



B. Brinkworth

CLUES

Across

- 1. Moses' brother
- 6. Moses' shone
- 7. not to eat
- 11. false god
- 12. Bird of Isaiah 40
- 13. Joseph interpreted

- 15. Before Israel's kings
- 18. Engaged
- 19. Abel's murderer
- 20. wickedness
- 21. Biblical healing herb
- 22. divided hoof
- 23. Biblical song book

Down

- 2. to confirm
- 3. small coinage
- 4. no children
- 5. demons
- 7 "loveth at all times"
- 8. Trees from Lebanon
- 9. Sinners
- 10. honour your
- 14. enemy
- 15. book of gospel
- 16. rabbits
- 17. poor man's bread
- 18. Israelites made these

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perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; 27 In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness." II Corinthians 11:23

*"Then Paul answered, What mean ye to weep and to break mine heart? **for I am ready not to be bound only, but also to die at***

Jerusalem for the name of the Lord Jesus." Act 21:13

Here was a man that killed Christians and was now being threatened to be killed for his works for Christ and his testimony, but he felt it was more important to witness than to fear persecution.

He indeed was not the man he was. He was changed by being saved. Jesus changes lives.

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Dear Liberal Friend,

I am so sorry how our friendship has turned out. I was so excited the minute I learned that you were a Christian. Fellowship and friendship with another of like faith is very important to me. However, I quickly learned that your definition and my definition of being a "Christian" were completely different.

When one says they are a "Christian", I assume their thinking and lifestyle would be aligned with the Bible. Your "Christianity" is not much like what is described in my Bible. Matter of fact, most of the time you didn't want to discuss the Bible. When the conversation did lead to spiritual things, you quickly went to the defense and accused me of judging or argued the doctrine. We have spent more time discussing "what the Bible really means", as you kept saying, than agreeing on the things of God.

My other friendships with Christians have never been this strained. It is has always been easy and perfectly natural for me and my other friends to talk about the things of God, because we are

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"Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."

II Corinthians 5:17

When a person is saved, he becomes a new person. He's different because when Christ comes into one's heart and life, people get changed. Such is evidenced when Saul (Paul) got saved. See the difference in a brief glimpse of his life.

When the religious leaders stoned Stephen for preaching the truth that their religion was wrong, Saul was there:

"Then they cried out with a loud voice, and stopped their ears, and ran upon him with one accord, 58 And cast him out of the city, and stoned him: and the witnesses laid down their clothes at a young man's feet, whose name was Saul. 59 And they stoned Stephen, calling upon God, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." Acts 7:57-59

Instead of being amazed by Stephen's power that could only have come from God, Saul was strengthened even more to serve

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Dear Liberal Friend

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interested in things of God. You are not.

I may not have been saved as long as you have been, but I do know that the Bible teaches a Christian should live differently than the unsaved. You seem to be very comfortable dressing like the world, talking like the world, acting like the world, doing things the world does, and going to places that the world goes to. It's hard to tell any difference between you and the unsaved. I am not comfortable doing many of those things, and I feel some of them are against what God teaches in his book for us to do.

The world is what we got saved from. The world is losing and not heading for heaven, but to hell. I have no interest in thinking and looking like the losing side. I lived that way before salvation, and I certainly did not have the joy or peace I do now in obeying the Lord. I think it is far safer and biblical to be more like Christ.

Clearly, the Bible tells us to talk to others about Christ so they also can be saved and have the promise of heaven. Proverbs 11:30 says you are wise if you do this. You have ridiculed and tried all you can to stop me from doing this. No, I don't think it "is pushing it down their throat" by telling them. If someone didn't tell me how to be saved, I would not be. I would feel very selfish if I didn't share salvation with others, and would be disobedient to God's

biblical command if I didn't.

When I do witness to others I quite often hear the word "hypocrite." The unsaved world knows how Christians should live. They have seen so many that call themselves Christians, and see that they don't live the way they should. After seeing more living the wrong way, they quickly assume that all Christians are hypocrites and living the wrong lifestyle. I certainly am not perfect, and am still growing spiritually, but the people they are referring to are not people like me, but are people like you.

I love being saved. It is so exciting to know that Christ died for all my sins and paid the price for them so I could go heaven. I owe him much. My desire now is to live for and serve Him. Your liberal theology and lifestyle is doing much to harm and weaken the cause of Christ. It is giving those trying to serve and live for God a bad name and is hurting the testimonies for those of us trying to live right.

Sadly, I think it is time to part as friends. No, I don't think myself "holier than thou". I know what I was and that I can fall back into my old ways. I am concerned that your disobedience may rub off on me. Association with your unchristian lifestyle will hurt my testimony. I want to be more like Christ, and want to have that reputation. So, until your lifestyle becomes more Christ-like, our fellowship will have to stop.

Regretfully,
Bill

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his religion rather than God.

"And Saul was consenting unto his death. And at that time there was a great persecution against the church which was at Jerusalem; ...3 As for Saul, he made havock of the church, entering into every house, and haling men and women committed them to prison." Acts 8:1-3

Saul continued to be a terror to the cause of Christ, until he met Jesus.

"And Saul, yet breathing out threatenings and slaughter against the disciples of the Lord, went unto the high priest, 3 And as he journeyed, he came near Damascus: and suddenly there shined round about him a light from heaven: 4 And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? 5 And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks. 6 And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?" Acts 9:1-6

God tells Ananias to minister to Saul:

"Then Ananias answered, Lord, I have heard by many of this man, how much evil he hath done to thy saints at Jerusalem: ... 15 But the Lord said unto him, Go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel: 17 And Ananias went his way, ... Brother Saul, the Lord, even Jesus, that appeared unto thee in the way as thou camest, hath sent me, that thou mightest receive thy sight, and be

filled with the Holy Ghost." Acts 9:13-17

Now, Saul became a testimony for Christ, whom he had persecuted. The new man did things differently.

" ... Then was Saul certain days with the disciples which were at Damascus. 20 And straightway he preached Christ in the synagogues, that he is the Son of God. 21 But all that heard him were amazed, and said; Is not this he that destroyed them which called on this name in Jerusalem, and came hither for that intent, that he might bring them bound unto the chief priests? 22 But Saul increased the more in strength, and confounded the Jews which dwelt at Damascus, proving that this is very Christ. 23 And after ... the Jews took counsel to kill him: 24 But their laying await was known of Saul. ..." Acts 9:13-23

He suffered much as a Christian. Here is Paul's testimony of the changed man.:

"...I am more; in labours more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequent, in deaths oft. 24 Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save one. 25 Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep; 26 In journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in

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Friendship cannot be permanent unless it becomes spiritual. There must be fellowship in the deepest things of the soul, community in the highest thoughts, sympathy with the best endeavors. — Black