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OUR EXAMPLE

Every day we make an impression on people (for better or worse). When the apostle Paul wrote to Timothy and Titus, he talked about the importance of a Christian's example and the danger of a wicked example. Let us look into these three books (I and II Timothy, Titus) and see what our examples ought and ought not to be.

The Example Of The Young.

Timothy was told, *"Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity"* (I Tim. 4:12). He continues, *"Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all. Take heed unto thyself, and unto the doctrine; continue in them:*

for in doing this thou shalt both save thyself, and them that hear thee" (I Tim. 4:15-16). When it came to Timothy's example, Paul said he was to take heed to God's word and be a godly example to others; not "sow his wild oats."

Titus was told, *"In all things showing thyself a pattern of good works: in doctrine showing uncorruptness, gravity, sincerity, Sound speech, that cannot be condemned; that he that is of the contrary part may be ashamed, having no evil thing to say of you"* (Titus 2:7-8). Just as Titus was to show the proper example, so must we! In so doing, those who are not Christians will have nothing evil to say and will be ashamed of their conduct.

Young people, are we listening to the words of

Scripture? You have an example that needs to be seen (Matt. 5:15-16). Your example can be helpful to others when you do things the Lord's way.

The Example Of The Old.

Sadly, many people seem to want to slow down or quit when they know they are nearing the end of life's journey. That should not be! When the apostle Paul wrote to Timothy, he remembered the godly influence two older women had on Timothy (Lois and Eunice, II Tim. 1:5). These women had such a good influence on Timothy that he had grown up knowing the Scriptures (II Tim. 3:15)! What great role models for this young man!

In Titus 2:2-5, we read of the roles that older men and women must accept. *"That the aged men be sober, grave, temperate, sound in faith, in charity, in patience. The aged women likewise, that they be in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things; That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of*

God be not blasphemed." What a great asset older men and women can be when they show the proper example to others! Older folks, don't quit now! Younger folks, let us not take these gifts for granted.

The Example Of Those Who Are Evil.

Those who are evil leave a bad impression on us. May God help us to see what they did and learn from their misdeeds. Paul wrote to Timothy and said, *"But shun profane and vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness. And their word will eat as doth a canker: of whom is Hymenaeus and Philetus; Who concerning the truth have erred, saying that the resurrection is past already; and overthrow the faith of some"* (II Tim. 2:16-18). These men's bad examples caused the faith of some to be overthrown. Truly, a bad example can be devastating, spiritually (Ecc. 9:18b)!

Titus was told that there were some that would deceive people and "subvert (plunder, overthrow, Vine's, p. 1111) whole houses." The plunder was not physical. Rather, through false teachings, these people would turn from the truth (Titus 1:10-14). Can

People, Places, and Things of the **BIBLE**



Nathan-Melech Seal

A clay seal bearing the inscription, “Natan-Melech, servant of the king” was found in the City of David. The Israel Antiquities Authority (IAA) announced that find, dating it to the First Temple period. Natan Melech is mentioned in the book of II Kings as a servant of King Josiah. He lived near the entrance to the temple, close to the courtyard where the horses had been kept that were used in sun-worship before Josiah disposed of both the horses and the chariots that they had pulled. The name is mentioned in the Bible once. *“He did away with the horses that the kings of Yehuda had dedicated to the sun, at the entrance of the House of Hashem, near the chamber of the eunuch Nathan-melech, which was in the precincts. He burned the chariots of the sun,” II Kings 23:11.* Dr. Anat Mendel-Geberovich of the IAA notes that the fact that this official was mentioned by his first name alone indicates that he was known to all, and there was no need to add his family lineage. The title “Servant of the King” (*Eved HaMelech*) appears often in the Bible and describes a high-ranking official close to Israel’s kings. According to Prof. Yuval Gadot of Tel Aviv University and Dr. Yiftah Shalev of the Israel Antiquities Authority who were responsible for the dig, the building where the seal and other artifacts were found was destroyed in the sixth century BCE – likely during the Babylonian destruction of Jerusalem in 586 BCE. The seal impression that was uncovered was deciphered by Dr. Mendel-Geberovich, who, according to the script, also dates it to the middle of the seventh century to the beginning of the sixth century BCE. “Although it is not possible to determine with complete certainty that the Nathan Melech who is mentioned in the Bible was in fact the owner of the stamp, it is impossible to ignore some of the details that link them together,” Mendel-Geberovich said in a statement. Doron Spielman, Vice President of the City of David Foundation which operates the City of David National Park added: “This is an extremely exciting find for billions of people worldwide.”



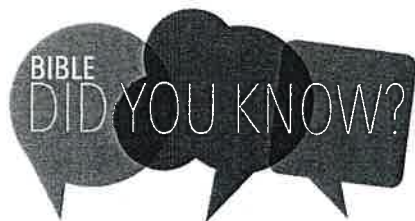
we see how destructive a bad example can be? Evil actions hurt more than just the guilty party. As a godly influence benefits many, so an evil influence can hurt many. Let us determine our examples will be good and not evil!

The Example Of Christians In General.

Some might look at themselves and decide that they have no “special talent”, and therefore they have nothing to do in the kingdom --- WRONG! All Christians are to show a proper example to others. *“The servant of the Lord must not strive; but be gentle unto all men, apt to teach, patient, In meekness instructing those that oppose themselves; if God peradventure will give them repentance to the acknowledging of the truth; And that they may recover themselves out of the snare of the devil, who are taken captive by him at his will”* (II Tim. 2:24-26). Those who think they have nothing to offer future generations are wrong! You have a good example that needs to be seen and followed, like Paul (Phil. 4:9). Are you doing your part?

The Reason That We Are
To Be Good Examples To
Others.

In the final verses of Titus 2, we see why God wants people to be good examples (Titus 2:11-14). Put simply, since Christ died and showed us how to live (I Pet. 2:21-22), we need to be good examples in order to lead others to Christ! Jesus taught that people will glorify God when they see us being “salt” and “light” (Matt. 5:13-16). Do we appreciate what the Lord has said? What kind of impression are we leaving on people?
— Jarrod Jacobs



Sometimes the life of an evangelist can be so unpredictable given the work he is consumed with in teaching and preaching alone, that tough choices will have to be made concerning what all he can handle on his plate at any given time. “But concerning Apollos our brother, I encouraged him greatly to come to you with the brethren; and it was not at all his desire to come now, but he will come when he has opportunity.”
1 Cor. 16:12