

TRUTH & RIGHT

the bulletin of the Wellsburg church of Christ

WELLSBURG
CHURCH OF CHRIST



www.wellsburgchurchofchrist.com

Volume 16 Issue 39

September 26, 2021

BUG ZAPPERS OR BIRD FEEDERS?

The title above may seem strange, but if you read this article to completion, I believe you will see that the question is appropriate. I am sure most of our dear readers are familiar with bug zappers. This device contains a light that attracts bugs. As the bugs approach the light, they land on an electric wire which electrocutes them. Who does not like to sit outside on a warm summer evening and watch bugs meet their end in a zapper?

Furthermore, we are entering a season in which the birds who do not migrate will be searching for food. Those who enjoy watching the birds will set out food so they can watch the birds out their windows. In fact, many people set feeders out all year long so they can watch the birds. **Comparisons And Contrasts** We can compare and contrast these two things fairly easily. First, we see that the light from the bug zapper and the food from the feeder will

attract various creatures. Their appearance is benign, and both stand ready to accept those who come to it. The bug zapper is no respecter of persons. If an animal or a man happens to touch the electric wire, they will get a shock, just as bugs do. In like manner, a bird feeder will feed squirrels and other animals we deem as "pests" in addition to the intended birds. It is no respecter of persons, either. The bug zapper, however, attracts in order to destroy, while the bird feeder attracts to nourish. No bugs ever left the bug zapper better than when they entered. Yet, the animals attracted to the bird feeder will leave the feeder in better shape than when they approached. **Which Describes Us?** There are those today who are like that bug zapper. They attract folks to them so they can destroy them. No wonder, for you see, Satan is like this! He deceived folks from the beginning

and has determined to destroy men ever since (Jn. 8:44; I Pet. 5:8)! Therefore, it should be no surprise that those walking on the “*broad way*” that leads to destruction (Matt. 7:13-14) are also acting like this. The description of the woman in Proverbs 7 fits well here. The Bible tells us she attracted the naïve man with her “*fair speech*” and “*flattering*” and destroyed him (Prov. 7:21, 23). Just as an insect was attracted to the light and electrocuted, so also, what seemed wonderful at first to the young man, resulted in destruction! Thus it is today. People intent on destruction will generally attract others to be like them (Prov. 1:10-19, 22:24-25). This is what Korah, Dathan, and Abiram did (Num. 16:1-3). Their destructive message not only hurt them (Num. 16:31-35), but it attracted many others, and they also were destroyed (Num. 16:41-49). In the New Testament, Paul warns of the “*good words and fair speeches*” of false teachers (Rom. 16:18). The apostle Peter says, “*many* (not a few, JJ) *shall follow their pernicious ways*” (II Pet. 2:2). Such people shall be made “*spoil*” or “*merchandise*” as a result of following the harmful false doctrines of men (II Pet. 2:3; Col. 2:4, 8). The result is that these folks must face “*the wrath of God*” (Eph. 5:6). In contrast to this, we see those who act like the bird feeder.

They attract folks for the purpose of building up and nourishing them (Eph. 4:29b; Col. 4:6). Indeed, Jesus is like this. While on earth, He attracted folks to Him with the salvation message. This message continues to attract people who want to be saved (Rom. 1:16). His crucifixion draws men to Him (Jn. 12:32). Furthermore, His gospel is described as “*milk*” and “*meat*” (I Pet. 2:2; Heb. 5:12-14), i.e., nourishment for the souls of men. His words are given for the benefit of man. When folks are attracted to Him, He gives life, not death (Jn. 6:63). God’s word harms none, for there is spiritual benefit for all! (Isa. 55:10-11) We ought to have this same gospel message on our lips and in our lives (I Pet. 4:11; Col. 3:17). There is a world of lost souls today who will never know about Christ, nor His life-saving word, unless we are active in teaching (Mk. 16:15; II Tim. 2:2). No, we do not attract folks to ourselves, but to Him! Jesus said when we let our lights shine, folks will see us and glorify God (Matt. 5:16). This benefits all! **Are you a bug zapper or a bird feeder?** – Jarrod Jacobs

When Is Sin Really Sin? The title of this article may seem foolish at first, but as I observe the actions of many, I am convinced that this is a question that needs to be asked and answered. There are some who do not seem to understand what sin

really is and therefore do not understand when a thing should really be considered as sin. Some seem to think that an act is not sinful as long as it is unknown to others. A man may drink, lie, steal, or any other act and have no sense of guilt or shame. He seems to think that his actions are acceptable because he is able to keep them hidden from others. When his actions are exposed, the only thing he seems sorry for is that he "got caught." This same attitude is often demonstrated on the part of some members of the church when it comes to dealing with sin in the lives of some members. If you dare expose the sins of some, you may be accused of "causing trouble" or dealing unfairly with someone. The attitude seems to be that, so long as nothing is said about the sins, everything will be fine. It only becomes a problem when something is said about it. How foolish can we be? We need to learn that the teaching of truth or the exposing of error does not cause the wrong; it just brings to light wrongs that were already present. There are others who seem to think that a thing is not sinful if everyone else is doing it. The common practice of a thing tends to make it acceptable in the eyes of the majority. Sometimes even members of the church tend to become tolerant of things that should be considered sinful simply

because the majority of the people have accepted them. Some who are guilty of sinful acts may be led to think that their actions are not wrong because they are accepted by members of the church without question or rebuke. Paul rebuked the church at Corinth for not putting away one from among them who was guilty of immorality (1 Cor. 5). This man was not made to feel ashamed or guilty because the church was not questioning his action but was actually glorying in such (1 Cor. 5:6). Again, we need to learn that acceptance of a thing is not what makes that thing right in the sight of God. Another problem that exists along this line is the attitude of some who have determined that the only things to be considered sinful are the things they don't like. If they like it, then it is not sin; if they do not like it, then it is sin. This is the reason for many becoming angry and upset when you speak out on various sins. If you condemn something they like, you are wrong since their likes cannot be sinful. When a person thinks in this manner, he is, in reality, setting himself up as the standard for determining right and wrong. His likes are right; his dislikes are wrong. He, in effect, becomes his own "god." The Bible teaches that sin is the transgression of God's law (1 Jn. 3:4). If a thing is contrary to the teaching of God's word, it is sin.

BIBLE TRIVIA

CHALLENGE

DIRECTIONS: After searching through your Bible, circle which answer is correct.

1. Jesus healed Peter's Mother-in-law, who was sick with a _____.
 - a) Cold
 - b) Fever
 - c) Rash
 - d) Virus
2. Jesus once healed a leper by stretching out His hand and _____.
 - a) Pointing
 - b) Motioning
 - c) Waving
 - d) Touching him
3. A woman was healed of a hemorrhage by touching _____.
 - a) Jesus
 - b) Apostles
 - c) Scripture
 - d) Magic stones
4. 10 lepers were cleansed by Jesus, who told them to show themselves to _____.
 - a) Apostles
 - b) The public
 - c) Magicians
 - d) Priests
5. After putting clay on a blind man's eyes, Jesus told him to ____ in the pool of Siloam.
 - a) Wash
 - b) Swim
 - c) Splash
 - d) Stand
6. Before raising Lazarus from the dead, Jesus said to ____ the stone against his tomb.
 - a) Hit
 - b) Place
 - c) Knock on
 - d) Remove
7. In answer to a royal official begging Jesus to come heal his son, Jesus said, "Go, your son ____."
 - a) Dies
 - b) Cries
 - c) Lives
 - d) Walks
8. Jesus said to a paralytic brought to Him to heal, "Your sins are ____."
 - a) Bad
 - b) Forgiven
 - c) Many
 - d) Big
9. In the company of loud mourners, Jesus said, "The child has not died, but is ____."
 - a) Faking
 - b) Alive
 - c) Asleep
 - d) Sick
10. At a funeral procession for a dead man, Jesus said, "Young man, I say to you, ____."
 - a) Speak
 - b) Walk
 - c) Live
 - d) Arise

ANSWERS & VERSES:

- 1) B, Reference: Mk. 1:30-31
- 2) D, Reference: Mk. 1:40-41
- 3) A, Reference: Lk. 8:43-46
- 4) D, Reference: Lk. 17:14
- 5) A, Reference: Jn. 9:6-7
- 6) D, Reference: Jn. 11:39

- 7) C, Jn. 4:46-50
- 8) B, Mt. 9:2
- 9) C, Mk. 5:38-39
- 10) D, Lk. 7:11-14