



BOASTING GREAT THINGS

Lately on the news we have been hearing about corruption in the United States Congress and Senate. The representatives of the the citizens of the United States boast great things to get elected. Now the mighty are falling just like they did during the Nixon administration.

We are seeing that the power of government corrupts even the most stable and righteous of



elected officials. The saying, "power tends to corrupt, and absolute power corrupts absolutely" by Lord Acton (1834-1902) shows a keen insight into the degradation of the politician and the mindset of those in political power.

<http://www.uow.edu.au/arts/sts/bmartin/pubs/98il/il01.html>

Throughout history, those who wielded power were easily corrupted through gifts and graft. Though they spoke great swelling words they showed that they were weak when it came to the deceptions of Satan and his agents.

James 3:1-18

1 My brethren, be not many masters, knowing that we shall receive the greater condemnation.

2 For in many things we offend all. If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man, and able also to bridle the whole body.

3 Behold, we put bits in the horses' mouths, that they may obey us; and we turn about

their whole body.

4 Behold also the ships, which though they be so great, and are driven of fierce winds, yet are they turned about with a very small helm, whithersoever the governor listeth.

5 Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth!

6 And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell.

7 For every kind of beasts, and of birds, and of serpents, and of things in the sea, is tamed, and hath been tamed of mankind:

8 But the tongue can no man tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison.

9 Therewith bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God.

10 Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be.

11 Doth a fountain send forth at the same place sweet water and bitter?

12 Can the fig tree, my brethren, bear olive berries? either a vine, figs? so can no fountain both yield salt water and fresh.

13 Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? let him shew out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom.

14 But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth.

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15 This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish.

16 For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work.

17 But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be intreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.

18 And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace.

James knew about the wickedness of men in power. He saw firsthand how those who speak great swelling words that tickle the ear appear to be wise. James saw how Herod caused the people to think that he was a god with his tantalizing speech.

Acts 12:21-23

21 And upon a set day Herod, arrayed in royal apparel, sat upon his throne, and made an oration unto them.

22 And the people gave a shout, saying, It is the voice of a god, and not of a man.

23 And immediately the angel of the Lord smote him, because he gave not God the glory: and he was eaten of worms, and gave up the ghost.

This wickedness is not just reserved for the politician, but has penetrated the church. Even during the days of the apostles, there was corruption in the church hierarchy with preachers lording over the flock of God.

Today this is widespread with many preachers using the Gospel to promote themselves. How many times have you heard a preacher introduced with a great homily depicting him as a great man of God? Weren't these the same as the deposed television preachers who portrayed themselves as great men of God

while living in sin themselves?

Remember Jimmy Swaggart who preached against lasciviousness while he was a whore-monger. He was doing the same things that he was busy preaching against. There are many examples of corruption in the church. The Catholic church officially protected priests by moving them from state to state to avoid prosecution for pedophilia.

The corruption runs through all areas of power. Anyone who is in a position of power is prone to the corruption. Preachers, lawyers, corporate officers, politicians, and all others with power over others will find themselves in positions where their morals will be attacked. The news that you hear today about the congressmen selling their office to the lobbyists is no different than the corruption being touted 35 years ago in the Nixon administration, or the corruption of Jimmy Swaggart.

The tongue is an unruly member boasting great things. The ones who seem to boast the loudest are most likely the ones who are prone to the greatest corruption. Remember how righteous Nixon appeared before Watergate? He was no different than Herod. He was all hot air with no substance. The same will probably be true with Tom DeLay.

The Apostle James had a keen understanding of the soul of man. He understood how the power of the pulpit can corrupt the preacher. He foresaw how Satan and his agents will corrupt a moral preacher and puff him up so great that his moral fiber disintegrates. This boasting and pride is from the devil and not from God. The proud, boasting preacher will find himself racing toward the pit of hell.

On the other hand the humble, meek preacher who seeks the will of the Lord will not be as tempted. The meek and humble man

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of God will not boast about his position or his place in heaven.

When the angel told Mary of her coming pregnancy, look how she responded. She was humble and kept her righteousness.

Luke 1:46-55

46 And Mary said, My soul doth magnify the Lord,

47 And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.

48 For he hath regarded the low estate of his handmaiden: for, behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.

49 For he that is mighty hath done to me great things; and holy is his name.

50 And his mercy is on them that fear him from generation to generation.

51 He hath shewed strength with his arm; he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.

52 He hath put down the mighty from their seats, and exalted them of low degree.

53 He hath filled the hungry with good things; and the rich he hath sent empty away.

54 He hath holpen his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy;

55 As he spake to our fathers, to Abraham, and to his seed for ever.

The Lord, who has shown great mercy on us the sinners, should not be repaid by our boasting. We should give all of the glory to the Lord Jesus who has resurrected us from the pit of hell and placed us on higher ground. Jesus is the one who should get all of the glory. We should not be boastful about what the Lord has given us. If it wasn't for the Lord, where would we be? I know that I was a sinner on the road to hell. Jesus lifted me up out of the pit and set my feet on the road to heaven.

There was nothing that I did to change my life. Jesus was the one who made this drunk clean. Jesus was the one who changed my life. There is no righteousness in me, except for Jesus Christ. Jesus receives all of the glory, and none goes to me.

The same is true for you. You have no room to boast. Your only method of salvation is through Jesus Christ the Lord. Where is boasting? Why do you think that you are greater than you really are? Without Jesus Christ in your life, you are nothing. Jesus is everything to the born-again Christian. If you are a preacher and you boast about your position, you need to seek the Lord's forgiveness. If you are a saint who is living a lie, you need to seek the Lord's forgiveness. Jesus is tired of your pride. Jesus is tired of your boasting. Jesus is the one who paid for your salvation. Jesus is the one who paid the price for your salvation. There was not a single thing that you did to earn it!

Romans 3:27

27 Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? of works? Nay: but by the law of faith.

Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life. (John 14:6) There is no other way to make it to heaven. There is no self-righteousness that can lift you out of the pit of hell. There is nothing that you have done that can merit you the favor of God except your repentance.

So you see my friend, you really have nothing to boast about. Jesus did it all for you.

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