

## **IT IS EASIER #3**

*Nicolas Edwards*

It is easier...

**TO PERVERT THE GOSPEL THAN TO RIGHTLY DIVIDE IT.** There are those who twist, turn awry, or pervert the Scriptures unto their own destruction (1 Pet. 3:16). There are many today who pervert the gospel to support a false doctrine rather than rightly divide the word. We must “study” and “rightly divide” the word (2 Tim. 2:15). Unfortunately, there are members of the church who refuse to accept the truth, because of the consequences, and they twist the Scriptures to their liking. As a result, they come to conclusions and beliefs that the Bible simply will not allow!

**TO BE LAZY THAN TO WORK.** For some, it is easier to do nothing, procrastinate, put things off, sleep, and not work than it is to work hard. Laziness is a big problem and is often condemned in the Bible. “*Much study is a weariness of the flesh*” (Eccl. 12:12). This is why people are ignorant. They take the path of least resistance and never study! We must be a working people, physically and spiritually (Lam. 3:27; Neh. 4:6; Col. 3:23; 2 Th. 3:10; 2 Tim. 2:15)!

**TO DISMISS AN ISSUE**

**THAN TO SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES.** When error and division presents itself, it is easier to just dismiss it than to study. Whenever division occurs and different thinking arises, every person must search the Scriptures to find the truth, be convicted and convinced of the truth, and be resolved to keep it! Far too many people are just dismissing issues without studying them out and dealing with them (Acts 17:11; 1 Th. 5:21; 1 Jn. 4:1).

**TO MAKE FALSE ACCUSATIONS THAN TO DEFEND WITH SCRIPTURE.** Men have revealed to me that, for some people, it is easier to make false accusations, make personal attacks, resort to false witnesses, when opposed, rather than go to the Scriptures to defend their practice. Perhaps, they do this because they do not have any Scripture to defend them. This is not a new problem (1 Ki. 18:17-18; Acts 7; Gal. 4:16; 1 Pet. 4:4).

**TO REMAIN SILENT THAN TO CONTEND FOR THE FAITH.** Some are like the blind and ignorant watchmen (Is. 56:10). It is easier not to fight, but we must “fight the good fight of faith” (1 Tim. 6:12). We must “earnestly contend for the faith” (Jude 3).

**TO MAKE EXCUSES THAN TO BE FAITHFUL.** “*And they*

*all with one consent began to make excuse. The first said unto him, I have bought a piece of ground, and I must needs go and see it: I pray thee have me excused”* (Lk. 14:18). We must be faithful to the very taking of our life (Rev. 2:10). No excuses!

**TO WAIT FOR A CONVENIENT TIME THAN TO DO IT TODAY.** “*And as he reasoned of righteousness, temperance, and judgment to come, Felix trembled, and answered, Go thy way for this time; when I have a convenient season, I will call for thee”* (Acts 24:25). The convenient season may never come! “*...now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation”* (2 Cor. 6:2).

**TO TRAVEL THE BROAD WAY THAN THE NARROW WAY.** This is the reason all of these things are easier. “*Enter ye in at the straight gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: because straight is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it”* (Mt. 7:13-14). It is easier to go to hell than it is to heaven! What path are we taking? “*Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest”* (Heb. 4:11) that we may be among the few!

## THINGS TO LAY ASIDE

John Edwards

The Scriptures teach that there are some things to be laid aside in order to run the race that is set before us. *“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). These are things to be put off from oneself (1 Pet. 2:1):

**ALL MALICE.** Malice is malignity, ill-will, desire to injure. Such is *“unrighteousness”* and *“they which commit such things are worthy of death”* (Rom. 1:29, 32). Paul wrote the Ephesians, *“Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice”* (Eph. 4:31). This is contrary to being the *“kind...tenderhearted, forgiving”* person God would have us to be (Eph. 4:32). The Colossians were instructed to put off malice in Colossians 3:8. Living in malice is associated with being *“foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving*

*divers lusts and pleasures... envy, hateful, and hating one another”* (Titus 3:3). Have you put off all malice?

**ALL GUILE.** Guile is craft, subtility or deceit. This is among that which comes from within, out of the heart of men, and defile the man (Mk. 7:20-23). Jesus said of Nathanael, *“Behold an Israelite indeed, in whom is no guile!”* (Jn. 1:47). Would the Lord have said this of you? To be full of such is to be a *“child of the devil”* and *“enemy of all righteousness”* (Acts 13:10). It is mentioned next to *“malignity”* or malice in Romans 1:29 as *“unrighteousness”* and *“worthy of death”* (vv. 29-32). Paul said of his work among the Thessalonians, *“For our exhortation was not of deceit, nor of uncleanness, nor in guile”* (1 Th. 2:3). Christ is the perfect example: *“Who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth”* (1 Pet. 2:22). Can guile be found in your mouth? Peter penned, *“For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile”* (1 Pet. 3:10).

**HYPOCRISIES.** This is

dissimulation; acting under a feigned part. Jesus said to the Pharisees, *“Even so ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity”* (Mt. 23:28). You can't fool the Lord; He knows your hypocrisy (Mk. 12:15)! This is a leaven to beware of (Lk. 12:1). We can be carried away with dissimulation (Gal. 2:13). Some speak lies in hypocrisy (1 Tim. 4:2).

**ENVIES.** Another word is “jealousy” or “spite”. This is among the sins that crucified Christ (Mt. 27:18). *“Envyings”* is among *“the works of the flesh”* and *“they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God”* (Gal. 5:19-21).

**ALL EVIL SPEAKINGS.** Evil speaking is *“backbitings”* (2 Cor. 12:20) and such occurs when one speaks against another. Since *“charity”* or love *“thinketh no evil”* (1 Cor. 13:5), evil speaking will not come from the mouth of a loving Christian! Think no evil, speak no evil.

Have you laid aside these? How about putting these off and away from yourself today?

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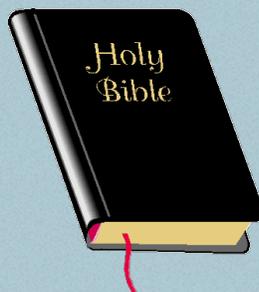
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