

THE GREENWOOD BULLETIN

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When The Sun Goes Down!

By Steve Niemeier

Psalm 50:1

“The Mighty One, God the Lord, Has spoken and called the earth from the rising of the sun to the going down.”

How many beautiful sunsets have you seen? You know the ones that just made you stop and take a deep breath. Do you remember where you were and experienced the sunsets that caused you to stand in awe of the beauty? How about the sunsets that brought tears to your eyes as you did not want that moment to every end? Oh my friend the beauty that God has given us to see is something to behold. Yet, how many times do we take the sunset for granted?

In Joshua 10:13 we read ***“So the sun stood still, and the moon stopped, till the people had revenge upon***

their enemies. Is this not written in the Book of Jasher? So the sun stood still in the midst of heaven, and did not hasten to go down for about a whole day.” What would we have thought about that - the sun not going down when it is supposed to? In verse 14 of Joshua we are told ***“And there has been no day like that, before it or after it...”***

One cannot help but to wonder if those people living then and experiencing that day ever took a sunset for granted again? A sunset carries the meaning of another day spent in our time on this earth. A day we cannot redeem. A day that even if we wanted to change it and the events of it we cannot! When we see the sunset what do we think of? Do we think of it as just another beautiful sunset and look forward to the next? Do we think of it as the end of a good day or the end of bad

day? Do we just think of it as an end of a day? Maybe we do not think anything about it.

There will be a time when we will experience our last sunset. A time when we will not see another one on this earth. A time when “tomorrow” will never come. A time when we cannot call or visit another person to talk with them or encourage them or to say “I love you” or “I am sorry”. A time when the kids sports schedule or band schedule or karate class or school event will not be the important issue it is now. A time when the company will go on without you. A time when your family and friends will talk about you in the past tense. A time of an appointment mentioned in Hebrews 9:27 – an appointment with death.

Will the influence you have had on others during the sunshine of your life be so strong that the sunset of your life will be beautiful? Will your stand for God during the sunshine of your life be remembered as solid and upstanding in the sunset of your life? Do you long for the sunset of this life so you

can experience the sunrise of an eternal life with God in heaven.

My friend – do not take sunrises or sunsets for granted. Life is short – now is the time to serve the Lord!

Upcoming

Sermons

**--Author Unknown (Via
“Exhortation & Stuff”)--**

A preacher in Arkansas really caused a disturbance when he made a public announcement of his upcoming sermons. He mentioned that the theme would be, “The Worthlessness of Our Christianity,” and that some of his lesson titles would be:

- ***More Important Things to Do Than Study the Bible***
- ***A Little Smoking, Drinking, and Chasing Women Never Hurt Anyone.***
- ***Doing as You Please In Spite of What the Elders Say***
- ***The Utter Stupidity of Personal Work***
- ***The Importance of Spending Money Sensually, Instead of Spiritually***
- ***The Greater Value of Television Over Assembling with the Church***

What would be your reaction to a preacher who suggested these as his sermon titles? We couldn't imagine such gall, such unmitigated "brass" of someone preaching such things from the pulpit, could we? We would not stand for such unholy things being spoken, and would immediately put an end to the preacher's "career!" But, brethren, WE preach by the way we live our lives before others. What are the "sermon titles" of our lessons to those we influence?

False Advertising

Truth Magazine 1972

At last our government is showing interest in consumer protection. One area of interest is advertising. The F.C.C. is questioning the truthfulness of the creations of Madison Avenue. In a few cases the claims and/or the product have had to be changed. Has anyone seen any Carter's Little Liver Pills, lately?

It is good to think that the government is fighting false and misleading advertising, but this is not the false advertising of which I write. The modern dress of many women (mini-skirts, hot pants, bra-less, see-

through blouses, etc.), besides not being chaste (Titus 2:4, 5), is a form of false advertising.

When Tamar dressed in inappropriate apparel, she was thought to be a harlot (Genesis 38:14, 15). The way we clothe or unclothe our bodies reveals traits of character.

Most of the women who go about all but naked in public would be highly insulted if a man, after a visual examination of the merchandise, propositioned her with an offer off five or ten dollars. They might even relearn the lost art of blushing at being mistaken for a prostitute.

Many, many women today, even among members of the body of Christ, look as if they have done their advertising and all they need is a price list to go into business. Even among "faithful" congregations the problem is acute. Sincere Christians bemoan the lack of teaching on modest apparel (1 Timothy 2:9), but to no avail. Why? Daughters of the elders and/or preacher dress as does the world.

Parents, especially fathers, with pre-teen and teenage daughters need to take a long hard look at the way their darlings dress. Look at them, not

as a parent (father), not even as a Christian, but, if memory and even more important honesty remains, through the eyes of a citizen of the kingdom of

Satan. The majority of the people with whom we come in contact are not Christians, but are citizens of Satan's kingdom.

Brethren, if you permit your wife or daughter to dress so as to call attention to the body, why be shocked when the advertisement takes, and your loved one is treated as a prostitute, and this because of her own false advertising.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: This article was written 40 years ago – yet it contains information still prevalent in our society today. The one point we need to add is the dress of men also. It is hard to tell a male Christian in worship at times because they have brought the world into worship by their dress. The worship is not place for teenage boys or men to wear their shorts of any type just as it is not a place for the young or older ladies to bring forth their advertisement as mentioned in the article! Unfortunately we have preachers not preaching on this subject and we have members not heeding the preaching of those preachers who do preach on it! SJN)

Invite Night – October 21st
“Am I Really Making a
Difference?”

Our Next Gospel Meeting
March 3-8, 2013 David Lanisus

I Am Discouraging
Marriage

Being married is one of the hardest challenges you will ever face in life. Marriage is not a walk in the park. Marriage is not a stroll along the beach. Being married takes a lot of work, a great deal of effort, and much attention. If you are thinking about getting married, then stop for just a moment, take a deep breath and think! Are you truly ready for marriage? I have put together a short check list to determine whether or not you are ready to enter into marriage.

Do you think love is all it takes to be ready for marriage? Is so, then you are not ready for marriage. Are you the baby of the family and everyone comes running when you cry? If so, then you are not ready for marriage.

Are you use to your parents waiting on you hand and

foot? If so, then you are not ready for marriage.

Are you a whiny and complaining person? If so, then you are not ready for marriage.

Are you insensitive to other people's problems? If so, then you are not ready for marriage.

Do you think marriage contains no accountability? If so, then you are not ready for marriage.

Do you think you can live as a single person when married? If so, then you are not ready for marriage.

Do you think you can change your spouse once you are married? If so, then you are not ready for marriage.

Do you think marriage is all about the big and expensive wedding? If so, then you are not ready for marriage.

Do you think marriage is all about fulfilling your sexual desires? If so, then you are not ready for marriage.

Am I trying to discourage marriage? Absolutely! After twenty-five years of marriage, I am definitely trying to discourage marriage . . . for certain people. Specifically, I am attempting to discourage from marriage those who are not

qualified. The truth is, while marriage is wonderful, it requires more effort than many people are willing to put forth. In order for a marriage to succeed, both the husband and the wife must be selfless, hardworking, loving, believing, and trustworthy. There is no room in a marriage for high-maintenance personalities, selfish desires, insensitive attitudes, deceitfulness and laziness. On the contrary, marriage requires humility, selflessness, honesty, and a humble attitude. If you are not willing to put forth the effort to be the godly, caring, and selfless spouse you should be, then yes, I am discouraging you from getting married. In a godly marriage, both spouses must be willing to put the needs of the other before their own needs. This statement does not give the right to one spouse to say, "See, you have to 3 tend to my needs." Instead, the spouse should ask, "What can I do to help your needs?" Such loving selflessness infuses the marriage with the necessary care, compassion, concern, and love.

The Bible contains a great passage describing love. While this passage is not talking about marriage, it's description of love would apply to the love between a husband and wife. Consider what the apostle Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 13:4-8:

Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never fails . . . (1 Corinthians 13:4-8)

If you are contemplating marriage, then let me strongly encourage you to honestly compare your capacity to love with Paul's inspired description of love. Is your love able to "suffer long" and be kind? Is your love a love which envies? Is your love arrogant and boastful? Is your love a selfish love, seeking its own wants and needs? Does your love assume the worst about people? Is your love easily provoked to anger?

Does your love think evil thoughts? Does your love rejoice in truth and honesty or is it a deceptive love, trying to deceive other people? Does your love bear all things, believe all things, hope all things, and endure all things? Is your love strong and unfailing or is your love fragile, falling apart at the least provocation? While marriage is a time for growth, you cannot wait until marriage to find out your love is insufficient. You cannot wait until marriage to learn that you are too selfish to endure a selfless marriage.

Just as the title of this article states, I am discouraging marriage. Marriage is a life time commitment made before God and man. Jesus said, *"Therefore what God has joined together, let not man separate."* (Matthew 19:6) If you are not ready for marriage, then stop and wait until you are able to grow into a person ready for marriage. If you are already married, then your only choice is to work as hard as you can to make your marriage a lifelong relationship patterned after God's word.

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