

Good Nothing and Bad Nothing (continued from front page)

How can we dare to be a “do nothing” in the face of such love? An old saying says, “He who spits against the wind, spits in his own face.” And he who leaves Christ alone, neglects his own soul and salvation.

Speaking of spitting in the wind brings up the idea of a GOOD nothing! Some think that if you can’t see something, it doesn’t exist or is not real. Napoleon thought it was only the bigger armies that win wars. Obviously, Hitler thought the same when his almost innumerable planes first challenged the slim RAF. Then and at other times in history, national and personal spirit provided a courage that overwhelming odds could not defeat. Though that spirit couldn’t be touched, it was nonetheless real and powerful.

A Scandinavian legend tells of a huge wolf which was the offspring of two evil beasts. The people kept it as a pet when small but their fear grew as the wolf grew. Also it was said that the wolf would eat Odin, the greatest of all the gods. So they made a chain and convinced the wolf to put it on to show that he could brake it. The wolf did and succeeded in breaking it. As the wolf grew, they tried it again with a stronger chain. Once again the wolf broke free.

The people were discouraged and went for advice to dwarfs, who suggested that the only thing that could hold the wolf was a cord, not an iron chain, and that it was to be made of such things as the roots of mountains, the beards of women and the sound of cats’ footsteps. That is, it was to be made of Nothings!

Suspecting the unusual, the wolf consented to be bound by the cord, but only if “the brave god,” Tyr (Odin’s son) would put his hand in the wolf’s mouth while the wolf was being bound. The wolf could not get free, but Tyr lost his hand. Though that story is not true, it is similar to the true story of Admiral Nelson of Trafalgar Square who “won a great victory, but gave his life in the process” in the Battle of Trafalgar. And greater still, Jesus Christ won an incomparable victory for us

knowing that He would give His life in the process. But how is the victory Jesus purchased for us all on the Cross made available to us?

The answer to that last question is found in a cord of Nothing! Like the cord which bound the wolf, there is a cord which binds Satan, and that cord was purchased at great cost. And like the intangible, yet powerful spirit of men and nations, the far greater Spirit of God alone has the power to apply to us that blood-bought victory which Jesus secured on the Cross. Just before the Cross, Jesus told His disciples of the Coming Comforter who He personally identified as “*the Holy Spirit who the Father will send in My name.*” That is the greatest and most good “Nothing” that we can ever know. We may not see Him or touch Him, but we may know and experience Him. God said, “*You will succeed, not by military might, nor by your own strength, but by My Spirit!*” Against the cry of the crowd or our own selves, let us not “leave **HIM** alone!”

My Jerry Springer Comments:

I was very pleased to read of Jerry Springer’s own comments about the “opera” which bears his name. Springer labelled it anti-Christian, and I totally agree. I do not approve of Jerry Springer’s own show in the USA (from what I understand of it, not having seen it), yet I am thankful that, being Jewish, he has spoken so forthrightly against the “opera.” I am only sorry his comments, though made back at the end of January, did not make the news until after I made the February issue.

My Protest Comments:

Years ago, Jewish pressure caused the film “The Hiding Place” to be stopped “since it was being shown in our Public Library,” yet that film shows the love and courage of a family who hid Jews from the Nazis! Homosexuals and Lesbians protest in behalf of supposedly “gay” penguins, while others lobby for further reducing of “the age of consent.” An atheistic University “professor” can harass venues to stop Creationism being promoted. I believe it is the grossest inconsistency to stop “Christian Voice” from protesting against the Jerry Springer Opera or abortion clinics. They have the right and a reason to protest so long as they do not become physically violent or use un-Christlike verbal abuse or threats.

IN THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR, Richard Pratt took George Wyatt’s place. Pratt was killed in action, and died as the substitute of Wyatt. Later, Wyatt was again called for service, but claimed exemption on the ground that he had been killed in action. The court upheld the claim. Friends, Jesus took YOUR place, but you must come to Him in repentance and faith.

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A paper for all people everywhere... **Free!**
and with a personal touch!

The London Christian Standard ...and Provincial “Lift up a standard for the people.” Isaiah 62:10

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I read of a man who when he was a boy many years ago did not like to be called “naughty” when he did things that were not right. In fact, when that same man grew older he disliked the word “naughty” even more, for he found that it came from the idea of being nothing—like a big zero. I guess that’s where we get the saying, “good for nothing.” No wonder the man disliked it! People can be naughty for things they *do*, but also for things they *don’t* do.

When Jesus was on the Cross and in severe agony and anguish, a man tried to ease His pain and take away His thirst by quickly dipping a sponge and putting it up to His mouth. Others in the crowd told the man to leave Him alone; to do nothing to help or comfort Him.

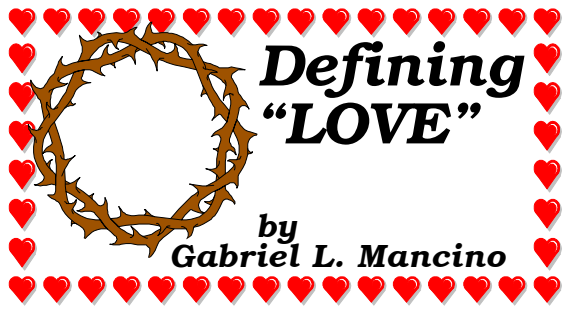
People’s ideas of good and bad and right and wrong are often distorted and inconsistent. For example, some will do something equally as wrong or perhaps even the very same as what they condemn in

others! But on the Cross hung Someone who did so much good. In fact, Jesus’ ultimate good was accomplished for you and me on that Cross. Also, there on that Cross hung Someone who did nothing wrong — so clear of wrong that He had asked those who so often opposed Him: “Which of you can prove Me guilty of sin? And if I say the truth, why don’t you believe Me?” (John chapter 8).

The crowd said “Let Him alone!” Lots of people let things alone; for whatever reason or reasons, doing nothing when they could do something. Jesus told about The Good Samaritan, who helped a man who had been mugged and left for dead, but who was avoided by two other men who had walked by the same way, yet had refused to help him. However, in this case with the One on the Cross, it is Jesus Himself who the crowd says to “leave alone.” The crowds today, for one reason or another and in various ways, put pressure on others — friends, co-workers...even their own children — to leave Jesus alone. Remember, we all put Jesus on the Cross! The Jews did it, the Romans did it, and you and I did it. But shall we leave Him alone? In neglecting Him, we neglect our own salvation which He so completely and so lovingly provided on that Cross. The Bible asks a question which already suggests the answer when it asks, “*How shall we escape if we neglect so great salvation?*”

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Easter! — What a Glorious Time Of The Year! — Easter!
“God’s green earth” springs back to new life. And though Jesus died on the cross for our sins, He rose again—just as He said He would!
Because of this, we may be freed from spiritual and eternal death!
His victory over sin and death offers us hope now and beyond the grave!



Defining “LOVE”

by
Gabriel L. Mancino

My dictionary has forty definitions for the word, “take,” and many of those definitions have a, b and c under them! In the same dictionary, the word “love” had only nine definitions and with NO a, b or c!

Bible meanings of “love” also vary—some “loves” are forbidden while others are demanded and expected. God Himself is set as the Pattern, as well as the Object of our love. The Bible says that God is love, but it doesn’t say or mean that love is God! The Bible also describes and qualifies love, much as it does words like “holiness,” by saying “true holiness.” In other words, there is a false as well as a genuine. And be sure of this, if the Devil is going to counterfeit something from God, he will try to make it as close to the true as possible. Don’t be fooled.

As important as love is, there is another word which, in a sense, precedes love. That word is Life! Something that is dead cannot love. It takes life to love. This is true spiritually, as well. “Live” spelled backwards is “evil.” We cannot have the love of God within us if we do not have the life of God within us. The love of God bears fruit just as a fruit tree, so that it is identifiable. His love in us and working through us is fruit which we can produce just as the branches of a fruit tree — only if it is connected to the tree. This is what Jesus says in John chapter 15 about the Vine and the branches.

This brings us to an important distinction. Jesus said that we may only have God’s love in us as we are vitally connected to Jesus Himself, “the True Vine.” A dead branch even of a fruit tree cannot produce fruit, just like we cannot have the love of God in us without the life

of God in us first. Remember, there are many things that may look like God’s love, but merely be a human copy, clone and counterfeit. So how can we describe or define this love? The Bible says, “In this the love of God toward us was made clear, because God sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. And this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us, and sent His Son to be the means by which our sins are forgiven. Beloved, if God had such love for us, we ought to love one another” (1 John 4:9-11).

There are no doubt many attractive examples of love out in the world. We may see family love where one member loves another for various worthy reasons. Yet do these people know God, having come to Him on His terms of acceptance? If not, they are sadly trying to “climb up some other way,” as Jesus said in John 10. They are trying to bypass God’s specific provision through the Christ of the Cross. My dear mother in the USA, who turned 84 last month, was forced to move from the very house she was actually born in and which our family owned since before her birth in 1921...all because the State wants to put a bypass through the city! We are all born to be God’s house, but Satan has many bypasses to force or entice us to move. Don’t do it!

So how can we objectively measure and recognise this love of God which God intends to be in us and working through us? Again in John chapter 15 Jesus said, “As My Father has loved Me, so have I loved you: continue in My love...This is My commandment, that you love one another, even as I have loved you” (verses 9, 12). First of all notice, we must not only GET in, but KEEP in this love. Then note the measurement: “as I have loved you.”

One of my great and beloved advisors wrote concerning this love: “Beyond that definition of love the human race will never progress, because beyond the life of Jesus the human race will never progress. The word ‘love’ can never have a higher

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content than the life of Jesus. ‘As I have loved you’ is the Absolute and Ultimate in life and love. This word of love came to its highest manifestation in the cross. ‘Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends’ (John 15:13). He might have added, ‘and for his enemies,’ for that is what the cross actually adds. He said ‘friends’ in promise, and added ‘enemies’ in performance. We give big promises and toned-down performance. He gave toned-down promise and toned-up performance. He always went beyond.”

My “advisor” further clarifies that “abiding in Christ and in love” means to enter and remain! He states, “If our contacts with people are not love contacts, then we have no contact with Christ. It is a simple test, but profound and important.. Some hold that we are abiding in Christ if we have correct views about Christ...some hold that we are abiding in Christ if we have correct conduct...Neither of these, though both are important, is the supreme test.” The church at Ephesus sadly found this out from Jesus Himself—that though they worked hard for the church and had good beliefs and could not be fooled by counterfeits, yet they had “left their first love,” Christ Himself! If we do not manifest Jesus and His love, then we are manifesting something else. Always and everywhere the pattern is “as I have loved you.”

St. Peter tells us of Jesus:

“For to this you were called: because Jesus Himself underwent punishment for you, giving you an example, so that you might go in His footsteps: Who did no sin, and there was no deceit in His mouth: To sharp words He gave no sharp answer; when He suffered, no angry word came from His lips; but He put Himself into the hands of the Judge of righteousness: He took our sins on Himself, in His body on the tree, so that we, being dead to sin, might have a new life in righteousness, and by His wounds we have been made well. Because, like sheep, you had gone astray; but now you have come back to Him who keeps watch over your souls.” (1 Peter 2: 21-25)

Guidance For Today

There are so many things going on that a person will have to purpose more than ever to love and obey God. One of God’s special promises is, “You shall seek Me and find Me when you seek Me with all of your heart.” There are many promises like that in God’s Word, the Bible. As one beautiful song says,

*God’s Word is like a garden,
with flowers bright and fair,
and everyone who seeks may pluck
a lovely cluster there.*

*God’s Word is like a deep, deep mine,
and jewels rich and rare
are hidden in its mighty depths
for every searcher there.*

*God’s Word is like the starry host—
A thousand rays of light
are seen to guide the traveller
and make his pathway bright.*

*God’s Word is like an armoury
where soldiers may repair,
and find for life’s long battle-day
all needful weapons there.*

Yes, there is much going on in this world. We have God’s truth to proclaim, even against the various popular ideologies which go against God and Christ and the Bible. The London Christian Standard represents no church denomination, though its beliefs are in keeping with original Methodism. As such, we believe we should promote all Bible truth in our day as they did in the 18th century.

The Bible says that Jesus came to deliver us from all sin “in this present world.” Therefore we see any and all sin referred to in the Bible and being practised and promoted by people today as being in conflict with God, in rebellion against God and under the condemnation and judgment of God. No one who comes to God has the right to quibble in an effort to retain their sins, whether it be lying, stealing, covetousness, pride, lust, anger, homosexuality and lesbianism, “and such like” (as St. Paul puts it). When a shop is selling out, it puts a big sign in the window: “EVERYTHING MUST GO!” And this is exactly what happens when any person puts up the white flag of unconditional surrender to Jesus Christ.