

# A Big Little Word - "But"

BY THEAD K. JONES

2 Kings, 5th chap. 1 verse: "But now Naman, captain of Syria, was honorable. He was also a mighty man of valor, but he was a leper. How often this little word—But, alters, changes and sometimes upsets, weakens, degrades, and destroys. Sometimes it causes financial loss, suffering, death and perhaps the eternal loss of the immortal soul.

If we allow some dangerous, or deadly evil habit to fasten itself upon us, drunkenness, sensuality, degrading and corrupting immorality, violent temper, cursing and swearing and other evils which could be mentioned which end in suffering, disgrace, doom and death. In the beginning these evils could have been easily overcome but they were allowed to remain and dreadful and horrible was the result. How often have we known and heard of people who were brilliant, gifted, and talented, capable and competent and could have reached the heights of eminence and success; yet because of drunkenness and other abominations of desolation they proved to be worse than failures for time and eternity.

Horrible; dreadful and loathsome disease of the body; it could only be called a living death, cured only by divine power, and this great General Naman heard of Elisha, the Prophet, went to his house and was healed by Divine power and which can only heal the leprosy of sin which is the worst form of leprosy.

For the mountains shall depart and the hills be removed, but my kindness, shall not depart from thee, neither shall the covenant of my peace be removed, sayeth the Lord that hath mercy on thee. Isaiah 54: 10.

This is a glorious promise to the true christian and the earnest and sincere seeker, and the covenant of my peace shall not be removed. This is great! The peace of God, peace with God and the God of peace. Worthy of our serious, sober, second thought and persistent and

determined effort. Proverbs 1: 25-26—But at naught all my counsel and would none of my reproof. I also will laugh at your calamity, I will mock when your fear cometh. This is scilicet and plain warning to the unconverted and impenitent sinner. A loving and merciful God offers you peace, pardon and salvation. Will you accept the great offer or will you reject? If you refuse and reject at last you will hear the awful denunciation depart. Let us heed the Divine commands: repent, Be ye also ready and prepare to meet thy God. Prov. 4:4-5. The lewd woman is mentioned in terms of disgrace and destruction. But her end is as bitter as wormwood, sharp as a two edged sword. Her feet go down to death. Her steps take hold on hell. John 12:42—"Among the chief rulers also many believed on Him but, because of the Pharisees they did not confess Him lest they should be put out of the synagogue. For they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God." Here rises the question—were these people truly converted; did they have saving faith: were they not of the type that in time of temptation fall away? Does a truly converted person love the praise of men more than the praise of God? Somewhere in The Book Jesus said, "If we love Father or Mother, Wife or Husband, or Children more than Me, ye are not worthy of Him. Luke: 10:38; it is recorded Jesus was at the home of Lazarus, Mary and Martha and he seems to be a frequent and welcome visitor at this christian home. How are we receiving Jesus in our homes in so-called christian homes in America, and in this so-called age of progress? When Jesus was born, it is recorded there was no room for Him in the inn. Are we any more loving and respectful to our Divine Master at this time? We as christians, if Jesus was on earth today in our country with His Mighty Power Preaching Blessing and healing, would we gladly and lovingly welcome Him to our homes? Would we be as Mary who sat at Jesus feet and heard his words learning of Him? But Martha was cumbered about much serving and came to Jesus in a complaining way that her sister had left her to serve alone. This grieved the loving heart of

Jesus and He quietly rebuked her, saying: "Martha, Martha thou art careful and troubled about many things." Many are the people today who are imitating Martha of old who are careful and many perishing, fleeing and evil things of this life. But listen at Jesus' words of approval, "But Mary has chosen the good part which shall not be taken away from her." Something the world cannot give or take away, that which will bring peace and happiness in this life and on through eternity. How great it is to sit at Jesus feet, read His written word, follow his shining ways, sing His songs and speak His praise. Let us imitate the most worthy and loving example of Mary. She is one of the prominent and worthy people mentioned in the New Testament. But, and if ye suffer for righteousness sake, happy are ye; and be not afraid of their terror, but they that live goodly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution, but if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts glory not and lie not against the truth. This wisdom, descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish. But the wisdom that is from above is first pure then peaceable, gentle and easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy. James: 3-14,15,17. But God resisteth the proud and giveth grace to the humble. Money may make a good house, but money alone cannot make a good home. The thirst and craze for money and worldly possessions is the chief concern of many, but let us remember that it takes more than worldly riches to bring true and permanent honor peace and happiness. The rich man went to hell and Lazarus, the poor beggar, went to Heaven. Many church members strive to keep up appearances and make a fine display in a worldly way. Fine clothes, fine furniture, fine automobiles, fine table—fair show every day. But, they often make a very poor show in a spiritual way. Some of them are negligent in their church duties and often when they go to church, they seem to be chiefly interested in their secular affairs, the sermon is seldom mentioned. The preacher gets scant praise or approval for his faithful and worthy efforts to lead his people on to higher and greater at-

tainments and achievements. The good pastor has much to contend with. They are sometimes over worked and under paid. We should not blame them for using the pastoral whip; it is their imperative duty. Thousands are so strong on trifles and so very weak on great essentials. The time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine. He is a good man 'but' she is kindly disposed 'but' the Preacher delivered a good sermon 'but' the promised land is good 'but' we are not able to possess it. True religion is the greatest need for this life and eternity 'but' many, many will not pay the price. Therefore their life is a practical failure for this world and worse than a failure for the next. But, some profess vain babblings for they will increase into more ungodliness; but foolish and unlearned questions avoid knowing they do gender strife. There were false Prophets among the people even as there be false teachers among you who privily shall bring in damnable heresies. Yes these false teachers, heresy spreaders, deceivers, pretenders and seducers galore and there are some of this multitude of degenerates in many of our churches. They have played the game of deceit so long they are well upon the game. Some of them are sharp, wise to do evil but to do good they seem to have only a little knowledge. One of these indifferent and inactive members in a distant church who has borrowed with fair promises to pay it back, 'but' getting it is something else. 'But'—attends the church, takes an active part in the services, talks and sings in public, 'but' I suppose his worship is of the sounding brass and tinkling symbol type. They profess to know God 'but' in works they deny Him. 'But' praise and glory and thanks to God there are some true, active, dutiful, loyal and consecrated christians who are truly the light of the world and salt of the earth. Lord grant their number may rapidly be increased. They are sorely needed to keep our beloved country from heathenism and paganism. I write this with all due respect to all. I have no desire to offend any body. I am not worthy to sit in judgment for other people, but what I write is worthy of our serious sober, second thought and prayerful consideration.

## Schools Get Chance To Earn Needed Gov'l Materials

The enterprise is non-partisan and non-profit in nature. A staff of six trained men is employed, and offices are maintained in Raleigh and Chapel Hill. The Institute's project include, in addition to the school materials, the preparation of guide books for officials, legislative bulletins, and study and discussion programs; the conduct of demonstration offices and schools of officials and the publication of the monthly magazine, "Popular Government." The school materials have been in the course of preparation since the Institute was invited by the State Department of Public Instruction and the North Carolina Education Association, three years ago, to help the schools meet the long-felt need for materials in the actual structure and workings of the government of the State and its subdivisions. The studies have since been recommended for use in the schools by both the State Textbook Commission and Curriculum Revision Committee. It was the late Dr. A. T. Allen who suggested that the schools be given opportunity to earn the materials, but it remained for his successor as State Superintendent, Clyde Erwin, to work out the details of the plan. This, briefly, is to give the schools one subscription to "Popular Government" and the supplementary materials of the Institute for each membership secured by one of its students, with a commission on surplus memberships to be used for library funds. Educators everywhere will watch the experiment with wide interest. "We have the opportunity to lead the State and nation in a program of governmental instruction and preparation for citizenship," was the view expressed by Superintendent Erwin in announcing the plan to the principals and recommending its adoption in the high schools of the State. The work of the Institute had previously attracted wide attention and acclaim both at home and abroad. "The Institute of Government, as conceived and established in North Carolina," said President Roosevelt, "has and will render fine service to the State and Nation. It is my hope that other States will recognize North Carolina's leadership and that states having no comparable agency will accept and follow its lead." By way of explanation, the Institute is comprised of some 28 organizations of public officials and around 25 citizens' groups. The organization is unique in that it marks the first time that officials have come together with leading citizens in a joint effort to make comparative studies of their government with a view to effective improvements and economies.

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