

A House In Order By Herbert Ruff

Just three years ago, I was in the area where a young man died from a car accident and was made aware of the need to be in good standing with God. At first it seemed so unfair that this man who appeared to be in the prime of life, to have to experience death. But it soon dawned on me that God is the giver and taker of life and that I know not the reasons nor should I question what He does. I remember the sayings of Job who suffered the loss of his family and wealth, stricken with sickness and pain inflicted by the devil, and pressured by his wife and friends to curse God and die.

**Job 1:20-21 "Then Job arose, and rent his mantle, and shaved his head, and fell down upon the ground, and worshipped, and said, naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the Lord gave, and the Lord hath taken away: blessed be the name of the Lord."
Job 19:25-27 "For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter day upon the earth: and though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God: whom I shall see for myself, and mine eyes shall behold, and not another; though my reins be consumed within me."**

So, I began to focus on the young man and not on what had happened to him- praying that his life had included God and his eternal destiny included heaven. I was certain that this young man had no idea that what happened to him was going to occur- it was this real life experience that prompted me to re-examine my relationship with God. If anything, this accident lets me know that I need to acknowledge God at every opportunity that I have- for truly we know not the day nor hour when death will come.

So, what is most important is that I establish and maintain a relationship with God. I must make an effort to pray and to ask for forgiveness for all my sins. God does not want the lukewarm- those who are on the Lord's side when trouble comes and ignores Him when things are going good. He wants the sincere person who praises Him, who keeps His commandments, who loves Him and their fellowman, and who can withstand the constant temptations by the devil. In other words, I must keep my spiritual house in order and consistently try to do what is right. The devil will do his part. He will always test my resolve- tempting me into sin or using any means to get me in compliance with him. His war with me will rage on and he will intensify his efforts when my efforts continue to embrace the righteousness of God.

Yes, it is sad what happened to this young man but what he has endured is in the future for all of us. Therefore, it is extremely important that I prepare for this day. All of us will have an eternity with the Lord or with the devil in Hell. This is the choice that we all have. I don't know about you, but I want to spend my eternity with God. The idea that anyone would want to be cast into a pit of fire and feel the sting of burning flesh for an eternity is dumb, stupid, asinine, or just stubborn resistance to building treasures in heaven instead of here on earth. I must ask the question "What does it gain a man to obtain all the riches of the world and lose his soul?" The answer is very clear to me. The average of 74 years of life with all the riches I want is but a blimp in time when compared to time in an eternity. I must try to keep my spiritual house in order, which is a demanding task for all of us. Just a single sin may be enough to swing the pendulum to more effective influence by the devil. This, however, does not confine me to a fate that includes the devil. God has given me a means to fight that must be exercised often and with sincerity. I must repent and pray without ceasing to keep the devil on the run!

Make The Devil Mad

Make the devil mad. Before going to bed tonight pray to God thanking him for another day and ask the Lord to protect and keep you safe during the night. Now keep the devil in the stew, by praying to God as soon as you wake up the next morning. Don't give him a chance to bribe or influence your behavior during the new day- for he will try anything to prevent you from praising and knowing God. He will not stop attempting to convert you back to a life absent from God. But you are going to make him madder and his job even harder by going to Church, Sunday School, and Bible Study.

At this point, that old devil will be in a rage, desperate and determined to devise ways of persuading you that by coming to God you will miss out on all those things that you love. He may remind you of the young lady or man that you met and spent over a year grooming to be your lover. Out of the blue your prospective lover calls inviting you on a Saturday night date- just the thing to keep you from Church on Sunday. Or the devil may send your best friend by with a quart of Hennessy knowing that this is the best way to get you back to the partying mode. But you will not allow old devil to fool you instead you reject his attempts to entice you. Like Job you remain steadfast by realizing that a fight with the devil will be a lifetime struggle and only with God's help is the devil doomed to lose the fight. As you grow in your relationship with God, you learn that that old devil may win some of the fights in your life but with God on your side he will never win the war. So by keeping the devil mad the ultimate gift of

salvation will be yours. Therefore, by staying true to your faith in Jesus you will not be in the group that keeps the devil company for an eternity. So, **make the devil mad!**

Questions and answers to Issue 14's Bible Trivia

Bible Trivia

1. What father lay naked and intoxicated in his tent, which so disturbed his sons that they came and covered him? **Answer Noah**
2. What was the first animal out of Noah's ark? **Answer Raven**
3. Who was the last king of Judah? **Answer Zedekiah**
4. Who attacked the Israelites on their way into Canaan, only to be completely destroyed later? **Answer King of Arad**
5. What Bible character's name means, "messenger"? **Answer Malachi**
6. What priest ranks fourth with a total of 339 references? **Answer Aaron**
7. What saintly king of Judah was crippled with a foot disease in his old age?
Answer Asa
8. What king broke his own law when he called on a spiritualist to bring up the ghost of Samuel? **Answer Saul**
9. What prophet spoke of the need to purify temple worship after the return for exile in Babylon? **Answer Malachi**
10. What a loveless father would give a child asking for an egg? **Answer Scorpions**
11. Who sacrificed his son on the city wall when he was losing the battle to Israel? **Answer Mesha King of Moab**
12. Where did Jesus stay when John the Baptist was in prison? **Answer Capernaum**
13. What seaport in Asia did Paul walk to from Troas? **Answer Assos**
14. What tower, mentioned by Jesus, killed eighteen people when it collapsed? **Answer Sidon**
15. At the first Passover, what kind of blood were the Israelites told to apply to their entryways? **Answer Lambs**