103° in Alabama, Colorado, Kentucky, Mississippi, Oklahoma and South Carolina
- 104° in Arizona, North Carolina and Tennessee
- 105° in Arkansas, Georgia, Kansas and Texas
- 106° in Indiana, Missouri and Nebraska
- 108° in Illinois
- 109° in California

We don't get heat this intense over this large of an area very often these days in the U.S. (contrary to what the media wants you to think), but this was quite common prior to 1960, particularly during the 1930s and 1950s.



TRUE LIBERTY

"Therefore submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord's sake, whether to the king as supreme, or to governors, as to those who are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers and *for the* praise of those who do good. For this is the will of God, that by doing good you may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men-- as free, yet not using liberty as a cloak for vice, but as bondservants of God. "

1 Peter 2:13-16

Which Classical Writing Is Best Preserved?

Author	When Written	Earliest Copy	Time Span	No. of Copies
Homer (Iliad)	900 BC	400 BC	500 years	643
Caesar (The Gallic Wars)	100 - 44 BC	900 AD	1,000 years	10
Plato (Tetralogies)	427 - 347 BC	900 AD	1,200 years	7
Aristotle	384 - 322 BC	1,100 AD	1,400 years	49
Herodotus (History)	480 - 425 BC	900 AD	1,300 years	8
Euripedes	480 - 406 BC	1,100 AD	1,500 years	9
New Testament	50 - 90 A.D.	130 AD	30 years	24,000

This chart was adapted from charts in Evidence that Demands a Verdict, by Josh McDowell, 1979, pgs 42-43.

William Shakespeare wrote 37 plays in the seventeenth century--*the original printing of his works have NOT survived*, and so the missing gaps in the copies of his works were filled in with "educational guesses" of textual scholars.

