

Prophet's Column

"Having The Understanding Darkened"

J. M. Little

In Eph. 4:18 Paul gives another commentary on the total depravity of the human heart. Listen. "Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart: Here, Paul gives a very clear and accurate description of man, blinded in his natural condition.

Every soul out of Christ has his understanding darkened, you live and have your every move in darkness, you are darkened by Satan, self, and sin. Christ is the believer's light and if you are not in Christ you are in darkness. Anything out of Christ is darkness.

As an unbeliever, you have no understanding of spiritual matters. Paul also said "being alienated from the life of God..." The believer's life is Christ. So if you do not have Christ you do not have the life of God. Christ lives in the heart of every believer. Do you know Christ? Do you?

The soul in darkness is past feeling (Vs 19) Are you past feeling? When a soul is past feeling, the Gospel has no influence on him, it rolls off like water on a duck's back. Is that how the Gospel is with you? One of the ways I know the Lord is coming soon is that so few are saved and so few want to be saved. Where can you go to find souls hungering after Christ? Where do you go to find souls crying their heart hearts out to know Christ? I don't find that here: maybe there are a few there in your community.

As I said to someone just today; there are two souls you cannot talk to about Christ, one is a soul on a religious profession and the other is an educated. Paul said; "For the Jews (the religious professor) require a sign, and the Greeks (the educated) seek after wisdom (1 Cor. 1; 22)

The soul whose understanding is darkened knows nothing about Holy Spirit Conviction (Jn. 16:7-11) and will not have it when you tell them about how the Holy Spirit awakened you to your lost condition, showing



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you the judgment you were under as a lost soul out of Christ. I was talking to a small group over a year ago, and as I sat there telling how God saves a sinner, a

deacon who heard part of my testimony said very quickly; "I'm getting out of here." And he did, a deacon running from God. What a tragedy! I've wept much over that man. Listen friend, if you cannot stand to hear me tell how God saved me down here, how in the name of high heaven do you expect to stand at the Great White Throne of Judgment? The religious world is on the road to Hell. And many, meaning the vast majority, of religious folks, preachers, deacons, and Bible teachers, will be left behind when Christ comes. Then you will realize I and a few others were true to your soul. You'll not listen now, but then you'll wish ten-thousand times you had heeded the Gospel. Now, you can say I've gone off the deep-end if you want to, it's your soul that is at stake not mine.

I've been called crazy, and every degrading name you can think of. At a gathering here recently, some souls let out such hatred against me that you would not believe if you hadn't been there. Just at

the mention of my name such hatred comes out.

As I have said many times before, a believer cannot carry hatred in his heart against anyone regardless of whom you are or what you've done to him. Now you let that soak in.

The Bible is the Word of God, the key to understanding the Word is the New Birth. In the New Birth, the Lord opens your understanding just as He opened the understanding of the two on the road to Emmaus. Now, has the Lord opened your understanding? Apart from the teaching of the Lord, you are blind and ignorant, but praise the Lord, once He opens your understanding, you begin to see heavenly truths, you begin to see things you never dreamed of. I know what I'm talking about do you? Am I talking about that which you know? I am afraid most of you are like that deacon I have described; you are running from God. Friend, you can't hide no matter where you run, don't run from the Lord, run to Him!

The soul who has his understanding darkened, is tossed to and fro by every wind of doctrine. You don't know what to believe, but you are responsible! God holds you responsible to believe His

Word. There is coming a day you'll have to answer to my blessed Lord. He is going to ask you what you did with His Word! How will you fare?

Have you ever seen your blinded condition? If not then you are not saved. If you are seeing blinded condition, then the Lord is showing mercy on you. What will you do? Don't try to drown out those convictions the Spirit of God is giving you. If you do succeed in drowning out those convictions, my friend, in Hell you'll remember every one the Lord gave you, and that will be the never dying worm that is tormented forever and forever. Flee to Christ! Don't let Him go.

One day I was seeing my lost condition, knowing there was no way out except Christ, I began to cry, Lord, help me, Lord save or I perish! I resolved; Lord, if I go to Hell, I'll go to Hell crying for mercy. Night and day, I pleaded with the Lord to have mercy on such a sinner as I. I believed the Lord came and died for sinners, but I didn't know that He died for me.

Others said he died for everybody, that did not satisfy my heart, I wanted to know if Christ died for me, J. M. Little. And I was not satisfied until He revealed Himself to me. Then I knew Christ died for J. M. Little. I rejoice in

Christ. He died for me. You may say He died for you, bless your heart, but I know He died for me. You may say He is your Lord and your Saviour, well, He's Mine too.

Friend, how is it between you and Christ? Do you know Christ? Not the other fellow, just you. George, how is it between you and Christ? You will not be here very long, life is just a shadow or vapor, but you will live in eternity forever. Where will you spend eternity? Do you know Christ?

The greatest thing in all this universe is just to know Christ. I would not exchange what I have in Christ for ten-thousand worlds of gold and silver. I have something the world cannot give, I have Christ.

Young People Face Formidable Task

Young people today face a formidable task of making effective career and educational decisions because of the changing job market, particularly for college educated youth.

To help deal with this situation, a career counselor at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte has just compiled a book, "Current Career and Occupational Literature."

The author, Dr. Leonard H. Goodman, is career development coordinator in the Counseling Center at UNCC.

The book is designed to serve as an up-to-date reference source for young people who seek information about careers and occupations, and for all those—counselors, librarians, teachers, and par-

ents who assist the young people in the increasingly complex task.

Information is provided on occupations, techniques of job seeking and advancement, special counseling tools, information on scholarships and financial aid, specialized examinations, working abroad, women, and minority groups. Published by The H. W. Wilson Company, the book is available at \$10.

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INVITATIONS FOR BIDS RE-ADVERTISEMENT

The City of Charlotte will receive Bids for BUS SHELTER INSTALLATIONS until 2:00 p.m. (Daylight Saving Time) on the 27th day of September, 1978, in the fourth floor conference room of the Cameron Brown Building, 301 South McDowell Street, Charlotte, North Carolina 28204, at which time and place all Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud.

Bids are invited upon the several items and quantities of work as follows:

- 4' Concrete Pads Shelter Installation

Contract Documents, including Drawings and Technical Specifications, are on file at the office of the City Engineer at 301 South McDowell Street, the local A.G.C. office, and the Dodge Plan Room.

Copies of the Contract Documents may be obtained by paying \$25.00 to the City of Charlotte for each set of documents obtained.

A certified check or bank draft, payable to the order of the City of Charlotte, negotiable U.S. Government bonds (at par value), or a satisfactory Bid Bond executed by the Bidder and an acceptable surety, in an amount equal to five percent (5%) of the total of Bid for Site Preparation shall be submitted with each bid.

Attention is called to the fact that the contractor must ensure that employees and applicants for employment are not discriminated against because of their race, color, religion, sex, or national origin.

The City of Charlotte encourages minority and small business concerns to submit bids pursuant to this bid advertisement. Race, color, sex, or national origin will not be considered in the award of a contract.

The City of Charlotte reserves the right to reject any or all Bids or to waive any informalities in the bidding.

Bids may be held by the City of Charlotte for a period not to exceed thirty (30) days from the date of the opening of Bids for the purpose of reviewing the Bids and investigating the qualifications of Bidders, prior to awarding of the contract.

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"These Northern Companies Are

Trying To Break Our Union"

continued from page 1 fused to comment.

"We have no statement to make about anything," said Anderson. "Everything is confidential."

The Employers' Association is a non-profit consulting firm with 300 member companies in Charlotte. Membership fee is \$150 a year plus \$3.50 for each employee, or \$2 each for more than 100 employees.

The organization is headed by Edward J. Dowd, Jr., a former Ohio businessman and industrial psychologist. Recently Dowd was chosen co-chairman of the Council on a Union Free Environment, a creation of the National Association of Manufacturers.

Dowd started his organization in Charlotte 20 years ago, but keeps his work so secret that most employees don't even know their companies belong to it.

"Their purpose is to keep unions out," said Jimmy Newell, UIU service representative. "They advise companies on how to stop union drives and how to stall negotiations."

When employees do elect a union, Dowd often represents the company at the bargaining table. According to union representatives, he usually advises the companies to refuse the union a dues check-off system and grievance procedures.

Dues check-off is when companies agree to deduct a designated amount from an employee's pay check for union dues, similar to charity deductions or payroll savings plans that employees may authorize.

The grievance procedure is a system for handling complaints that employees have with the company over working conditions and disciplinary actions.

"What's happening at Union et-Simmons exposes the myth that northern companies bring higher wages when they move to North Carolina," said Tim Lund, a member of the International Union of Electrical Workers Dowd at the bargaining table since The Stamping Company employees elected the IUE in January.

"At our parent company in Minnesota, the same union has just renewed a very good contract," said Lund. "They have good wages, dues check-off, grievance procedures, a pension plan, more holidays and a union shop."

A union shop, where all employees must belong to the

union, is forbidden by N.C.'s right-to-work law.

"The right-to-work law never guaranteed anyone a job," said Lund. "It's only purpose is to forbid union shops and thus weaken unions. That is why N.C. has the lowest industrial wage in the country."

Last week state AFL-CIO President Wilber Hobby sharply criticized N.C. Secretary of Commerce Lauch Faircloth for defending the state's right-to-work law. Faircloth said the law was essential to attracting more northern industry into the state.

Hobby, however, said the right-to-work law promoted low wages.

According to Governor Jim Hunt wages in N.C. are about \$2 an hour below the national average.

"The South is like a colony," said Lund. "Slavery was defeated after the Civil War,

and segregation was defeated in the 1960's. Now northern industry comes here, with the support of our own state government and groups like Central Piedmont Employers Association, and pays us slave-like wages for both black and white."

N.C. is the 7th most industrialized state in the country, but is the 50th place in unionization. Only 6.9 percent of N.C.'s work force belongs to unions.

"It's a myth that wages and the standard of living in the South are going to rise to the same level as the North," said Lund.

Lund. "The Thonet-Simmons case shows that northern companies moving South will try to pay lower wages and keep unions out. Unless we can organize strong unions here, the conditions up North are going to fall to the same level as here in the South," Lund concluded.

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