

## Too Much And Not Enough

by John Isaac Edwards

Have you thought about the fact that sometimes there is too much and not enough? Explore this with me.

1) **Too Much Talk And Not Enough Action.** Some are long on talk and short on action. If they would do a quarter of all that they talked about doing, they would accomplish much! Remember Tabitha? “...this woman was full of good works and alms deeds which she did” (Acts 9:36). And Christians in Antioch? “Then the disciples, every man according to his ability, determined to send relief unto the brethren which dwelt in Judaea: Which also they did...” (Acts 11:29-30). These didn’t just talk about doing; they did! How about a little less talk and a lot more action?

2) **Too Much Complaining And Not Enough Thanksgiving.** Do you ever complain? For some, things are never right or good enough. They always find something to complain about. The Lord’s wilderness-wandering people were a complaining bunch! And if you learn anything at all from that period of history, you get wise to the fact that God does not like complaining! “And when the people complained, it displeased the Lord...” (Num.

11:1). Paul wrote the Corinthians, “Neither murmur ye, as some of them also murmured, and were destroyed of the destroyer” (1 Cor. 10:10). We are taught, “Do all things without murmurings and disputings” (Phil. 2:14). We are to abound with thanksgiving (Col. 2:7). We have so much to be thankful for! “Many, O Lord my God, are thy wonderful works which thou hast done, and thy thoughts which are to us-ward: they cannot be reckoned up in order unto thee: if I would declare and speak of them, they are more than can be numbered” (Ps. 40:5). Next time you start to complain, how about stopping to say, “thank you”?

3) **Too Much Talking About The Brethren And Not Enough Talking To One Another.** If brethren did as much talking to one another as they do talking about each other, how much different things would be! Some seem to think it is their place to be the brethren’s informant. They tell everyone they know everything they know about everybody they know (and it doesn’t take ‘em long to do it!) There’s telegraph, telephone, and telesister or telebrother! And by the way, if they will talk to you

about others — you can rest assured they will talk to others about you! Don’t forget that! Jesus said, “Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone...” (Mt. 18:15). There are some things we just don’t have any business telling others. Is it true? Does it edify? Is it loving? Would you want it said, if it were you?

4) **Too Much Reading Books About The Bible And Not Enough Reading The Bible.** One problem we face in the religious world and in the church of the Lord is folks reading too many books written about the Bible and not enough reading of the word of God. If folks would spend more time reading the Bible and less time filling their minds with the wisdom of men, they would be more informed of the will of God. Paul said, “That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God” (1 Cor. 2:5). “All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works” (2 Tim. 3:16-17). Read it!

5) ***Too Much Comedy, Drama And Storytelling And Not Enough Book, Chapter And Verse In The Pulpit.*** Some sermons are long on comedy, drama and storytelling and short on book, chapter and verse. The prophets of old said, "Hear ye the word of the Lord..." and "Thus saith the Lord..." (Jer. 2:4-5). The Lord and the apostles made their appeal to, "It is written..." (Mt. 21:13; Rom. 1:17). Sermons should be overflowing with Scripture! The Scriptures "...are able to make thee wise unto salvation..." (2 Tim. 3:15). All the comedy,

drama and storytelling in the world won't save a single soul! Tell me the story of Jesus! Preach "...Christ and him crucified" (1 Cor. 2:2). "If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God..." (1 Pet. 4:11).

6) ***Too Much Of The World And Not Enough Of Christ.*** There is entirely too much of the world and not nearly enough of Christ in many today. Paul besought Christians in Rome, "And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good,

and acceptable, and perfect, will of God" (Rom. 12:2). He told the Galatians, "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me" (Gal. 2:20). Does Christ live in you? Take the world but give me Jesus!

Is it possible that in your life and in the local church there is too much of some things and not enough of others? Think about it.

## God-Playing

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Some today are playing God. Here are a couple of examples. Perhaps you can think of others.

1) ***When You Take Vengeance.*** God said, "To me belongeth vengeance..." (Dt. 32:35). The Psalmist said, "O Lord God, to whom vengeance belongeth..." (Ps. 94:1). Paul wrote the Romans, "Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves,

but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine, I will repay, saith the Lord" (Rom. 12:19).

2) ***When You Judge.*** Paul asked, "But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ" (Rom. 14:10). You are not the judge — God is the judge! "In the day

when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel" (Rom. 2:16).

Are you guilty of God-playing?

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OUR  
GOSPEL MEETING**

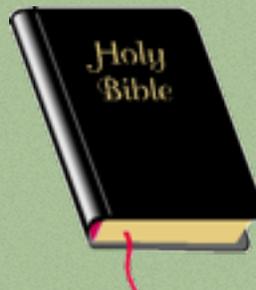
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