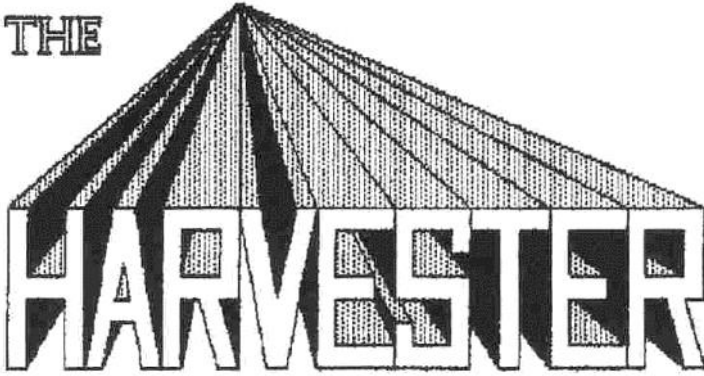


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*"The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth laborers into his harvest" (Luke 10:2)*

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## PRIDE

*"God resisteth the proud, and giveth grace to the humble." (Jam. 4:6, 1 Pet.5:5)*

The important thing to understand about pride is that when we are proud, we take the glory to ourselves rather than give it to God. We take the credit for ourselves rather than give it to God. We think we are self-sufficient rather than acknowledge our dependence on God. In a way, it tends toward worshiping our self rather than worshiping God.

It usually feels good to receive a compliment. You may be complimented on how you look,

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how you have done something well, or even how many years you have been married. There are many areas in your life where you can receive a compliment. The question is, how do you receive the compliment? Does the compliment make you feel proud? Do you feel like you are superior and that fact has just been validated by the compliment? You don't have to feel proud when you receive a compliment. You can take the compliment as an opportunity to praise and glorify God for giving you what you have or enabling you to do what you did. You can also take the compliment as an encouragement and accept the compliment as feedback as to whether or not you are headed in the right direction. My encouragement to you is that you not accept compliments with pride. Remember King Herod who was complimented by the people of Tyre and Sidon and he was filled with pride (Acts 12:20-23). The Lord struck him that he died.

We can be proud of our possessions. It could be something costly like a car or house, or inexpensive like a cell phone or a toy. If we have it and someone else doesn't, or if ours is better than theirs, we can be proud of our possession. We need to remind ourselves that we belong to God.

*What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's. (1 Cor. 6:19-20)*

If we belong to God, then everything that we possess also belongs to God. If God chooses to bless us with possessions, be thankful and give glory to God.

In the parable of the talents, Matthew 25:14, the servants were entrusted with talents (money), and the amount they were given, five, two or one, was based upon their ability. Have you ever considered whether you are a one talent servant or a five talent servant, whether you have few abilities or many abilities? It doesn't matter because all of us are held accountable to the Master. The one talent servant in the parable was severely punished for not using what he was given. Whatever ability you have, you need to realize it came from God and needs to be used to glorify God. How then can you be proud of any ability that you have that came from God?

I think the one verse that has helped me the most with pride is 1 Corinthians 4:7:

*For who maketh thee to differ from another?  
and what hast thou that thou didst not re-  
ceive? now if thou didst receive it, why dost  
thou glory, as if thou hadst not received it?*

What have we received from God? Everything! We have received from Him our physical attributes, our mental attributes, our abilities, our possessions and our very lives. He enabled us to accomplish everything we have done. Everything we could take pride in ultimately comes from God. "Now if you did indeed receive it, why do you boast as if you had not received it?"

Since we are to avoid pride, does that mean that we need to see ourselves as nothing and that we can accomplish nothing? Should we feel bad even if we have done something well? I believe that the following verse puts things into perspective.

*For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath*

*dealt to every man the measure of faith. (Rom. 12:3)*

Since God has given each of us talents or abilities and many other blessings, he expects us to use them for His glory. I believe we can feel good about the good things we do for Him if we still give Him the glory. The problem is when we think of ourselves more highly than we ought to think and when we take the credit to ourselves. We can, however, go to the other extreme and think more lowly than we ought to think and accomplish nothing and feel bad about everything that we do. Neither is correct. We need to think and judge ourselves soberly, with the appropriate amount of esteem.

Pride is not of the Father but is of the world.

*Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. (1 John 2:15-16)*

The NIV translates the "pride of life" as "boasting of what he has and does". Pride is a carnal, worldly characteristic and not a spiritual, Godly characteristic.

Are you open to criticism and advice? A proud person does not accept criticism or advice because they are wise in their own eyes. The book of Proverbs calls an individual a fool who does not listen to advice.

*Seest thou a man wise in his own conceit? there is more hope of a fool than of him. (Pro. 26:12)*

*The way of a fool is right in his own eyes: but he that hearkeneth unto counsel is wise. (Pro. 12:15)*

*A fool despiseth his father's instruction:  
but he that regardeth reproof is prudent.*  
(Pro. 15:5)

Pride can make us a fool.

Some people are proud and will not accept help from others. They don't want to accept "charity", even though they are in great need. Pride keeps them from accepting help. Can you imagine the Apostle Paul refusing help from the churches he worked with? Instead he encouraged the Philippians to give and told them that he sought "*fruit that may abound to your account*" (Php. 4:17). It was a good work for the Philippians to give to help the Apostle Paul. If someone wants to help you with a need you have, you need to humble yourself to receive the help; you need to realize that it may be good for the giver to give. God may be using the giver to send you His blessings.

Sometimes we use the word pride to mean that we are happy we have something and we value it. That's OK as long as we don't take the glory or credit to ourselves. For instance, we may say that we are proud to be a Christian. Are we saying that we value being a Christian and boast of what Christ has done for us or do we take the credit upon ourselves for being a Christian and therefore are better than everyone else? The following passages speak of glorying or boasting.

*Let the brother of low degree rejoice in that he is exalted: But the rich, in that he is made low:...* (Jas. 1:9-10)

*I have therefore whereof I may glory through Jesus Christ in those things which pertain to God.* (Rom. 15:17)

If we do boast, I believe we should be careful to give God the glory for what he has done for us.

We may be proud of our physical attributes: tall or short, pretty or handsome, light color or dark color, strong or shapely, old or young. We may be proud of where we live: our country, our city, our state, our climate, whether we have pretty trees or beautiful beaches or desert. We may be proud of our family: our children and their accomplishments and abilities, our parents, our ancestors, our spouse. If we have good health, we may take pride in that. But should we really take credit for any of these things? In every case, what we have comes from God (1 Cor. 4:7); let us be thankful and glorify God.

When we are proud, our focus is upon ourselves rather than on God or other people. We need to see others as better (more important) than ourselves.

*Let nothing be done through strife or vainglory; but in lowliness of mind let each esteem other better than themselves. Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others. Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the*

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*likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. (Php. 2:3-11)*

We need to be like Christ who humbled himself and became a servant of mankind. He was not proud even though he was the son of God. He voluntarily humbled himself and so should we.

ED ANDERSON  
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## SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES

1. Under the old law, which living creatures in the water were deemed unclean?
2. Who went up yearly to worship God in Shiloh, and one year prayed to God for a baby?
3. What gift did Salome, daughter of Herodias ask for after she danced for Herod?
4. When Jesus walked on water, which sea was it?
5. Who did Paul send to Rome, requesting that she was given a welcome worthy of the saints?

...and remember September's questions?

1. In Judges, what did the silversmith do with Micah's silver?   MADE IT INTO AN IDOL  
(Judges 17:4)
2. Whose mother took him a little coat once a year?   SAMUEL (1 Samuel 2:19)

# Gospel Meetings

DATES	PLACE	SPEAKER
Sept. 29 - October 3	Home of J.R. and Myrtle Thornton Summit, MS	J.D. McDonald Woodbury, TN
October 10 - 12	Delventa Beattyville, KY	Joe Hill Hager Hill, KY
October 10 - 12	Valley Valley, AL	Hunter Bulger Fort Deposit, AL
October 13 - 17	Oak Grove Eubank, KY	Joe Hill Hager Hill, KY
October 16 - 19	Marrowbone Marrowbone, KY	Wilbur Bass Auburn, AL
October 22 - 26	Junction City Junction City, KY	Joe Hill Hager Hill, KY
October 24 - 26	Napoleon Woodland, AL	Hunter Bulger Fort Deposit, AL
October 26 - 29	Gilstrap Morgantown, KY	J.D. McDonald Woodbury, TN

*(cont. from page 7)*

3. How long did Jonah say it would be before Ninevah was to be overthrown? FORTY DAYS (Jonah 3:4)
4. What happens to the man who "puts his hand to the plough and looks back?" HE IS NOT FIT FOR THE KINGDOM OF GOD (Luke 9:62)
5. The desolation of which city is described in Revelation chapter 18? BABYLON (Revelation 18:2)