



John T. Polk II, Editor



All Scripture quotations from the Editor are from the New King James Version
(Bible Resources may be found on: www.johntpolkll.com)
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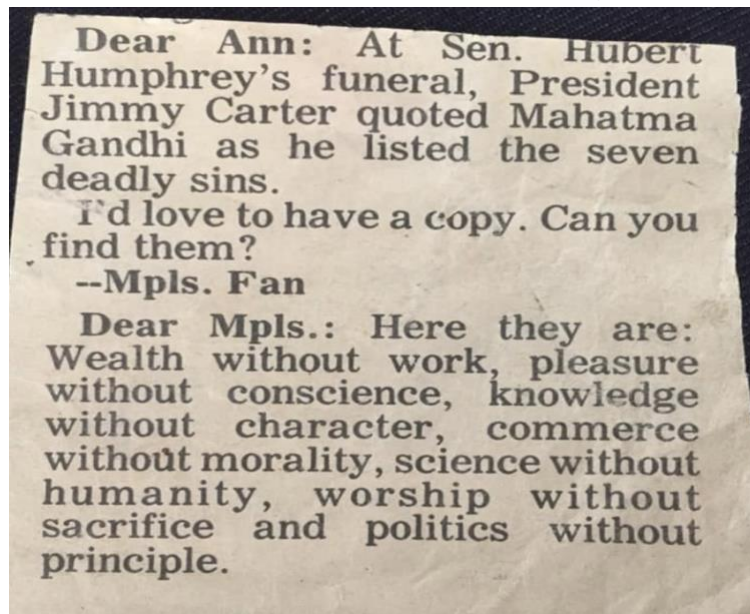
Free Article : "Street Protesters"

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Salted Speech Colossians 4:6

- ~ The angriest person in a controversy is usually the one who is wrong.
- ~ Prejudice is a great time saver. It enables one to form opinions without bothering to get the facts.
- ~ Prejudice is a lazy man's substitute for thinking.
- ~ A good way to save face is to keep the lower half closed.
- ~ Temper often gets us into trouble, and pride keeps us there.
- ~ To hear God's voice, turn down the world's volume.

From "Dear Ann Landers"



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

QUESTION: "What are people 'protesting'?"

ANSWER: To "protest" simply means "to express disapproval." There are ways this may be done, but in our day, these are mostly violent, rude, ugly and wrong.

1. Acceptably, offering comparison to truth is right. This is as God does: "For the LORD has a complaint against His people, And He will contend with Israel" (**Micah 6:2**). "Those who forsake the law praise the wicked, But such as keep the law contend with them" (**Proverbs 28:4**). This is exactly what is required of Christians, and that is "to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints" (**Jude 3**).

2. Unacceptably, contradicting truth but not establishing their case. "On the next Sabbath almost the whole city came together to hear the word of God. But when the Jews saw the multitudes, they were filled with envy; and contradicting and blaspheming, they opposed the things spoken by Paul" (**Acts 13:44-45**). The Jews changed nothing in the truth Paul preached; they offered nothing to add or take away the Bible facts Paul had preached; they did not expose any mishandling or misstatement of truth by Paul; they were not motivated by a "love of the truth" (**2 Thessalonians 2:9-10**) but by their own personal desire for popularity ("envy" also "jealousy"). And they exposed their lack of vocabulary in their choice of verbal attack: "**contradicting**" means negating what Paul positively affirmed. These are people willing to interrupt, shout, or otherwise demonstrate their childish petulance by throwing a tantrum! Literally, the word means "anti-word" and they are "anti's" of the first order. They have nothing to offer positive, so they simply tag the truth with "not!" These are "negative nabobs" who live in the objective case and kickative mood. "**blaspheming**" means saying things purely designed to hurt, misrepresent, or render distasteful, either the message or messenger they cannot logically refute! This comes from narrow-minded, bigoted, prejudiced people who usually don't have a grasp of the subject they are misrepresenting. Sadly, this whole approach appeals to the young mindset who feel they must not approve of much of anything said or done before them! Just call them "Generation N-egative."

3. Destructive Protesting is nothing more than pure thievery and rioting. Jesus said, "The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy" (**John 10:10**). Raw riotous destruction cannot be disguised by calling it "Black Lives Matter Protesting."

4. The Bible's broad brush for all such attacks is: "Woe to those who call evil good, and good evil; Who put darkness for light, and light for darkness; Who put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter! Woe to those who are wise in their own eyes, And prudent in their own sight!" (**Isaiah 5:20-21**). According to **Proverbs 28:4**, they should never be encouraged, but condemned, praying that they will "repent" (**Acts 17:30**).
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Making the Most of Every Opportunity

The church at Philadelphia was one of two churches in Revelation chapters 2 & 3 that received no criticism (Smyrna being the other). In the writing to the church at Philadelphia, one verse reveals an interesting formula for making the most of every opportunity – for churches and individual Christians. We can find it in Revelation 3:8.

Before we get to the formula, let's first note that it is the Lord who grants opportunities. In verse 8 we read, *"See, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it."* Jesus opened doors of productivity and service before them. He still does this today.

Now, let's look at the verse in full and note the formula: *"I know your works⁴. See, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it; for you have a little strength³, have kept My word¹, and have not denied My name²."*

1) Start with God's word. They were commended by Jesus because they had kept His word. God's words gives us all things we need for life, godliness, and success (cf. 2 Peter 1:3).

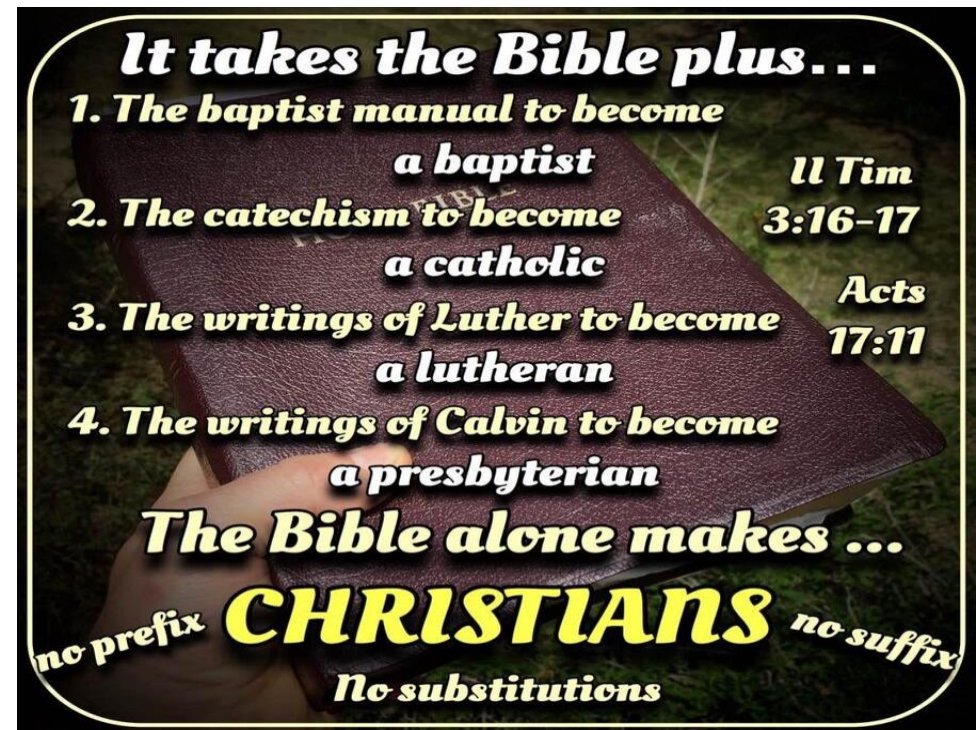
2) Apply what is learned from God's word. They loved the word of God and stayed faithful in living and defending it. The Bible, when properly applied, leads one to a productive and successful life (cf. 2 Timothy 3:16-17).

3) Take inventory of resources. They may have had "a little strength", but they had some strength. Maybe they were small in numbers, resources, or influence, but they still utilized them. Take stock of what you have: resources, time, talents, enthusiasm. Whatever it is, no matter how seemingly small, know that it can be used for success for the Lord (cf. Matthew 25:14-30).

4) Get to work. Jesus recognized and praised their works. What a great reminder to us. Get busy. Get up and get going. Get to work for the Lord. Get ready, get set, and go! He will take note of what you do in His name (cf. 1 Thessalonians 1:3)

So the formula is: learn, live, list, and labor! If we do these, God will provide the opportunities for spiritual service and success. *"Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those who are of the household of faith."* (Galatians 6:10)

- Edd Sterchi



THEOPHILUS

The Same Mouth?

