

QUESTION: "Why do people 'protest'?"

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," or "Pro-Palestinian."

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).

---jtpII

~~ "Within the character of the citizen, lies the welfare of the nation." ~CICERO

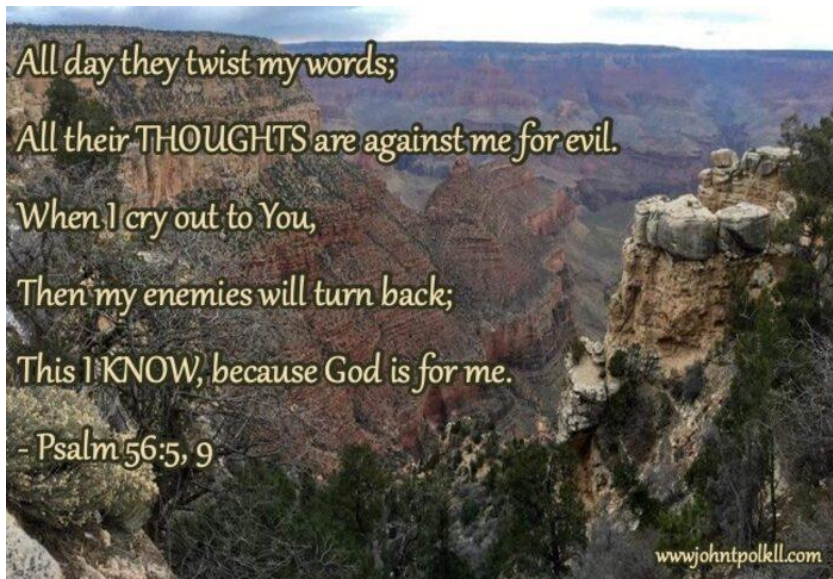
~~ Few things are more dangerous to a person's character than having nothing to do and plenty of time in which to do it!

~~ "Life consists not in holding good cards but in playing those you hold well." ~Josh Billings

THEOPHILUS

Broad Is the Way





Prayer and the Days of the Week

Sunday - Saints. Pray for fellow Christians, church leaders, your local congregation, and the church universal.

Monday - Missionaries. Pray for missionaries, evangelism, and the lost (by name).

Tuesday - Teachers. Pray for Bible Class teachers, department heads, and the education department in general.

Wednesday - Washington. Pray for civil government leaders at all levels. Pray for world-wide peace so that the gospel might be spread.

Thursday - Thanksgiving. Make this day a day to thank God for all material and spiritual blessings.

Friday - Family. Pray for your family, friends, and relatives.

Saturday - Shut-ins and Sick. Pray for the shut-ins, elderly, and chronically ill. Also remember the poor, the afflicted, and those that mourn.

- Selected

In Like a Lion, Out Like a Lamb

We've all heard the phrase concerning the month of March: "In like a lion, and out like a lamb." This refers to how March often starts out with some of the winter elements in it, but by the time April rolls round, the weather is much more pleasant. However, I did not use this phrase as a title concerning March but concerning Jesus Christ.

In Revelation 5:5-6, we read John's inspired words: *"But one of the elders said to me, 'Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals. And I looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as though it had been slain..."* Did you notice that Jesus is not only referenced to as the **"Lion of Judah"** but also as **"a Lamb"**? These symbols are significant concerning us understanding just who Jesus is.

As a lion, Jesus is majestic and strong. And just as the lion is referred to as "the king of the jungle", Jesus is King of kings (Revelation 17:14; 19:16). A lion is courageous and confident of his power and does not run from any foe or danger. The same is true of Jesus – He has ultimate power and utilizes it most effectively. The lion is also noted for its dreaded ability to crush and consume. In like fashion, Jesus has crushed all enemies including Satan, death, and the grave (Revelation 1:18).

As a lamb, Jesus is pure and innocent. And just as we equate a lamb with newness of life, Jesus not only has that within Himself, but can grant that to us (Revelation 2:11, 17; 21:27). A lamb is docile and obedient. So was Jesus while He was upon the earth – He remained perfectly obedient to the Father's will. And, of course, a lamb was a proper sacrificial animal under the Old Testament regulations. In like manner, Jesus the Lamb lived perfect, pure, and sinless while upon the earth and thus became the perfect sacrifice for sinful mankind (Revelation 7:14; 12:11).

Jesus came to the earth and courageously demonstrated His majesty and might revealing Him as King. But He ended His life on the earth pure and innocent, obedient to the Father's will, being sacrificed for us. In like a Lion, out like a Lamb! Praise be to Jesus!

- Edd Sterchi