



Let's Get Better! Let's Do Better! Let's Be Better!

**Helping Developing Christians Grow!**

<https://www.helpingdevelopingchristiansgrow.com/>

## David's Devotional Is It Just A Show?

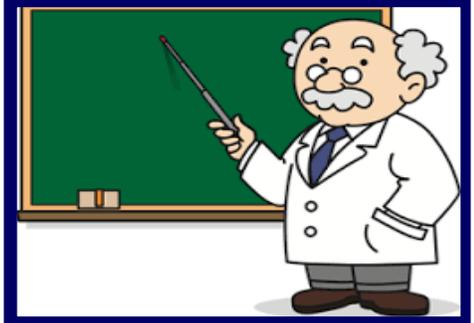
*"And they come unto thee as the people cometh, and they sit before thee as my people, and they hear thy words, but they will not do them: for with their mouth they show much love, but their heart goeth after their covetousness. And, lo, thou art unto them as a very lovely song of one that hath a pleasant voice, and can play well on an instrument: for they hear thy words, but they do them not. And when this cometh to pass, (lo it will come,) then shall they know that a prophet hath been among them."* Ezekiel 33:31-33

God told Ezekiel that, although he was preaching very powerful words from God and attracting a large crowd, he would not be very effective because the people would obey the words!

I remember, when I was in my late teens, hearing one of the best preachers I had ever heard. Everybody talked about him. People came from everywhere to hear him! Everyone said to each other, "Come, I pray you, and hear what is the word that cometh forth from the Lord." I sat and listened to him for over an hour and it felt like only a few short minutes had passed! I was mesmerized!

Unfortunately, many saw him "as a very lovely song of one that hath a pleasant voice, ... for they hear thy words, but they do them not." To those people he was more of an entertainment personality than a Gospel preacher! His value to them was more to "draw a crowd" than to preach the word! These people heard serious messages, yet were not moved at all! They were warned to change their lives before Jesus returns, but they did not. When it comes to pass, (and it will come) then they will know that the truth was preached! They told everyone what a great job he did, but they did not obey the Gospel! They all went to hear his words, but they simply did not intend to obey them and change their lives! Is it just a show, or do we listen to learn and grow?

David Conley



### An Interesting Quote:

*"A journey of a thousand miles must begin with the first step."* Lao Tzu

*"For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps:"* I Peter 2:21

Some people want to become a Christian because they believe their pain and suffering will vanish.

This is a misconception. In fact, because Christians live a different kind of life than the rest of the world, they are often persecuted or at least shunned.

Yes, applying Christian principles can bring us love, joy, peace, and all the other fruits of living a spiritual life, but if we look at the one we follow, Jesus Christ, we see an example of suffering! He endured it. We should follow His steps! Start with the first step!

David Conley

### Did You Know?

#### Groundhog's Weather Predictions

If Punxsutawney Phil sees his shadow, *the Groundhog in Pennsylvania*, they say there will be six more weeks of winter. Weather experts say Phil has only been correct 39% of the time. Some will just flip a coin! At least then they have a 50% chance of getting it right! Others may look at the Farmer's Almanac which says they are accurate 80% of the time! Some of us just use the "wait & see" method! :)

## What Happened?

### Began A New Blog Post- "Nail It!"

Find "David Conley" on FACEBOOK to read the daily posts.

Each day we will post a verse from the Bible and offer a bit of encouragement gleaned from the verse! Read the verse and see what you can glean!

If we apply God's principles to our lives, we will get better. Read the verse and "Nail It" to our lives!

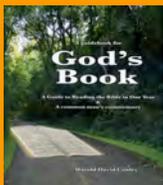
(Be sure to "Like" ; "Share" ; and "Comment")



I Peter 5:7

We tend to hold on to all our worries. Somehow, they give us comfort. It makes us feel we are in control. We are not!

Throw those worries into the hands of God. Let Him worry about it! He said He would! Nail It!

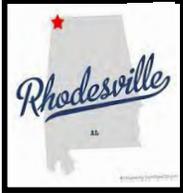


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## Once Upon A Time ...

*"To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven"*  
**Ecclesiastes 3:1**



### **Betty The Bully!**

Betty was one of my first grade classmates, she was very strong! She was a Bully!

She punched me almost every day! She was very strong! I brought a cool ring to school one day. I got it out of a box of Cracker Jacks. That was in the 60's when Cracker Jack prizes were worth it! It had a picture of a rocket ship. If you look at it from one perspective, the rocket ship pointed left. If you moved the ring and looked at it from another angle, the rocket ship magically pointed right! It was so cool! No wonder Betty wanted it!

She pulled me from the hallway into the girl's bathroom where she could take the ring without being seen by the teachers. Did I mention she was very strong? Miraculously I escaped with my ring and my life!

When I got home it dawned on me that Betty the Bully had touched the ring! I had to get the "cooties" off! As I washed the ring vigorously, the rocket ship peeled away. No more "cooties", and no more cool ring!

Since then I have watched my children and grandchildren in their respective first grade classes at New Bethel School in Colbert County, Alabama. In both of those generations, I saw starry eyed little girls give little punches to their favorite boys in the class. I watched as they would take a colorful pencil, a bracelet, and even a ring from the little boy in an attempt to get them to notice them. It makes me wonder if Betty was a tyrant or just a tease!

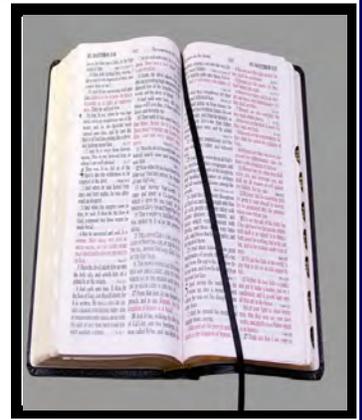
It appeared to me at the time that Betty was a bully. Since then I have learned what John taught in **John 7:24** *"Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment."* We would do well to give folks a second look. If we look at them from a different perspective, like that ring, they may magically point in the right direction!

Perhaps the bully is a bully, but it could be, once we learn more about them, that bully could become our best friend!

David Conley

## Study the Bible by Asking the Right Questions!

When we study any writing, there are important questions to ask concerning the text.



When studying the Bible we can ask these same questions. The answers to these questions can illuminate the text for better understanding.

*These important questions are:*

### **WHO; WHAT; WHEN; WHERE; WHY; & HOW**

**WHEN?** When was the text written? This could shed light on very important issues that will help us understand the author's purpose for writing.

**WHO?** Who wrote the text? Who was the intended audience? The answers to these questions could give us an insight on preconceived values and beliefs of the readers and even the writer.

**WHERE?** Where in the world was the author writing from? Where in the world was his intended audience? These questions allow us to focus on distance and circumstances.

**WHY?** Why did the writer write the letter in the first place? This is VERY IMPORTANT to understanding the text! Without the WHY we could justify almost any interpretation of the writing. With the WHY we can interpret the writing in light of the reason the text was written.

**WHAT?** What did the writer say? What did the writer MEAN? There is a very distinct difference sometimes from what the words are and the INTENT of the words. Jesus' parables are prime examples where he SAID one thing, but he MEANT for a deeper and more profound interpretation to be learned!

**HOW?** How does this writing FIT in with the writings of other authors and the universal message from God?

**ENJOY YOUR BIBLE STUDY!**

David Conley

## A Funny Thing Happened ...



The preacher left his tour group during his trip out west to explore on his own. After many hours of walking, he found himself hopelessly lost in the middle of the desert! He was becoming desperate when he saw an Eskimo on a dog sled skidding across the sand! He rubbed his eyes thinking it was a mirage, but soon realized it was real.

When the preacher explained his situation, the Eskimo replied, "You think YOU'RE lost!!!"

The preacher recalled Luke 6:39 *"And he spake a parable unto them, Can the blind lead the blind? shall they not both fall into the ditch?"*