

TRUTH & RIGHT

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A STOPPED CLOCK

A Stopped Clock Is right twice a day. • Implies that there was a clockmaker.

- Might have once run well.
- Could be started again.
- Could be stopped because of only one defective component. • Could be

stopped because of someone's negligence. If human reasoning could find so many "positive" lessons from a stopped clock, is it any wonder why many of our brethren can find justification for fellowshiping false teachers among us? Could we not justify almost any man who teaches falsehoods with similar reasoning as was offered for the stopped clock? See for yourself. Some might say **A**

False Teacher Is right on most things. • Believes in the same God we do. • May have done many wonderful things for God in the past. (Compare: Ezek. 18:24, 26)

- Might change if he is given enough time. • Teaches

falsehood in only "one area" of Bible teaching. • Generally, teaches the truth on all other subjects. Some might suggest that in the case of the stopped clock, if someone would work with that clock, it may be possible to get the clock working again. This is true. So also, it is true that if we will take the time to work with false teachers, (not compromising the truth, but taking the time to teach them the truth, Gal. 6:1) we may be able to win them to the Lord when they repent of their false doctrine and preach the truth. This is correct.

However, if our stopped clock is beyond repair, we need not keep it around. In like manner, the Holy Spirit speaks of some who are "*past feeling*" (Eph. 4:19), some "*who concerning the truth have erred*" (II Tim. 2:18), and some who "*will depart from the faith giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils Speaking lies*

in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron" (I Tim. 4:1-2). In such cases, we must not continue in fellowship with them, pretending as if nothing is wrong, but "*mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them*" (Rom. 16:17). John condemned continuing in fellowship with those in error stating, "*If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds*" (II Jn. 10-11). One problem today is that while most people will do what is necessary to fix a stopped clock, many are not willing to do what the Bible says is necessary to stop a false teacher (Titus 1:11). Most people are not afraid to fix the stopped clock. In fact, we are appreciative when someone calls attention to the clock. Yet, ironically, when it comes to false teaching, people seem afraid to speak to those in error, and those in error often become angry at the possibility that that they are wrong. How sad! Let us not be afraid to call a "spade" a "spade." If there is false teaching being promoted, the one who is the friend is the one who points it out; not the one who is so afraid of hurting feelings that he keeps it bottled

up (Gal. 4:16). Jesus said, "*But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death*" (Rev. 21:8). Notice the first group mentioned as having their part in the second death are the "*fearful*!" I have had to work on this problem, and by God's grace I keep working at improving. What about you, dear readers? Brethren, where are our priorities when it comes to the problem of false doctrines being spread?

Brethren, it is later than we think. We are drifting! –

Jarrold Jacobs. **Elders.** Edward O Bragwell, Sr. (1936-2020). Perhaps there is no greater need today among churches than to qualify and appoint elders to oversee them and their work. No church can reach its full potential until it reaches the point of having qualified men appointed as overseers (Tit. 1:5). When appointed they should be respected for their work's sake (1 Thess. 5:12-13). As Shepherds of the flock of God they have an awesome responsibility (Heb. 13:17). Having served as an elder in the past, I know first-hand some of the hard decisions that have to be made and the unjust criticism that often comes with

BIBLE TRIVIA

C H A L L E N G E

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

1. Jesus said He spoke in parables "because while seeing they do not see, and while hearing they do not hear, nor do they ____."

- a) Speak
- b) Understand
- c) Whistle
- d) Breakdance

2. Seed sown beside the road is snatched away by the ____ one.

- a) Crazy
- b) Fidgety
- c) Shy
- d) Evil

3. Wheat and tares will be allowed to grow together until the ____.

- a) Harvest
- b) Birthday
- c) Evening
- d) Sunset

4. When the mustard seed is full grown, it is larger than the garden plants and becomes a ____.

- a) Tortleneck
- b) Harmonica
- c) Swatch
- d) Tree

5. The ____ of heaven is like leaven, which a woman took and hid in three pecks of flour until it was all leavened.

- a) Kingdom
- b) Jello
- c) Noodles
- d) Pudding

6. Jesus did not speak to the crowds without a ____.

- a) Powerpoint
- b) Lazerpointer
- c) Pulpit
- d) Parable

7. "I will open My mouth in parables; I will utter things ____ since the foundation of the world."

- a) Silly
- b) Fantastic
- c) Hidden
- d) Frightening

8. The man who found the treasure hidden in the field sold all he had and bought the field from ____ over it.

- a) Fear
- b) Joy
- c) Suspicion
- d) Confusion

9. The kingdom of heaven is like a merchant seeking fine ____.

- a) Turtles
- b) Fannypacks
- c) Pearls
- d) Frogs

10. At the end of the age, ____ will take out the wicked from among the righteous.

- a) God
- b) Jesus
- c) Holy Spirit
- d) Angels

- 1) B, Reference: Mt. 13:13
 2) D, Reference: Mt. 13:19
 3) A, Reference: Mt. 13:30
 4) D, Reference: Mt. 13:31-32
 5) A, Reference: Mt. 13:33
 6) D, Reference: Mt. 13:34
 7) C, Ps. 78:2; Mt. 13:35
 8) B, Mt. 13:44
 9) C, Mt. 13:45
 10) D, Mt. 13:49

the territory. I also know the joy of overseeing a flock who, for the most part, are humbly serving the Lord. My hat's off to those elders who understand their God-given role of watching for souls and use their position accordingly. However, elders are not gods nor lords. They are men. They make mistakes, some trivial, but others serious. They should not be automatically followed unconditionally. Sometimes, they should even be rightly rebuked for their sins (1 Tim. 5:19-20). Local churches have been led into error by people BLINDLY following an eldership because people have the idea that to "obey them that have the rule over you" means that they must follow the elders – unconditionally, no matter what. With many congregations, there is the unwritten rule that the elders' decisions are always to be followed and respected – no questions asked. This conveniently takes the burden of studying and thinking for oneself and gives a convenient "out" if questioned about anything that might be going on within the congregation – "it was the elders' decision and I respect the elders." Also, often individuals and churches make it their practice to honor without question or investigation any action that the elders of another

congregation may take against a member. Folks, wake up. Elders are fallible. Sometimes they can (wittingly or unwittingly) be harsh and unjust in some of their actions. It is, to say the least, irresponsible to automatically accept the judgment of any group of fallible men and act upon it without asking for the basis for their judgment. Any elders, worth the salt in their bread, will welcome any questions you might have about any decisions they make and will be willing to sit down and discuss the reasons for their decisions. Only those that rule as "lords it over God's heritage" (1 Pet. 5:1-4) will tell you that they expect you to accept without question their decisions because they are "the elders." It is this "no questions asked" mentality that caused many congregations to adopt the unscriptural innovations of the past.