The Bible Banner

March 2018

DOES THE BIBLE SAY IT'S TRUE?

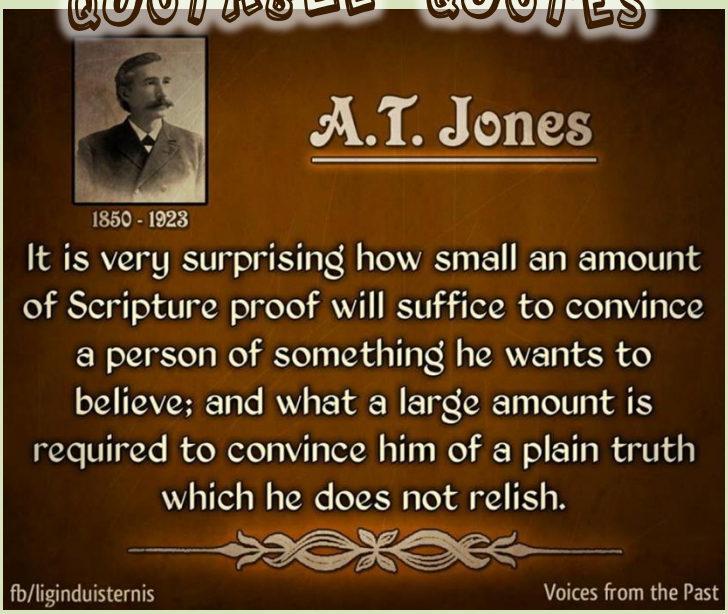
A Roman Catholic priest in Belgium rebuked a young woman and her brother for reading that "bad book" as he pointed to their Bible. "Mr. Priest," she replied, "a little while ago my brother was an idler, a gambler, a drunkard, and made such a noise in the house that no one could stay in it. Since he began to read the Bible, he works with industry, goes no longer to the tavern, no longer touches cards, brings home money to his poor old mother, and our life at home is quiet and delightful. How comes it, Mr. Priest, that a bad book produces such good fruits?"

Maple Apple Oatmeal

2 cups (475 mL) apple juice
1/3 cup (80 mL) maple syrup
¼ tsp (1.25 mL) salt
1 cup (120 g) chopped apple
1 ½ cups (350 mL) water
½ tsp (3.5 mL) cinnamon
2 cups (180 g) quick oats
½ cup (62.5 g) walnuts

Boil liquid with spice in a saucepan. Add oats and return to a boil. Cook 1 minute for quick oats, 5 for old fashioned. Stir occasionally. Stir in apples and walnuts after removing from the stovetop. You may also improvise this recipe by using apple juice concentrate and leaving out the maple syrup.

QUOTABLE QUOTES



PROFITABLE TRADITIONS

Cultivate Bible Knowledge—Conduct a Bible Sword Drill. *"And take… the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:"* Eph. 6:17 Have someone call out books of the Bible or begin reading verses in the Bible and see who can find and read them first. Small children may be included by having them say "Swords on guard" and call out the books of the Bible. This game can also be made more challenging by having one person start reading somewhere in the Bible (usually at the beginning of a chapter) and the others try to find it as quickly as they can. When they find it, have them begin reading along also.

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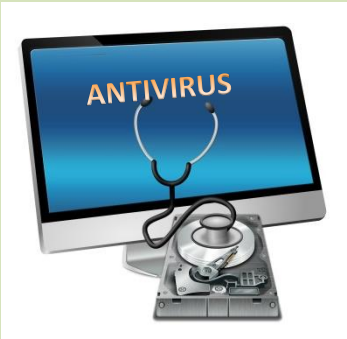
As my computer scanned, the melody of a familiar scripture song played through my head *"Search me, O God, and know my heart: try me, and know my thoughts: And see if there be any wicked way in me and lead me in the way everlasting."* (Psalm 139:23, 24) While we can be thankful that God is keen to see the faith, slow to condemn the fault of His children, what if we actually asked God to scan our lives for sins as we would run a virus scan on our computer?

I was struck by the distinct parallels between maintaining a working computer in the face of viruses, trojans, and malware, etc. and remaining a healthy Christian in an evil world. We will consider just a few. Most people have at least one way of protecting their computer from viruses. The antivirus program scans for known viruses, malware, spyware, trojans, worms, rootkits and more. Viruses would parallel contagious, but easily recognizable sins—Rebellion, hatred, wrath, fornication, witchcraft, drunkenness, revelling and the like (Gal. 5:19-21, 1 Sam 15:23). David's "antivirus" prayer was, *"Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me: then shall I be upright, and I shall be innocent from the great transgression."* Psalm 19:13

Computer worms might be likened to things like higher critical biblical commentaries that breed the worm of doubt concerning God's word—this eventually eats out the faith of the soul. Or worms might be likened to "little sins" like pride or self-gratification that, if one is unwilling to give them up, will eventually eat up the spiritual life.

Trojans, on the other hand, are those things that, like the historic Trojan horse, look innocent and maybe even interesting. But time shows that inside is hidden evil, which is effective in unguarding the senses and wreaking havoc on the citadel of the mind. This might include things like interesting videos on YouTube that contain evolutionary theories or "mild" profanity, health materials that are all good except that they contain immodest pictures, or even apparently religious or educational materials that are not made after the directions that God has given in His word. Modern Spiritualism could also be classed as a Trojan. Consider this powerful description from one of my favorite books. *"Spiritualism is now changing its form and, veiling some of its more objectionable features, is assuming a Christian guise... Even in its present form, so far from being more worthy of toleration than formerly, it is really a more dangerous, because a more subtle, deception. While it formerly denounced Christ and the Bible, it now professes to accept both. But the Bible is interpreted in a manner that is pleasing to the unrenewed heart, while its solemn and vital truths are made of no effect... Christ is as verily denied as before; but Satan has so blinded the eyes of the people that the deception is not discerned."* {The Great Controversy, pg. 557,558.}



Rootkits that take over your computer may be compared to sins committed because of "peer pressure", the "fashionable sins" that many fear to preach against because "everybody does that." Things like attending the theater, watching worldly TV, listening to frivolous music, taking part in games of chance that promise something for nothing, the idleness encouraged by the many holidays, and just the whirl of excitement, dancing, pleasure, and amusement that attracts many away from the sober duties of life. Oh, how many have had a spiritual "computer crash" because they are religious "chameleons". The presence of these shows it is time for a virus scan for it is written *"And he said unto them, Ye are they which 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

Let us consider one last computer scan parallel. Besides my antivirus program, I also periodically use another "wise" program to clean my computer in order to make it more efficient. It rids the computer of orphaned, obsolete or invalid files. Also it eliminates useless files, repairs breaches in security, and boosts the speed and performance of the computer. Likewise, when we request God to run a spiritual scan of our lives, we will find that we need to eliminate invalid doctrine files by keeping abreast of present truth. The Bible shows that truth is progressive, because *"the path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day."* Prov. 4:18 In addition to getting rid of invalid files, it would be well to allow God to scan our minds and rid our lives of useless files—things that are not necessarily bad, but that have no real purpose and are just slowing down our spiritual progress. For the wise counsel of the Word of God to Christians declares *"let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us,"* Heb. 12:1 Remember, if it is not helping us toward heaven it is just extra baggage that it is slowing us down.

So next time your computer scans for viruses, consider, will your thoughts and actions bear inspection? Can you pray like David, *"Examine me, O LORD, and prove me; try my reins and my heart."* Psalm 26:2 Do you put forth as much effort to protect your spirituality and relationship with God as you do to protect your computer? Is your spiritual "antivirus" up to date?

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The Little Outcast

"And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me." Matthew 25:40

"Mayn't I stay, ma'am? I'll work, cut wood, go for water, and do all your errands."

The troubled eyes of the speaker were filled with tears. It was a lad that stood, one cold day in winter, at the outer door of a cottage on a bleak moor in Scotland. The snow had been falling fast, and the poor boy looked very cold and hungry.

"You may come in at any rate till my husband comes home. There, sit down by the fire. You look perishing with cold." And she drew a chair up to the warmest corner: then, suspiciously glancing at the boy from the corners of her eyes, she continued setting the table for supper.

Presently came the tramp of heavy boots, and the door was swung open with a quick jerk, and the husband entered, wearied with his day's work. A look of intelligence passed between his wife and himself. He looked at the boy, but did not seem very well pleased: he nevertheless made him come to the table, and was glad to see how heartily he ate his supper.

Day after day passed, and yet the boy begged to be kept "until to-morrow" so the good couple, after due consideration, concluded that, as long as he was such a good boy, and worked so willingly, they would keep him.

One day, in the middle of winter, a peddler, who often traded at the cottage, called, and after disposing of several of his goods, was preparing to go, when he said to the woman," You have a boy out there, splitting wood, I see," pointing to the yard.

"Yes, do you know him?"

"I have seen him," replied the peddler.

"Where? Who is he? What is he?"

"A jail-bird," and the peddler swung his pack over his shoulder. "That boy, young as he looks, I saw in court myself, and heard him sentenced—'ten months.' You'd do well to look carefully after him."

Oh! There was something so dreadful in the word jail. The poor woman trembled as she laid away the things she had bought of the peddler. Nor could she be easy until she had called the boy in, and assured him that she knew that dark part of his history.

Ashamed and distressed, the boy hung down his head; his cheeks seemed bursting with the hot blood, and his lips quivered. "Well," he muttered, his whole frame shaking, "there's no use in my trying to do better; everybody hates and despises me. Nobody cares about me."

"Tell me," said the woman, "how came you to go so young to that dreadful place? Where is your mother?"

"Oh!" exclaimed the boy, with a burst of grief. "Oh! I haven't no mother! I haven't no mother ever since I was a baby. If I'd only had a mother," he continued, while tears gushed from his eyes, "I wouldn't have been bound out, and kicked, and cuffed, and horsewhipped. I wouldn't have been impudent, and got knocked down, and run away, and then stole, because I was hungry. Oh! If I'd only a mother."

The strength was gone from the poor boy, and he sank on his knees, sobbing great choking sobs, and rubbing the hot tears away with the sleeve of his jacket.

The woman was a mother, and though all her children slept under the cold sod in the churchyard, she was a mother still. She put her hand kindly on the head of the boy, and told him to look up, and said from that time he should find in her a mother. Yes, she even put her arm round the neck of that forsaken, deserted child; she poured from her mother's heart sweet kind words, words of counsel and tenderness. Oh! How sweet was her sleep that night; how soft her pillow! She had plucked some thorns from the path of a little sinning, but striving mortal.

That poor boy is now a promising man. His foster father is dead, his foster-mother aged and sickly. But she knows no want. The "poor outcast" is her support. Nobly does he repay the trust reposed in him.

"Men do not reject the Bible because it contradicts itself, but because it contradicts them."

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Little Runner's Health Story Special

Mrs. R looked out the window. *"It looks like we will have to shovel the driveway again"* she said, *"The snow is getting deeper."* It was cold outside, so everybody put on their coats. They put on their boots. They put on hats and scarves and gloves. Then they went outside and each grabbed a snow shovel. And that was when the trouble began.

Mr. J, who was visiting Mr. and Mrs. R, grabbed a snow shovel too, but as soon as he stepped off the stairs, his feet slid out from under him because of the ice under the snow. He fell forward and looked like he was hugging a pile of snow that had slid off of the roof. But Mr. J wasn't the only one to fall on the ice, the longer everyone shoveled the more they slid and fell. More than once Mr. R's feet slid out from under him. Thud! He fell backwards onto the driveway. Then Mrs. R's feet slid out from under her. Plunk! She sat down fast. After falling several times, Mr. and Mrs. R decided shoveling an icy driveway was painful. But still everyone kept shoveling. They shoveled past the cedar trees, they shoveled the big curvy switchback. They shoveled the steep hill. After they had finished shoveling most of the driveway, they were all very tired and so they quit for the day.

The next day, Mrs. R and several other people went out to finish shoveling the driveway. They shoveled around the car. They shoveled next to the big tree. They shoveled close to Mr. R's broken tractor and snow-blower. Everything was going fine until Mrs. R's feet went out from under her again. Plunk! She sat down hard. Mrs. R felt to see if she was all right. Yes, she could still move her legs. Yes, she could still move her neck and back. But then she felt a sharp pain in her hand. Her right hand had hit the ground wrong. Mrs. R took off her glove and looked at her hand wondering if it was broken. It hurt so bad that Mrs. R wanted to cry, but instead she went inside the house to look at her hand where it was warm. Mr. R was still inside, because his neck was hurt from falling yesterday. Mr. R came over to look at Mrs. R's hand. He helped her to the couch; because Mrs. R's hand hurt so bad, it was making her feel faint and Mrs. R really didn't want to fall down again.

Mr. R could see that Mrs. R's hand was swelling already, and he wanted to make sure it wasn't broken. He gently felt the bones in her hand. He had her try to wiggle her fingers, and they wiggled. He had her try to move her thumb, but moving her thumb and palm made her hand hurt worse. Then Mrs. R got a book that had pictures of the bones and muscles inside the hand. "The bones in that part of the hand are pretty small, so I don't think my hand is probably broken, but it is definitely at least a bad sprain or bruise" said Mrs. R. "We better put some ice on it, to keep it from swelling."

Mr. R went and got some ice out of the freezer to put on Mrs. R's hand. But even with the ice on it, it still hurt very bad. After a while, Mrs. R decided she was too busy to sit around with ice all day. After all, she had things to do, places to go, people to see. But her hand hurt when she moved it. How was she going to get anything done?

Just then, Miss Ellen suggested a "comfrey soak" might help Mrs. R's hand. Mrs. R agreed that it was a good idea. So Miss Ellen put some water on the stove to boil. She found a bag of dried comfrey leaves. She put a handful of pieces of the dried leaves in a big bowl. When the water was hot, Miss Ellen took the teapot off of the stove and poured it over the leaves. As the leaves soaked, it turned the water a brownish green. Mrs. R added a few ice cubes to the water to cool it so that comfrey tea mixture would not burn her hand. Then she put her hand in it to soak for a while. As she soaked, the pain seemed to get to be a little less. Finally after a while, she dried her hand and went to do some work. Although it still hurt a bit, Mrs. R could already move her thumb a little more than before, so she bandaged up her hand and determined to get some work done.

By the next morning, everyone could see how much Mrs. R's hand had been hurt. After breakfast, she took the bandage off. The palm of her hand had a big black and blue spot on it about the size of a grapefruit. Her thumb had a smaller black and blue bruise on it. Mr. R looked at it and made a face like he was in pain. Everyone one was thankful that Mrs. R was feeling better, but her hand sure looked like it hurt a lot. So while they sang for morning worship, Mrs. R decided to soak her hand in the comfrey again.

By the next morning the black and blue spot was starting to fade so much that Mrs. R concluded that the comfrey soak was very helpful. She thought about the big bruise on her leg that had stayed there for

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weeks after a little boy had run into her with a snowboard because she would not listen. The bruise on her hand sure was healing a lot faster. Mrs. R decided to soak her hand in comfrey one more time. As Mrs. R soaked, she thought about how God had made the comfrey grow so there was plenty of it for hurt people to use. Comfrey is tough and can grow almost anywhere. It can grow in the cold mountains of Russia, but it also thrives in the heat of Africa. Mrs. R's friend had planted some comfrey in her garden. The friend had told Mrs. R, *"You can have all you want to plant, but be careful where you plant it. Comfrey grows up tall. Its roots grow down very long. It has spread all over my garden. Don't plant it in the garden."* After Mrs. R finished soaking she went about her work. She noticed her hand sure was starting to feel better. She wiggled her left thumb. Then she wiggled her hurt thumb. She could move it almost like the other one now.

The next morning, Mrs. R woke up and looked at her hand. She was surprised! It had only been three days since she hurt it, and already the bruise was almost totally gone. Mrs. R tried hard to see it. Mrs. R moved her thumb; she could wiggle it all over now, just like the other one. She thought of the verse in Psalm 104:14 that says, *"He [God] causeth the grass to grow for the cattle, and herb for the service of man..."* Mrs. R was thankful that God made our bodies to heal. And Mrs. R was glad that herbs like comfrey were part of God's Plan for health and healing.

Kids' Corner

Written by D. Roberts age 14 Illustrated by D. Roberts age 13

GOD'S AMAZING CREATURES

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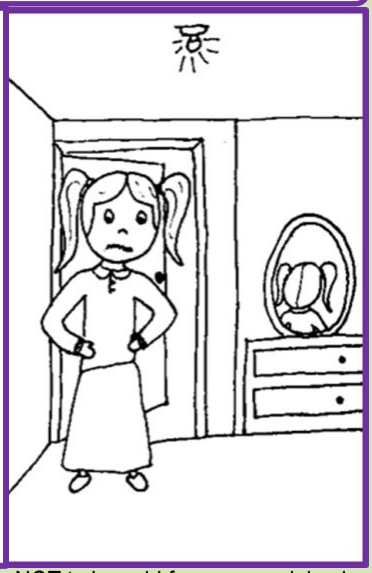
Bombardier beetles live on every continent except Antarctica. The bombardier beetle eats mostly other insects. When something bothers the beetle, it sprays a hot chemical spray from the tip of its belly (abdomen) with a popping sound. Bombardier beetles can point the spray over a wide range of directions. In order to spray, the beetle has to mix two chemicals (hydroquinone and hydrogen peroxide), together at just the right time. Until the beetle needs to spray, the chemicals are safely stored separately in two "tanks" (reservoirs) in the beetle's abdomen so that they don't explode. If the chemicals reacted the wrong way, it could kill the bombardier beetle. But God made everything in the beetle to work together at just the right time. This reminds us that God created the world and everything in it-- just like the Bible says.

Philippians 4:8 *Finally, brethren, whatsoever things are true, whatsoever things are honest, whatsoever things are just, whatsoever things are pure, whatsoever things are lovely, whatsoever things are of good report; if there be any virtue, and if there be any praise, think on these things.*

Patience was looking at picture books. *"Mommy is this book true?"* she asked. *"I only want to read books that are true. Because my Bible memory verse says we are supposed to think about things that are true."* Patience picked out a true story about a missionary in Africa. She was happy to learn about how the missionaries told boys and girls about Jesus. Patience made Jesus happy too.

Passion was looking at picture books too. Even though she knew it wasn't true, she picked out a fairy tale about a castle and a princess. But after she read it, her own room and house didn't seem pretty enough anymore. And she was cranky because she didn't have a fancy dress like the princess. Passion wasn't happy any more and Passion made Jesus very sad too.



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"Once Saved, Always Saved?"

It was a new computer, but it had an attitude that I didn't really appreciate. Periodically during the day, typically when I was right in the middle of a major project, it would just shut down and restart, with no warning at all. Multiple times, because I forgot to periodically save, I lost portions of different time-consuming projects that I was working on. While it was undoubtedly a good lesson in patience, it also taught me a few lessons about salvation. Unfortunately, although many people believe that God's people are "once saved, always saved", the Bible, the natural world and even the electronic world testify to the fact that someone is saved ONLY as long as they STAY SAVED. Let's look at a few verses that make clear the fact that it is never safe for Christians to rest in a satisfied condition, and cease to make advancement, saying, "I am saved." , For when this idea is entertained, they may cease to "watch and pray" and because God does not force anyone (2 Cor. 3:17), they may choose to sin and fall from their "saved" position and be ultimately lost.

1. Paul in 1 Cor. 10:12 warned, *"Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he _____."* And in 1 Cor. 9:27 he warns that those who have *"preached to others"* can be _____ _____.

2. Likewise, the book of Ezekiel warns *"When I shall say to the righteous, that he shall surely live; if he trust to his own righteousness, and commit iniquity, all his righteousnesses shall not be _____; but for his iniquity that he hath committed, he shall die for it."* Eze 33:13

3. The Apostle Peter also warns, *"Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, _____ from your own stedfastness."* 2 Pet. 3:17

4. Even Jesus' words in Luke 9:62 warns of putting the hand to the plough and then _____ _____. *"And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."*

5. Which Biblical character in 1 Samuel was distinctly chosen by God (1 Samuel 10:20,21,24) and then later rejected because he sinned and fell from his exalted position? _____ *"Then Samuel said unto Saul, Stay, and I will tell thee what the LORD hath said to me this night. And he said unto him, Say on. And Samuel said, When thou wast little in thine own sight, wast thou not made the head of the tribes of Israel, and the LORD anointed thee king over Israel?... And Samuel said unto Saul, I will not return with thee: for thou hast rejected the word of the LORD, and the LORD hath rejected thee from being king over Israel."* 1 Samuel 15:16,17,26 *(See also 1 Sam. 16:14; 28:6-7,15; 31:1,3-4.)*

6. The Bible records the story of which other beings that fell from an exalted position? _____ and his_____. (Eze. 28:14-17, Luke 10:18, 2 Peter 2:4) *"And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him."* Rev. 12:9

7. Matthew warns that, *"because iniquity shall abound, the love of many _____ _____ _____."* Matt. 24:12

8. The book of Hebrews warns that God will have no pleasure in a man that _____ _____ unto perdition (Heb. 10:38, 39) and Peter states of those who come out of the world, but become entangled in it again *"the latter end is _____ than the beginning."* (2 Peter 2:20,21)

Ultimately, when you reason from the Bible itself, it is not he that putteth on the armor that can boast of the victory (Compare 1 Kgs. 20:11); for he has the battle to fight and the victory to win. It is he that *"endureth unto the end"* that shall be saved (Matt. 10:22). Yet he will not boast (Eph. 2:8-9, Rom. 3:27) but will glory in God only (1 Cor. 1:30-31).

Answers: 1. fall, castaway 2. remembered 3. fall 4. looking back 5. Saul 6. Satan , angels 7. shall wax cold 8. draws back, worse

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