

SINS OF ROMANS I



WORDS TO FIND:

- Backbiting
- Boasting
- Covetousness
- Debating
- Deceitfulness
- Despiteful
- Disobedient
- Envy
- Fornication
- Homosexuality
- Implacable
- Maliciousness
- Murder
- Proud
- Unmerciful
- Unrighteousness

Lincoln's Guidelines

Author Unknown

Abraham Lincoln left us some guidelines to help us in maintaining the framework of democracy in this nation of free men. I wish our politicians would understand these principles. Some of them are:

“You cannot help small men by tearing down big men.”

“You cannot strengthen the weak by weakening the strong.”





“You cannot keep out of trouble by spending more than your income.”

“You cannot build character and courage by taking away man’s initiative and independence.”

“You cannot help men permanently by doing for them what they could and should do for themselves.”

“You cannot help the poor man by destroying the rich.”

The **Bible View**

Editor: Bill Brinkworth Web: www.OpenThouMineEyes.com Vol.: 93

Mule-Minded or God-minded

“Be ye not as the horse, or as the mule, which have no understanding: whose mouth must be held in with bit and bridle, lest they come near unto thee.”



Psalm 32:9

“Stubborn-as-a-mule!”

“If you only had horse sense!”

These are common sayings about some of the behavior of barnyard animals. The Bible says that their excuse for their behavior is that “they don’t understand.” What is our reason for having the same behavior? Supposedly, we should understand.

I’ve heard tales of training a wrong-minded animal to do as its owner desired that would make an animal-lover scream “animal abuse.”

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‘They’ — A parable for our time

Author Unknown

There was a man who lived in the twenty-first century. His house was new. Two cars and a boat graced his garage and carport. Color television gleamed in his den. His family was healthy, and a good fortune did smile upon him.

As was his custom — when he was in town, when the fish were not biting, when company did not come, when he could get up on time, when he was not too tired and when there was nothing else he could do — he went regularly to church. On these occasions, once every five or six weeks (if he needed it or not), he spent his time criticizing the decaying state of the church.

The Sunday School was low in attendance and the choir too small. No wonder the preacher was discouraged

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Mule-minded . . .

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This was required to get the animal to do its task. Many times the action accomplished its purpose, and the animal became a blessing rather than a hindrance after its “lesson.”

One horseman told me a method of putting an extremely uncomfortable bit in the horse’s mouth. When the attached reins were pulled, the animal was usually more than willing to obey, rather experience the excruciating mouth-pain again.

Cruel, maybe, but when all else failed, it was necessary to keep the animal as an useful worker.

People many times are the same way. Although they know the right thing to do, their stubbornness persists, and they suffer.

I’ve heard stories of smokers with severe lung cancer gasping for their last breath, as they lay dying on their hospital bed. Breathing was so difficult that a small hole was pierced in their trachea to enable them to breathe.

Did they finally learn that the habit was destroying their body? Hardly, as the story continues, they reached over and grabbed a cigarette to suck in the smoke from the hole in their neck. They did not learn from their mistake.

Sometimes it takes a lot to finally get our attention. Many times we ignore the early warning signs of sin’s conviction, and it

takes a more severe measure to get us to do right.

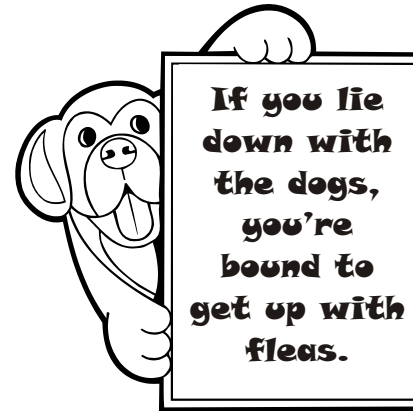
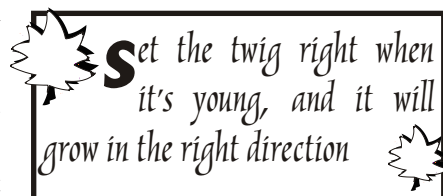
A horse has no understanding. What’s your excuse? Do you obey the sometimes still, quiet voice of the Lord or does your continuance in doing wrong require harsher methods?

His Most Productive Crop

Author Unknown

One growing season a farmer had a beautiful crop of grain. But a week before the harvest, it was wiped out by a hailstorm. Instead of getting upset and being angry, he accepted the loss in a spirit of faith and quiet acceptance.

Today this farmer’s son is a person of faith who has also learned to live with failure and loss. He thinks of that devastated grain field as his father’s most productive crop because it taught him a lesson he has never forgotten. When it comes to our own children, we should remember that lessons and values which we try to teach them are more easily caught than taught. Modeling the right behavior before our children is a lot more effective than lectures and empty words.



‘They’ . . .

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because the congregation was stuck-up and were only concerned about themselves.

“They ought to do better,” he murmured, “what do ‘they’ think this thing of religion is about anyway? Surely ‘they’ could do better than this.”

Vacation and days-off came and went until many months had passed. As in the way of the world, this man’s children grew up. He knew they did not go to church because ‘they’, down at the church, had not interested them in religion.

The man’s health failed. One day, he noticed something strange — ‘they’, down at the church, don’t come by any more. ‘They’ didn’t visit him in the hospital. Verily, verily, he was very angry!

But being of a great heart he decided he would forgive ‘them’ and go to church once more. But

behold, when he arrived, there was no church. A Seven-Eleven store stood in its place. Where is the church?” he demanded.

“Dead,” was the answer.

“Oh,” he moaned, “‘they’ should not have let it die!”

We are the ‘they’. Don’t go through life blaming the other guy, when you haven’t done your share.

It’s easy to complain that no one visits you from church, but when was the last time you visited anyone? Nor can you criticize about the size of the choir or church when you have done little to help it grow.

Tired of “But er”?

Author Unknown

Are you tired of “but ter”? I don’t mean the kind you serve on the table, but the kind we get when talking to some members of the church who say:

☹ “Yes, I am a Christian, **BUT ER** ...”

☹ “I know I should attend all worship services and the mid-week prayer meeting, **BUT ER** ...”

☹ “I know we need Church Bus workers, **BUT ER** ...”

☹ “Sure, I love the Lord, **BUT ER** ...”

☹ “I want to go to heaven, **BUT ER** ...” I know I should tithe, **BUT ER** ...”