

T H E C O N T E N D E R

75

Contending For The Faith Once For All Delivered To The Saints (Jude 3)
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TELEVISION

"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."

--Phil. 4:8--

With the evils of television becoming so apparent to the world certainly it's high time gospel preachers cry out in warning against these evils piped into our living rooms for our consumption.

I. IT'S A THIEF OF TIME: Statistians estimate that the average American spends 26 hours each week viewing it. This is over $\frac{1}{2}$ as much time as he works for a living and $\frac{2}{3}$ as much time as he passes in school. (It is 20 times more than he spends in church.) The Bible gathers dust on the mantle in difference to the T.V. guide, (Now read Job 23:12) while those programs rob us of our time that we should use to tell our neighbors and friends what they must do to escape hell. The Bible still says "redeeming the time" (Buy up every opportunity) (Eph. 5:16, Col. 4:5) What you could do with an extra 26 hours a week! Family devotions and just plain conversation have been swallowed up in TV's noisy spell. Necessary chores have been relegated or forgotten, as not to interfere with our favorite show.

II. IT IS AN UNNATURAL ADDICTION: Driving down the street at night one can see each house lit up not by the lamp of Bible study but by the glow of a television screen. To ask the question: "Who is master in the average American home?" receives the answer: "The T.V. is!" Now read II Pet. 2:19 and Rom. 6:16.

III. IT'S AN ESCAPE FROM REALITY: Television is quite often a dream world, a world of fantasy and illusion. Can a people whose minds feed nightly on nonsense make vital decisions? Will some of us wake up from a dream world to find ourselves in a real world with which we are unable to cope? Christians have "escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ..." (II Pet. 2:20) Should our minds and desires be set on things which we have escaped? (Col. 3:1-3)

THOSE WICKED UNGODLY SHOWS!

CHILDREN'S PROGRAMS: Coming home from school the first thing Jimmy does is to turn on the T.V. where it's a reported fact that he sees more violence in 30 minutes than an adult experiences in a normal lifetime. What program is not based upon someone getting raped, robbed or murdered? Why, even three people running down an alley at night are held up as heroes even though the male's long hair clearly brands them as shameful. (I Cor. 11:14) Remember, young people, you are to be "strong" (I Jn. 2:14) and an example "in purity". (I Tim. 4:12)

THOSE "SOAP OPRAS": While the husband is away and the children are at school the wife can be found watching show after show based upon divorce or rape. Drunkenness is also prevalent. Ever notice how much time is taken up in a court room, bar, the like? I wonder how many would watch if the scene suddenly would switch to gospel preacher condemning there things in the midst of church?

Dear lady, while your husband is away are you the "keeper" at home

as God would have you to be? (Titus 2:5) How much time do you spend in prayer and Bible study to the end that you might raise your children in the "faith once for all delivered to the saints" (Jude 3)? Remember these children have been so graciously given to us by God and HE entrusts us with their up bringing. Failure to do so is your own fault!

DAD'S TALK AND VARIETY SHOWS: The hoast usually sits behind a desk leering wickedly while smoking and trading suggestive obscenities with some shorn haired, loud mouthed, half naked from the waist up, "woman" in pants. This is called "entertainment". "But, beloved, we are persuaded better things of you, and things that accompany salvation, though we thus speak." (Heb. 6:9) Tell me honestly dear reader, is it the spiritual or carnal man that is being "entertained"?

And those "variety shows". Ever wonder what your children's thoughts are when they see you sprawled on a sofa, clutching a beer watching them? The words of the Son of God: "...I am with you always even unto the end of world." (Matt. 28:20) wouldn't be very welcome would they? Remember Jesus said: "That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart." (Matt. 5:28) "But I turn it off when sin appears." You never fail???

THE "GOOD" SHOWS: But doesn't T.V. carry Church

programs on the Lord's Day? Oh, yes friend, denominationalism beams its false doctrine and unscriptural practices at you every Lord's Day. You might be sufficiently impressed with the

voice of Oral Roberts or the oratory of Billy Graham (I Cor. 2:4,5) to forget that they couldn't even point out the name of the church they are members of in the Bible if their life depended on it. If you are really "fortunate" you might even get to see the Herald Of Truth and not know the evil and sin that has taken place to place it in your living room. Oh, good reader, you need to assemble yourself with a faithful church of Christ on the Lord's Day (Heb. 10:25) and not attempt to sooth your conscience by watching these programs instead. It really won't be soothed and God will not be pleased if you fail.

* ORDER OF SERVICES *
* Lord's Day: 10:00 a.m. Worship *
* 7:30 p.m. Worship *
* Thursday: 7:30 p.m. Bible Study *

IN CONCLUSION: I'm well aware that everything passing over the tube is not sin just as everything a denomination does is not wrong. They both have just enough "good" to entice you with their sins and thereby snare your soul. Surely you observe the vast majority of programs featuring sex, crime, impure love scenes, women in scanty atire, and instead of teaching thrift, hard honest work, temperance, and good character they are encouraging crime, endorsing sin and teaching lust. Because of these things it certainly is not wise to purchase a set and in view of what Paul says, "...that no man put a stumbling block or an occassion to fall in his brother's way." (Rom. 14:13) it most certainly would be wrong to give one as a gift to a brother in Christ.

Well are they named "idiot boxes" and "one-eyed monsters" by the thoughtful sinners of the world and if THEY can see their evil how is it that brethren in Christ so often miss it?

"Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, 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)

"Abstain from all appearance of evil." (I Thess. 5:22)

"Am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth?" (Gal. 4:16)