

The room was very still. The audience quickly grasped the logic of the woman's question. Then they turned to the atheist, who was moved by the woman's simplicity. In quiet tones he answered: "Madam, you won't stand to lose a thing." Hearing this, the woman spoke again:

You have been kind to answer my question. Permit me to ask another. If, when it comes time for **you** to die, you discover that the Bible is true, and that there is a God, that Jesus is His Son, and that there is a Heaven and a Hell – pray, sir, what will **you** stand to lose?"

The embarrassed atheist had no answer.

"The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God" (Psa. 14:1).

—Author Unknown

THAT YOU MAY KNOW...

Let us pray for...

Tonya Thatcher – difficulty with pregnancy

Judy Reid – surgery for auto accident injuries (sister in NJ, planning to move here)

Mike Mallett – fighting leukemia (faithful brother in Evant, TX)

Ken Chumbley – fighting cancer and other physical problems (Gospel preacher)

Janice Ruffner – fighting various physical issues

Ann Henderson – fighting cancer (Sheri Woodall's aunt)

Brian Ritter – fighting rare autoimmune disease (son of Rick Ritter, Gospel preacher)

Tim Smith – fighting chronic physical problems from auto injuries (Gospel preacher)

Richie Aidoo – Joshua Aidoo's 8-year-old son (fighting seizures)

Samuel Bagsangi – Gospel preacher in Philippines we help support

Joshua Aidoo – Gospel preacher in Ghana we help support

Records you helped make last week...

Bible Classes	15
Sunday AM Worship	15
Sunday PM Worship	15
Wednesday PM Bible Class/Worship	16
Contribution	\$648.57
Contribution average (2014)	\$836.98

Internet Sermon broadcasts...

Both sermons each Sunday are broadcast, beginning at approximately 10:45–10:50 a.m. and 1:12–1:15 p.m., via Internet through our Website, www.northpointcoc.com.

Assignments...

Bible class teacher for October

Rick Beauchamp

Chairman of Men's Meetings (October–December)

Phil Smith

Preacher, *The Lighthouse* editor

Dub McClish



The Northpoint Lighthouse

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Abominations

On one occasion when Jesus was warning His disciples about the perils of riches and materialism, the money-loving Pharisees ridiculed Him. And he said unto them, Ye are they that justify yourselves before men; but God knoweth your hearts: for that which is highly esteemed among men is abomination in the sight of God (Luke 16:15).

It is obvious that the Lord referred to their love of money when he spoke of that which was "highly esteemed among men" in this context. Perhaps more souls (both worldlings and God's people) will be lost because of their love of money (and all that it represents) more than any other sin. No wonder the Bible warns of dishonesty, materialism, and greed, and exalts benevolence, generosity, and honesty on almost every page. No wonder Paul warned, "For the love of money is the root of all kinds of evil" (1 Tim. 6:10). We are not to understand that materialism is an abomination to God merely on the ground that men highly esteem it (some things men highly esteem are pleasing to God [cf. Gal. 5:22–23]). Materialism is an abomination because it damns the soul. We must ever guard against "covetousness, which is idolatry" (Col. 3:5).

Notice now the broader principle of the Lord's statement: Just because a thing is highly esteemed by **men** does not mean that **God** favors it. In fact, throughout history, it is almost axiomatic that if most men esteem something highly, God does not do so. At present we should not be surprised at this, since the vast majority of men are atheists and/or pagans, and even among professed believers, most give only lip service to His law.) Let us make some applications.

- Roman Catholicism has hundreds of millions of adherents, but its combination of paganism, superstition, Old Testament forms, and human traditions is an abomination to God. Jesus built His church (Mat. 16:18), and He (not a pope) is its head (Eph. 1:22–23). Its worship is simple (John 4:24) rather than

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Worship 10:30 AM
Worship 1:00 PM
Wednesday
B.C./Worship 7:00 PM

intricate and mystical ritual based upon the precepts of men that render worship vain (Mat. 15:9).

- The Muslim religion is highly esteemed by 1 billion people, but it is an abomination unto Jehovah because it represents error, sin, and blasphemy. The Christ (not Christ **and** Mohammed) is the **only** way to God and salvation (John 14:6). Jesus described Mohammed and his kind (Mat. 7:15–20).
- Millions of people highly esteem protestant denominationalism with its thousands of differing religious bodies, but it is an abomination to God. Jesus built only one church (Mat. 16:18), and he prayed that all who profess to follow Him would be one, even as He and His Father are one (John 17:20–21). The New Testament constantly demands unity in doctrine (Mat. 7:15–20; 1 Cor. 1:10; Gal. 1:6–9; 2 Tim. 4:2–4; Rev. 22:18–19; et al.).
- The doctrine of salvation by faith alone is highly esteemed by the millions in the Protestant denominations, but it is an abomination to God. Men are saved by faith and cannot be saved without it (Rom. 10:9–10), but not by faith only. Sins are not forgiven and one is not saved before baptism (Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38; 22:16; 1 Pet. 3:21; et al.).
- More and more foolish, misguided, and wicked people highly esteem homosexual behavior, either by engaging in it or defending and promoting it. It is clearly an abomination to God (Rom. 1:26–27; 1 Cor. 6:9–10; 1 Tim. 1:9–10).

A list of highly esteemed items that are an abomination to God would be long indeed. It would surely include drinking, abortion, using instruments of music in worship, unscriptural divorce and remarriage, and many others. Will men never learn that the only way to please God is to do what He authorizes in His Word, rather than doing something because they “highly esteem” it?

—Dub McClish
Denton, TX

Forsaking All

Jesus said: “So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple” (Luke 14:33). When we look up the word *forsake* we note that it means to “give up something formerly held dear; to renounce; to leave altogether; to abandon.” In the context of this verse our Lord is saying that unless we give up all that we have formerly held dear and leave it altogether, we cannot be counted as one of His followers. Let us look together at what we must forsake if we hope to please the Lord.

- **I Must Forsake My Church.** Jesus said in Matthew 15:13 that every plant which God has not planted shall be rooted up. The Lord promised to build one church (Mat. 16:18), and that is exactly what He did. If we want to be saved we must be a part of **His** church and not “**My** Church.”
- **I Must Forsake My Family.** The Lord, in Matthew 10:37, tells us that if we love mother, father, son, or daughter more than He we are not worthy of Him.

We cannot put anyone or anything before our love of and service to the Lord. We must “seek...first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness” (Mat. 6:33) and not let anyone stand in our way of doing what is right.

- **I Must Forsake the Doctrines of Men.** If we teach for doctrine the commands of men, then we are worshiping the Lord in vain (Mat. 15:9). The Word of the Lord was given to us “for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness” so that we might be “completely” furnished with all that we need to know to do what is right (2 Tim. 3:16–17). If we teach and preach anything else we will stand condemned (Gal. 1:6–9).
- **I Must Forsake All Worldliness.** John wrote, “Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him” (1 John 2:15). James said that if we are friends of the world we are enemies of God (Jam. 4:4). “No man can serve two masters” (Mat. 6:24). No man can serve God and the world, so we must forsake this world and keep ourselves unspotted from it (Jam. 1:27).
- **I must Forsake My Way.** Jeremiah said that the way of man is not in himself and that man could not direct his own steps (Jer. 10:23). There is only **one Way** that leads to eternal life, and that Way is the Lord. No man can get to the Father except through **Him** (John 14:6). If you have not done so, will you not **forsake all**, and **surrender** to the Lord before it is too late?

—Danny Box
Deceased

Embarrassing

A certain atheist lecturer was parading up and down the countryside pouring out his verbiage against the very thought of God and heaping ridicule upon all those foolish enough to believe in God and in the Bible as the Word of God.

On one occasion, he addressed a group gathered in a large hall. His wordy eloquence stirred them to a high pitch and, deeming himself master of the situation, he hurled a challenge to Almighty God. “If there be a God,” he challenged, “Let Him reveal Himself by smiting me to death.” When God did not do this, the man turned to his audience and exclaimed: “See, there is no God!”

Upon this, a little woman, a shawl about her head, rose to her feet. She addressed her remarks directly to the lecturer, as follows:

Sir, I cannot answer your arguments; your learning is beyond me. With your superior intelligence, will you answer me one question? I have been a believer in Christ for many years. I have rejoiced in His salvation and I have enjoyed my Bible. His comfort has been a tremendous source of joy. If, when I die, I come to learn that there is no God, that Jesus is not the Son of God, that the Bible is not true, and that there is no salvation or Heaven, pray, sir, what have I lost, believing in Christ during this life?