

Moreover

by John Isaac Edwards

The Holy Spirit often used the term “moreover” in introducing divine truth. Some good lessons follow the Bible word “moreover.”

Be Not As the Hypocrites. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus gave this instruction: “Moreover when ye fast, be not, as the hypocrites, of a sad countenance: for they disfigure their faces, that they may appear unto men to fast. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward” (Matthew 6:16). A hypocrite is an actor or pretender. One may “appear” before men to be pious and holy, but “God knoweth your hearts” (Luke 16:15). May our faith and love be “unfeigned” (2 Corinthians 6:6; 1 Timothy 1:5; 2 Timothy 1:5; 1 Peter 1:22).

If Thy Brother Shall Trespass Against Thee, Go and Tell Him. The Lord directed, “Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone...” (Matthew 18:15). Did you notice how many people are involved here? Just two: “thee” and “thy brother”. All too often this is read as if it said, “Go and tell his fault,” as everyone knows about it but the brother himself. Most of the time things will be resolved on the personal level, without any one else needing to know about it, if we

will just handle things the Lord’s way. How about giving it a try?

It Is Required in Stewards That a Man Be Found Faithful. 1 Corinthians 4:2 says, “Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.” A steward is a manager, superintendent or overseer, in whose hands a trust has been committed. Elders are stewards as they are Holy Ghost made “overseers” (Acts 20:28). Preachers are stewards, put in trust with the gospel of Christ (1 Thessalonians 2:4). All Christians are stewards, having been entrusted with sacred trusts. Are we showing ourselves faithful as the Lord’s stewards.

I Would Not That Ye Should Be Ignorant. The tenth chapter of Corinthians opens with these words: “Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant...” (verse 1). To not be ignorant is to know, and to know requires study. We need to be like those in Berea who “...sought the scriptures daily...” (Acts 17:11). Paul appealed to Timothy, “...give attendance to reading...” (1 Timothy 4:13). Ignorance is not bliss!

You might like to take your concordance and look for other moreovers.

Hypocrites in the Church

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Have you ever heard anyone object to attending or becoming a member of the church because of “hypocrites in the church”?

You’re Not a Hypocrite Are You? If you say, “There are some in the church who are not who they claim to be; their heart isn’t in it”, does that keep you from other places where there are people who are not who they claim to be? If not, where does that put you? Do you know of other places people will not go because of hypocrites?

Suppose Everyone in the Church Was a Hypocrite. Let’s just suppose, for a minute, that everyone in the church was a hypocrite. Suppose “the preacher couldn’t do anything but preach or teach school”, was “just in it for the money” and would preach against stealing Sunday and cheat and steal. Suppose the elders, instead of being ensamples to the flock (1 Peter 5:3), were corrupt. Suppose the members were just paying lip service to the Lord. Would that change anything the Lord said, or release us from our responsibilities to Him?

Hypocrites Closer to God Than You.

If a hypocrite is standing between you and God, has it occurred to you that the hypocrite is closer to God than you are?

How Much Time Do You Want to Spend with Hypocrites. Would you rather spend a little time with a few here on earth, or spend an eternity in torment with all of them?

The Lord Will Deal with the Hypocrites. There is no doubt that there are hypocrites. There are those who are not who they claim to be, but they are not fooling the Lord. They have their reward. Jesus taught, “Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing. Verily I say unto you, That he shall make him ruler over all his goods. But and if that evil servant shall say in his heart, My lord delayeth his coming; And shall begin to smite his fellowservants, and to eat and drink with the drunken; The lord of that servant shall come in a day when he looketh not for him...And shall cut him asunder, and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites...” (Matthew 24:46-51).

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