I gave you life, but cannot live it for you.
I can teach you things, but I cannot make you learn.
I can give you directions, but I cannot be there to lead you.
I can take you to church, but I cannot make you believe.
I can teach you right from wrong, but I cannot always decide for you.
I can buy you beautiful clothes, but I cannot make you beautiful inside.
I can offer you advice, but I cannot accept it for you.
I can give you love, but I cannot force it upon you.
I can teach you to share, but I cannot make you unselfish.
I can teach you respect, but I cannot force you to show honor.
I can advise you about friends, but I cannot choose them for you.
I can tell you about drink, but I can't say "no" for you.
I can warn you about drugs, but I can't prevent you from using them.
I can tell you about lofty goals, but I can't achieve them for you.
I can teach you about kindness, but I can't force you to be gracious.
I can love you as a child, but I cannot place you in God's family.
I can pray for you, but I cannot make you walk with God.
I can teach you about Jesus, but I cannot make Jesus your Lord.
I can tell you how to live, but I cannot give you eternal life.
I can love you with unconditional love all my life... and I will.

Always,
Mom
Re: A Mother’s Day Truth. (Mothers can), on: 2008/5/10 17:45

Dear Moe,

These are some nice-looking, pithy statements, but I am not sure who they are directed at (the child or the self) and what their purpose is? Perhaps to raise the self-esteem of mothers? Or to draw attention to themselves and make them appear more sensitive and well-meaning?

These things you have written are not untrue, but there is so much more than things being true in letter. "For the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life." Any word in our mouth which is not breathed upon by the Spirit of God cannot give life. For if it originates in the flesh, in it there is nothing good or life-giving. On the contrary, real understanding—even of motherhood—comes from being perfectly joined to the Lord so that the words we speak are His words and not ours.

In what you have shared here, I notice a repetition: "I .... , I .... , I ....." Moe, this is the very self that the Lord has called to deny, not reassert. He said, "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing" (John 15:5). This is a not just a doctrinal statement.

Let us not focus on what we can or we can't do—for ultimately those things do not matter. When the Lord calls us to do something, He will give us by His Spirit in us the ability to carry it out—but our sufficiency to do His will is of Him and not of ourselves.

Quote:
-------------------------
I can teach you about Jesus, but I cannot make Jesus your Lord.
-------------------------

Do not teach your children about Jesus, but show them the resurrected Christ in you—yielding to the Spirit of the Lord, living under the perfect law of liberty in full, real dependence on Him, and bearing much fruit. When they see Christ in you, they will recognize Him as their Lord. You don't want them to mentally agree that He is Lord, but to know Him:

Jer 9:23 Thus says the Lord: "Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, Let not the mighty man glory in his might, Nor let the rich man glory in his riches;
Jer 9:24 But let him who glories glory in this, That he understands and knows Me. That I am the Lord, exercising lovingkindness, judgment, and righteousness in the earth. For in these I delight," says the Lord.

Words—even biblical words—will not do the trick. We are not called first to tell others about Christ, but to walk even as He walked, and thus show them (unintentionally) that our Redeemer lives (in us)! It is high time we stopped cheapening the abundant life in Christ to mere words we speak, true in letter, but devoid of power.

In Christ,
Slav

Re:, on: 2008/5/10 18:38

I understand your reasoning with these lines and I agree with you. I almost changed the first line before posting this about the Mother giving life. I full well expected at least one negative rebuttal of this. First of all I'm a male and not a Mom. I am married to a Mom. The general intent of the writer I believe was to bring glory to the Lord and speak of the love for her child, although I can't say that because I don't know who the author is. As I said once on a post on SI. I am convinced if I made a post and only wrote one line that said:
THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD.

I would get a reply of someone saying, "what are trying to say Moe he is not mine too. Thanks for the reply and I agree with you. No problem.

edit:
The man after God's own heart.
Ps 23:1-24:1
The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.
2 He maketh **me** to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.

3 He restoreth **my** soul: he leadeth **me** in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

4 Yea, though **I** walk through the valley of the shadow of death, **I** will fear no evil: for thou art with **me**; thy rod and thy staff they comfort **me**.

5 Thou preparest a table before **me** in the presence of **mine** enemies: thou anointest **my** head with oil; **my** cup runneth over.

6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow **me** all the days of **my** life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

KJV

---

**Re: edited, on: 2008/5/10 22:05**

---

**Quote:**

moe_mac wrote:

I understand your reasoning with these lines and I agree with you. I almost changed the first line before posting this about the Mother giving life. I full well expected at least one negative rebuttal of this. First of all I'm a male and not a Mom. I am married to a Mom. The general intent of the writer I believe was to bring glory to the Lord and speak of the love for her child, although I can't say that because I don't know who the author is. As I said once on a post on SI, I am convinced if I made a post and only wrote one line that said:

THE LORD IS MY SHEPHERD.

I would get a reply of someone saying, "what are trying to say Moe he is not mine too. Thanks for the reply and I agree with you. No problem.

edit:
The man after God's own heart.
Ps 23:1-24:1
The LORD is **my** shepherd; I shall not want.

2 He maketh **me** to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters.

3 He restoreth **my** soul: he leadeth **me** in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

4 Yea, though **I** walk through the valley of the shadow of death, **I** will fear no evil: for thou art with **me**; thy rod and thy staff they comfort **me**.

5 Thou preparest a table before **me** in the presence of **mine** enemies: thou anointest **my** head with oil; **my** cup runneth over.

6 Surely goodness and mercy shall follow **me** all the days of **my** life: and I will dwell in the house of the LORD for ever.

KJV

---

**Re:, on: 2008/5/11 7:39**

Moe,

I don't think you have understood what I had written, and therefore your agreement is not as valid. Which is also confirmed by the Scriptures you have quoted to make your point. I was not rebutting the letter of what you had posted, but the spirit of it.

---

**Quote:**

I full well expected at least one negative rebuttal of this.

---

If a brother rebukes me, "Slav, what you are doing is not of the Lord and you must repent of it," can I then say to him, "O
h, yes, brother, I completely understand and agree with you” and then continue practicing the very same thing? The latter fact will in actuality undermine my response.

What I can do, is bring the matter to the Lord and seek understanding from Him, in order to decide where I must stand. For this is not a minor thing, and even if it were, I cannot dismiss it lightly. As Christ’s elect, we are to walk in the truth, and nothing but the truth, which is a distinct and narrow path. But saying we have understood, and quickly moving on, is not the same as conforming to the truth and the standard the Lord has revealed to us and is calling us to.

Re: A great message for moms - posted by roadsign (), on: 2008/5/11 8:04

Moe_mac, I found your post very encouraging today!! I confess, as a mother of four now grown-up children, the temptation has always been (and still is) to wish that I were God Â– to control them, and make them be what I want them to be. But, your post reminds me that I am not God, and it is not my job to mold my children by control, manipulation, and domination. But there is one thing I can do:

Quote:

----------------------------------------------
I can love you with unconditional love all my life... and I will.
----------------------------------------------

Interestingly, last night a mother-in-distress called me Â– all upset because she believes she is failing as a mom and is ruining her children. Really, she has been trying to squeeze them into a mold-her expectations, and because she has taken on an impossible task, she is finding herself wrought with fear, anger, anxiety, and sense of failure. She is trying to do what is impossible. I told her, “You are not God! But you need God!”

Your post is perfect for her too!

Diane

Re: A Mother’s Day Truth. (Mothers can) - posted by crsschk (), on: 2008/5/11 10:43

To tell you the truth I think some of us need to look at the peevish spirit that comes out into something as simplistic as this ...

Good grief, it's mothers day. I will be visiting mine at her grave site this afternoon.

"I can love you with unconditional love all my life... and I will."

And it is reciprocal.

Re: Treasure to one, rubbish to another - posted by roadsign (), on: 2008/5/11 14:07

Quote:

-----------------------------
Any word in our mouth which is not breathed upon by the Spirit of God cannot give life. For if it originates in the flesh, in it there is nothing good or life-giving.

-------------------------------

Not true at all! God uses innumerable means of speaking his truths Â– and penetrating through our stubborn mental resistors. He has used all kinds of Â“unsanctifiedÂ” sources to speak to me. What might seem like fluff to one may be just the right word from the Lord for another. He may even use:

Quote:

-----------------------------
something as simplistic as this
-----------------------------

Indeed, some of the most penetrating truths seem simplistic. But then again, it depends who is reading the message. It may not be meant for everyone Â– like this one. I sent this poem off to some Christian moms who have struggled intensely with guilt Â– for years: MotherÂ’s guilt. ItÂ’s a wretched condition. This poem hits the mark Â– bullÂ’s eye!
Devotional Thoughts :: A Mother’s Day Truth. (Mothers can)

Regardless of its source, it can be GodÂ’s means of prodding through layers of self-effort to expose a stubborn idol: our own strength and wisdom Â– the product of works-doctrine. The GOOD NEWS of the Gospel is that Christ can set us free, and empower us to live righteously in HIS strength Â– by his Spirit. And in his strength we Moms can be empowered to offer our children the very best gift ever: the lavish love of Christ.

There will always be the hordes who use such a poem as this one to strengthen their faulty beliefs. But then, hasn't that been happening with the Bible - for centuries?

Diane
8-)

Re:, on: 2008/5/11 14:30

Quote:
-------------------------------
NotMe wrote:
Moe,

I don't think you have understood what I had written, and therefore your agreement is not as valid. Which is also confirmed by the Scriptures you have quoted to make your point. I was not rebutting the letter of what you had posted, but the spirit of it.

Quote:
-----------------------------I full well expected at least one negative rebuttal of this.
-------------------------------

If a brother rebukes me, "Slav, what you are doing is not of the Lord and you must repent of it," can I then say to him, "Oh, yes, brother, I completely understand and agree with you" and then continue practicing the very same thing? The latter fact will in actuality undermine my response.

What I can do, is bring the matter to the Lord and seek understanding from Him, in order to decide where I must stand. For this is not a minor thing, and even if it were, I cannot dismiss it lightly. As Christ's elect, we are to walk in the truth, and nothing but the truth, which is a distinct and narrow path. But saying we have understood, and quickly moving on, is not the same as conforming to the truth and the standard the Lord has revealed to us and calling us to.

-------------------------------

Let me explain!!!
I was in agreement with you, in that, yes a Mothers do give physical birth, but God originally breathed life into manÂ’s nostrils and gave life and then took a rib from man and made women. We also know the rest of that passage.

He who abides in me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without me you can do nothing"

ThatÂ’s very true.

I submit to you that the reason God created us is because when he created the world and saw that it was good, he wanted someone to share it with, and then he made us man in his own image and gave us dominion over some things. God loves seeing his children happy and joyful and trusting in HIM. He does not get nitpicky in our language to others especially when we tell others about our love for them, because he knows our hearts. Yes there is much more to the truth, man messed it up and Jesus came to unite us with a Holy God.

Where would we be if God had not of made women? Maybe still in the garden. JOKE.

Honestly, I was really not in agreement with you in this statement Let us not focus on what we can or we can't do.

What we can and can't do is exactly what we need to focus on, only when we do, realizing he gives the strength and the increase to do anything, just as you said and gave the scripture reference. What we can do if a gift from HIM but we C
AN AND MOTHERS CAN.

If you saw no rebuke from God, in my reply, I believe then you are very safe in not accepting it either. We are only subject to Godly Rebukes, when they come from God, and yes often they come from through other brothers and sisters mouths and sometimes they are just rhetoric. Knowing the difference is discernment.

To summarize: It is not what the poster, the preacher or the person says, but what is God's saying to us.

Happy Mother's Day.

Re: Mother's day - posted by moreofHim (), on: 2008/5/11 17:57

I thought this was very nice. Unless you're a mother, you don't know how much pressure there is to be the perfect parent. You feel so responsible for your children and for their outcome. I think it is an important reminder that we as mothers are not in control- God is. We must do the best we can (with the Lord's help of course) and leave the rest to the Lord.

I was really grieved to come on here and see the nit-picking I see so often when I come on here. This is just someone trying to post something encouraging for mothers. I am afraid that many will be afraid to post anything for fear they will be nit-picked to death. Not everything everyone says is going to be 100% perfect, 100% theologically correct or 100% spiritual. A critical spirit is not a nice thing to run into all the time. It makes one very self-conscious about everything they say.

Anyway, thanks for the post Moe_mac. Some people do get some encouragement from it :)

Happy Mother's Day to all the mothers!!! May the Lord bless you and encourage you and may you feel loved today!

In Christ, Chani

Mother's Day - posted by crsschk (), on: 2008/5/11 19:58

Happy Mothers Day to all the mom's out there.

We are greatly indebted to you, more than we know.

Re: Mother's Day, on: 2008/5/12 7:27

Quote: 
--------------------------God uses innumerable means of speaking his truths– and penetrating through our stubborn mental resistors. He has used all kinds of unsanctified sources to speak to me. What might seem like fluff to one may be just the right word from the Lord for another.
--------------------------

Diane,

How do you know when the LORD speaks? Somewhere in between the innumerable truths and rules about how God does this and that in general or has done it in times long gone, there needs to come a still, small voice which we must hear now. If we don't hear and know that voice of the Spirit, a reasonable question to ask ourselves will be: Are we of His sheep? Because when the Lord speaks a rebuke, and you don't receive it as a word from Him, but as a word from men, the n you in fact resist the chastening of the Lord, and "if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons" (Hebrews 12:8). True, the Lord has spoken at times through the most "unsanctified" sources. He spoke to Balaam through a dumb donkey, but what is said of the prophet? "They have forsaken the right way and gone astray, following the way of Balaam the son of Beor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness; but he was rebuked for his iniquity: a dumb donkey speaking with a man's voice restrained the madness of the prophet" (2 Peter 2:15-16, emphasis mine). If we be in Balaam's position to be spoken to in a such a grotesque way because of our iniquity, then we are most to pity. For the people of God should not depend on donkey's and extreme situation mercies to hear the voice of the Lord, if they can turn now, as it is written: "Today, if you will hear His voice, Do not harden your hearts as i
n the rebellion" (Hebrews 3:15).

But this is a secondary issue, about the various ways God can call to His people--be it a burning bush, an angel, or even a donkey. In this discussion, however, I was not talking about the person listening, but about the person speaking the word of the Lord, just as he has received it:

Quote: 

---------------Any word in our mouth which is not breathed upon by the Spirit of God cannot give life. For if it originates in the flesh, in it there is nothing good or life-giving. 
---------------

But just as it was in the day of Isaiah so it is today. For of him the Apostle Paul said:

"The Holy Spirit spoke rightly through Isaiah the prophet to our fathers, saying, 'Go to this people and say: "Hearing you will hear, and shall not understand; And seeing you will see, and not perceive: For the hearts of this people have grown dull. Their ears are hard of hearing, And their eyes they have closed, Lest they should see with their eyes and hear with their ears, Lest they should understand with their hearts and turn, So that I should heal them."

It is not the prophet you are rejecting, but the Holy Spirit who speaks through him. For heeding the voice of the Spirit to the church is not evidenced by our ability to quote multiple verses about how God speaks to people, but in the actual recognition of His voice at a given time, when a message is delivered. So we are not found in the shoes of the Pharisees who claimed they could see, while they were blind—and then crucified the Lord of Glory.

When we (personally) receive a word and a mandate from the Lord, that word is something too holy to be mishandled, let alone counterfeited or counted as common. Let not the vessel that the Lord has chosen adulterate the word with his own feelings, his intentions, ambitions, or prior church knowledge. The elect of God cannot use His word lightly, as seems best to them, "for by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned" (Matthew 12:37). So when someone steps up to deliver a message from the Lord (which has been refined seven times) and come out of various fiery trials) to share the wisdom and understanding God has given him or her, and thus encourage, rebuke, etc., the brethren, he dare not offer the fruits of his self-effort and well-meaning intention. Or else he can add a disclaimer that the message is neither from the Lord, nor according to God's will, but is the product of the prophet's fleshly, unenlightened mind's imagining (that is, his opinion), and is thus unqualified to impart divine life to the souls of other believers. It is no thing more than a well-mean attempt to console or encourage, etc., fellow believers within the confines of the messenger's own, human understanding of the divine attributes and his own experience. But the danger of offering others such a word, which is not prodded and given by the Spirit, is that the hearers will trust in the wisdom of men and not in the power of God—which will lead them into spiritual stagnation. Such a message cannot "empower us to live righteously in His strength," as you said, Diane. For although it gives a certain appearance of godliness, it lacks the power thereof, and there by reinforces the authority and reign of the self.

It is true that "the GOOD NEWS of the Gospel is that Christ can set us free." However, if that same Gospel cannot free us from dead orthodoxy, from gibb theologizing and conjecturing on "Christian topics", from speaking without spiritual understanding as its foundation, or in other words, from a kingdom in word to a kingdom in power--this is really not a gospel. For if the good news of Jesus Christ has been debilitated to such an extent so that its impact does not surpass a sentimental view and a memorization of the faith's fundamentals, which cannot produce the promised reality, we as a church are most to pity (Paul wrote about this at large in his epistles to the Corinthians). If we set our hope on the flesh; if we are content to mellow our conscience with a few hopeful words about how great our Savior is, on Mother's Day, which by human religious standards is a landmark of great devotion and high achievement, albeit inhibited by our natural, mental understanding of Christ.

My mom and dad were watching a political TV program a couple of months ago, where the host had invited one of Bulgaria's most respected actors, a once-prolific comedian now in his 70's, to share a fresh look on the dire political and social situation in the country. This at a time when the Minister of Internal Affairs (the police) was publically accused of having established connections with the Mafia, etc., while the communist Prime Minister had stepped up and talked at large about how there was no evidence for corruption in the Government and how he wasn't going to tolerate any political pressure upon the ruling coalition--the general, vain, expected-by-all declaration given by a modern-day politician. I don't watch much or any television, but I happened to be in the room at the time in order to hear what the actor said about the Prime Minister's speech. "This is a slogan," he said. "We know it is a slogan. He knows it is a slogan. It doesn't mean anything.
You can't talk to people like that... with slogans..." He was so broken and hopeless saying those words. Here was a man who was desperate over the ubiquitous hypocrisy and lack of reality in people who spoke the "right things," but whose darkened hearts and minds, and evil conscience, rendered everything they spoke powerless and meaningless, void of life. Here was a worldly man, who could at least sense, if not identify the issue, better than many church people. As Art Katz, a former Marxist, said in one sermon, "Slogans can't save the world. Even 'Christian' slogans." A creed, a doctrine, a right doctrine cannot save us. A memory of a conversion, even revisited, cannot save us. Man-centered reflections on the nature of God and of man cannot produce in us the divine nature. We need the fire of the Lord burning in our hearts, conforming us to the image of Christ. Otherwise, on the Day of the Lord we risk being found spiritual infants, in spite of our scriptural profiency and much studying of, and writings on, Biblical words and doctrines. There is a great passage in He brews (emphases mine):

Heb 5:9 And having been perfected, He (Christ) became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him,
Heb 5:10 called by God as High Priest "according to the order of Melchizedek,"
Heb 5:11 of whom we have much to say, and hard to explain, since you have become dull of hearing,
Heb 5:12 For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food.
Heb 5:13 For everyone who partakes only of milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness, for he is a babe.
Heb 5:14 But solid food belongs to those who are of full age, that is, those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

Until we grow as a church into the fullness of Christ, we cannot fulfill the purposes set before us by God. We won't even suffer persecution, nor have tribulation in the world, for we have been long accustomed to its ways and wisdom and accepted them as our own, mixed together with the word of the truth, so that we have been disarmed spiritually and are of no threat to the powers of the air. In fact, we will continue to wonder why our testimony is so weak and irrelevant in the world--neither urgently accepted, nor fiercely opposed--and why people don't see in Christians something they don't already have elsewhere.

Heb 12:25 See that you do not refuse Him who speaks. For if they did not escape who refused Him who spoke on earth, much more shall we not escape if we turn away from Him who speaks from heaven,
Heb 12:26 whose voice then shook the earth; but now He has promised, saying, "Yet once more I shake not only the earth, but also heaven."
Heb 12:27 Now this, "Yet once more," indicates the removal of those things that are being shaken, as of things that were made, that the things which cannot be shaken may remain.

Man-made and man-honoring holidays and customs are among those things.

Re: on the voice of God - posted by roadsign (), on: 2008/5/12 9:05
Not me, You raise many concerns which I will address in a (far-too-overly) cursory fashion:

Quote:

------------------------------ because when the Lord speaks a rebuke, and you don't receive it as a word from Him, but as a word from men, then you in fact resist the chastening of the Lord,
------------------------------

And yet...

God surely speaks into lives of the unregenerate--even for many years, preparing the soil of their hearts, even though they may not recognize or acknowledge the ultimate source until much later when they look back and see that God's hand indeed was working in their lives.

Quote:

------------------------------- For the people of God should not depend on donkey's and extreme situation mercies to hear the voice of the Lord,
-------------------------------

You bring out a good point. After all, we humans are prone to enshrining and worshipping the means of God's voice
rather than God himself. IÂ’m surprised Israel didnÂ’t make a gold donkey after the Balaam event. Surely it was because they were sufficiently humbled by that time. IÂ’ll admit that some of those to whom I sent the MotherÂ’s Day poem may mount it onto a nice plaque that matches their living room, and totally leave God out of their lives. (People do that with scripture too!)

I share here my prototype example of God using ungodly sources: A dear friend was saved through Â“Jesus Christ SuperstarÂ” – yes - at the same time that our pastor was preaching against this vile, evil, worldly movie. Her salvation was powerful. She saw her sins on the cross and wept bitterly. She did not have the Â“advantageÂ” of an evangelical pastor or who gave her the four spiritual laws and told her how to do it. She knew nothing about rebirth. But her conversion was authentic. She is still a vibrant humble follower of Jesus. That is more than can be said for the hordes who Â“got saved Â” by going through the four spiritual laws Â– verses and all.

Quote:
------------------------But the danger of offering others such a word, which is not prodded and given by the Spirit, is that the hearers will trust in the wisdom of men and not in the power of God--which will lead them into spiritual stagnation.
------------------------

That is, of course the danger of giving scriptures verses too (ex the Pharisees). God is not opposed to taking risks, is he? After all he gave us the Bible. There is likely no book on earth that has been so misquoted, abused, and used by hearers to justify their trust in self, their faulty ways Â– and lead to spiritual stagnation. Just walk into many of our churches.

There may be a good reason why God uses unlikely sources: Sometimes we can become so familiar with scripture that it loses its punch. Powerful biblical words become sentimental jargon quoted to make us feel spiritual. God is not opposed to shocking us through unexpected sources to wake us from our slumber and spiritual pride. Here again, I could give personal examples, but will resist the danger of too much Â“1Â” in this post. (there may be a few old examples on my site)

Oh, one more thoughtÂ…

Then, there is the converse problem of interpreting just about anything as the Â“voiceÂ” of God. This Â“God-talkÂ” sounds spiritual, but can be fleshly, hypocrisy, an assumption that one is close to God.

Â“Listen to the wail of the shepherds;
Their rich pastures are destroyed1
Listen to the roar of lions;
The lush thicket of the Jordan is ruined!Zech.11:3

May we humbly learn to discern the message of the Lord through life all around us.

Diane

---

Re: Mother's Day - posted by crsschk (), on: 2008/5/12 9:32

Quote:
------------------------These things you have written are not untrue, but there is so much more than things being true in letter. "For the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life."
------------------------

And you would kill with the letter something this harmless? You are straining a gnat from an unknown mothers reflection s. Brother, it's absurd.
What you have written would be perfectly fine in a situation that called for it ...

Re: correction - posted by roadsign (), on: 2008/5/12 9:53
I just changed my last line:

"May we humbly learn to discern the message of the Lord through (not Â“inÂ”) life all around us."
(I donÂ’t wish to suggest pantheism)
Diane

Re:, on: 2008/5/12 11:10

Quote:
--------------------And yetÂ…
God surely speaks into lives of the unregenerate Â– even for many years, preparing the soil of their hearts, even though they may not recognize or ack knowledge the ultimate source until much later when they look back and see that GodÂ’s hand indeed was working in their lives.
--------------------

Dear Diane,

I am not talking about the unregenerate heathen here. I am talking about people who call themselves by the name of the Lord. Surely God will leave the ninety-nine sheep behind to seek and find the one lost sheep, and bring it back to life.

Quote:
--------------------IÂ’ll admit that some of those to whom I sent the MotherÂ’s Day poem may mount it onto a nice plaque that matches their living room, and totally leave God out of their lives. (People do that with scripture too!)
--------------------

This is a perfect illustration. For this poem calls to be put on a plaque in someone's living room! And people do the same with the Scriptures, as you are pointing out. But while the former make some use of the words of men, the latter show through their action that they have not yet come to know the Lord in spirit and in truth, turning His awesome Word into room decoration. There was a time in my life, when I wore Christian wristbands and T-shirts, and put Christian posters on my wall, thinking I was being a faithful witness of Jesus Christ, but the Lord revealed Himself in a such way to me that I was afraid to use such means to peddle His holy name any longer.

Quote:
--------------------
Quote:
--------------------But the danger of offering others such a word, which is not prodded and given by the Spirit, is that the hearers will trust in the wisdom of men and not in the power of God--which will lead them into spiritual stagnation.
--------------------

That is, of course the danger of giving scriptures verses too (ex the Pharisees). God is not opposed to taking risks, is he? After all he gave us the Bible. There is likely no book on earth that has been so misquoted, abused, and used by hearers to justify their trust in self, their faulty ways Â– and lead to spiritual stagnation. Just walk into many of our churches.
--------------------

You are justifying any attempt, however faulty, to bring glory to God, as long as the person responsible for it has good intentions. Just like this "Mother's Day Poem," I am not talking about whether God is going to use it for His glory or not (indeed, this turned into quite a discussion); but whether such a post can and does glorify the Lord--the Lord of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and not the sentimental "American Jesus." Because in this poem, I do not recognize the work of my Lor
d. He will not give His glory to another; He will allow no praises for the writer of this poem. True, God allowed King Saul to persecute David for sixteen years in order to produce a certain character in David, but He did not set this as an example for us--that we should persecute and torture the people of God so that they may grow in the knowledge of Him. In the world, the "anything goes" mentality (that as long as we do something in the name of God, it is okay) may be well-accepted, but this is not true in the kingdom of God. I believe God does honor the risks of the wise (and when he is wrong, God will correct him, and bring him back in), but He will laugh at the risks of the foolish, who despises correction:

Pro 12:15 The way of a fool is right in his own eyes, But he who heeds counsel is wise.

The end of the matter is this: this poem presents a humanist view of God. It is because of such carnal Christian witnessing--which pretends to spring from the knowledge of God but in effect exalts the self--that unbelievers are laughing at the church of Jesus Christ.

Discussing on this further seems unnecessary.

(To those who have seen the finger of God in my writing, I recommend the book Reality: The Hope of Glory by Art Katz. In it Art exposes many pitfalls of modern day Christianity and urges toward an authentic, apostolic manifestation of the Christian faith. I think it still can be found online, but if you can't get to it, I can mail it to you.)

Re: - posted by roadsing (), on: 2008/5/12 11:49

Quote:
----------------------- Discussing on this further seems unnecessary.
-----------------------

I agree brother,
God bless you!
Diane

Re:, on: 2008/5/12 13:27

Quote:
----------------------- You are justifying any attempt, however faulty, to bring glory to God, as long as the person responsible for it has good intentions. Just like this "Mother's Day Poem." I am not talking about whether God is going to use it for His glory or not (indeed, this turned into quite a discussion); but whether such a post can and does glorify the Lord--the Lord of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and not the sentimental "American Jesus." Because in his poem, I do not recognize the work of my Lord. He will not give His glory to another; He will allow no praises for the writer of this poem.
-----------------------

Moe wrote: I am troubled that I have offended you or anyone else, with the posting of this poem. Yesterday was Mother's Day. It was not an effort, at least on my part, to take away any glory from the Lord. The truth is, we cannot take away any of his glory nor can anyone else take it away, but we all can fail to acknowledge his glory. I did not think, it was not the intent of the author, to take glory from the glory of the Lord, but I cannot say that for positive, because I do not know the author. This is just a personal opinion and we all have one of those and you as well. I would like to also say that Jesus is no more or no less Jesus to the American people or any individual, than He is to anyone other country or individual that acknowledges him.
God Bless