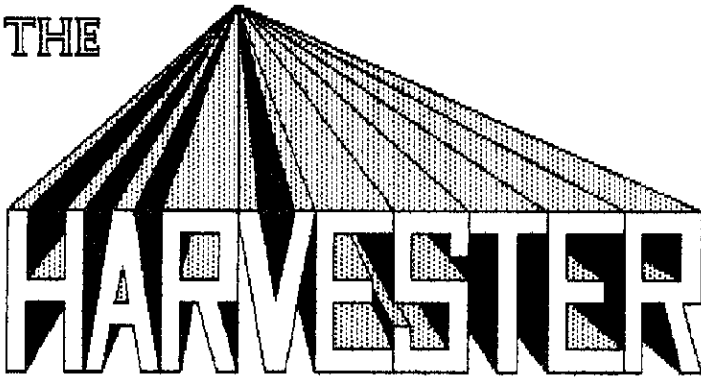


THE



*"The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth laborers into his harvest." (Luke 10:2)*

---

**AUGUST 1998**

**No. 152**

---

## PLASTIC WRAP AND ELEPHANTS

One of my professors recently placed these [following] words on the markerboard in the middle of one of her lectures and said that they emphasized her point.

To Know  
is to No Know  
so Know No Know

She didn't tell us right away what they meant, but said she was going to let us ponder about their meaning for a while before revealing it to us.

---

**THE HARVESTER**  
1120 Sun Hill Road  
Birmingham, AL 35215-4106

**NON-PROFIT ORG.**  
**U.S. POSTAGE PAID**  
Birmingham AL  
PERMIT No. 4624

FORWARD & ADDRESS  
CORRECTION REQUESTED

[

This sort of challenge is one that I really enjoy, so I sat through the rest of class trying to decipher what hidden meaning was really there. Alas, I was stumped. After class I asked my professor to explain to me the meaning of the words. She smiled a great smile, and thought for only a moment before giving me these two examples which made the words quite clear.

If you take fruit flies and place them in a jar and cover the jar with clear plastic wrap such that the flies can not see the plastic, the flies will bounce off of the plastic trying to escape. After a period of time, they will learn that no matter how hard they try to get out, they can not make it past the invisible barrier. At this point, you can remove the plastic wrap, and flies won't fly away.

Elephant trainers use the same basic principle. They tie young elephants to small trees that are strong enough that the elephants can not break free. No matter how hard they pull, the small elephants can not get loose. They soon stop tugging at their ropes at all. When they are full grown, though the elephants are quite capable of exerting enough force to break large ropes or uproot many small trees, the elephants do not think they can escape. Only a small stake is used to keep them tied.

The stories made the words quite clear. The flies and the elephants THOUGHT they KNEW they could not escape. However, once the plastic wrap was removed and the

elephants were full grown, this was not the case at all! So, for them to KNOW (or in their case, to have freedom), they needed to "NO KNOW" (or not believe) what they thought they knew (that they could not escape), because what they thought they knew was actually WRONG!

I thought this idea had terrific application to our spiritual strengths and weaknesses. Since we human beings can often act in the same manner as fruit flies and elephants, I wonder if Satan could use this principle to his advantage? *"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour"* (I Pet. 5:8).

Could it be that in our younger spiritual life we did not believe we had the strength to overcome a particular sin, and now we do have the strength, but do not believe we can overcome the sin because we could not overcome it before? Could it be that at one point in time we were rejected for the sake of the Gospel, and since then have not tried to reach out to others because we fear that rejection might come again?

Could it be that we were once afraid of audiences and used that as an excuse not to be a leader in worship services, but now have developed talents worthy to be used but still don't use them because of the old fear? Could it be that we do not study the Bible deeply because at one time we had difficulty understanding a deep subject?

THE HARVESTER is a monthly publication intended to encourage all men everywhere to become laborers into God's harvest (Luke 10:2). This paper is mailed free of charge to anyone who wishes to receive it. Please submit name, address and all correspondence to:

Ray McManus  
301 Varden Hill Road  
Birmingham, AL 35214-1947  
Phone: (205) 791-1399

Could it be that Satan knows of our pre-conceived ideas about our own strengths and weaknesses and used this information against us? Certainly he could. And he does. But let's realize, there IS STRENGTH IN CHRIST TO OVERCOME SATAN, and to live the life that Jesus Christ wants us to live!! *"I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me"* (Ph. 4:13).

Let's not be afraid of those things which hindered us in the past, but let's trust in His strength to enable us to do ALL THINGS necessary to please the Lord!

Chad Prince  
311 Golden Crest Circle  
Birmingham, AL 35209

**IT IS NATURAL TO BE RELIGIOUS;  
IT IS SUPERNATURAL TO BE CHRISTIAN.**

## SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

1. How many times did Gideon use the fleece as a sign from God?
2. Who sent Pilate a message telling him to have nothing to do with Jesus?
3. What name is above every title that can be given?
4. In Isaiah's prophecy of the Day of the Lord, how many women will pursue each man, wanting to marry him?
5. What book of the Bible opens with a description of what the swarming, creeping and stripping locusts have done?

ANSWERS NEXT MONTH ...

and remember last month's questions?

1. When it came to interpretation of dreams, from whom did Daniel get help?  
GOD (Dan. 2:28)
2. Where was Jesus when the crown of thorns was put on his head? IN THE HALL  
-- CALLED PRAETORIUM (Mk. 15:16)
3. If one shows no mercy to others, what may he expect? JUDGMENT WITHOUT MERCY  
(Jas. 2:13)
4. Why was Jeremiah arrested at the Benjamin Gate? THEY THOUGHT HE WAS  
DESERTING TO THE CHALDEANS (Jer. 37:13)
5. Who died first, Aaron or Moses?  
AARON (Num. 20:28)

## THERE WERE MEN

Once upon a time there were men in the church who desired the preeminence (3 Jn. 9). They wanted everyone in the congregation to look up to them and to think of them as "superior". Unfortunately, they thought of themselves much more highly than they should have (Rom. 12:3), although no one could get this point across to them.

These men deceived the church by appealing to influential elders. They seemed to be doing good deeds, yet a different motive was evident (Matt. 6:1-6). It got so bad that they even sought to please the social elite more than trying to please God (Gal. 1:10). They also devised great excuses for sitting in the chief seats (Matt. 23:6).

Once upon a time there were men who conducted themselves as lords over the church of our Savior Jesus Christ (1 Pet. 5:3). They magically transformed matters of opinion into matters of law (1 Cor. 8:9). In addition, they barked about who could fellowship with whom and they dared to oversee its adherence.

These men were accustomed to gathering stones and small rocks into numerous piles (Jn. 8:5-7). Then they threw those rocks at anybody who went contrary to their views, whether it was true or not. These men even had the talent to hit an entire congregation, yet were unable to see the pebbles in their own eyes (Mt. 7:3).

Once upon a time there were men who spoke smooth things to the people (Isa. 30:10). They spoke using big fancy, multi-syllable words which few in the audience really understood (1 Cor. 2:1). Sometimes they used a booming voice to strike fear in their listeners. Instead of impressing the people, they confused them with vain babblings over strifes of words (2 Tim. 2:16).

These men came storming into the church, throwing their weight around, and letting everyone know of their presence in the house. When things went against their belief, they would stomp around in disgust (1 Cor. 4:18). They even put on a big scowl of disagreement and pouted whenever they did not get their way (Mt. 26:8).

Once upon a time there were men who set themselves as judges over any congregation they visited (Rom. 14:4,10). Secretly they professed to know everything under the sun (Eccl. 2:9). "I don't know" could not be found in their vocabulary. On the outside they appeared humble and they bowed their heads when approached. But they never took their eyes off their prey. Inwardly they were ravenous wolves (Mt. 7:15) and had itching ears, eager to hear the latest gossip about "questionable" brethren (Acts 17:21).

These men traveled swiftly wherever the smoke of discontent arose and they traveled in packs. It was fine when others came to them for answers instead of searching in the Bible (Acts 17:11).

(continued on next page)

# GOSPEL MEETINGS

<u>DATES</u>	<u>PLACE &amp; TIME</u>	<u>SPEAKER</u>
August 1 - 7	New Bethel Church Cullman, AL	James McDonald (Woodbury, TN)
August 2 - 7 (Su-F)	Napolean Church Woodland, AL 7:00 weeknights	Wilbur Bass (Auburn, AL)
August 9 - 14	Rainsville, AL 7:00 weeknights	Wilbur Bass (Auburn, AL)
August 10 - 15	Antioch Church Livingston, TN	James McDonald (Woodbury, TN)
August 14 - 16 (F - Su)	Sun Hill Road Church Birmingham, AL 7:00pm Fri & Sat	Bill Prince (Oxford, AL)
August 21 - 23	Pleasant Ridge Church Woodbury, TN	Bill Prince (Oxford, AL)

\* \* \* \* \*

(continued from page 7)

But they were more ecstatic when others approached them for advice (Mt. 23:4). They enjoyed the idea of controlling the decisions of a church yet they strained at the slightest provocation (Mt. 23:24).

Brethren, this is a picture of what happened a long time ago, "once upon a time", and could easily happen again. Has it already started? Beware, lest history repeats itself!

RAY