

Nov. 19, 59



From the Pastor's Study

I found the story of Henry Cloud as told by my father-in-law very enlightening. It centered around the worship of peyote beans.

The Indians would collect peyote beans which in turn were put out in the sun to dry. They were often referred to as buttons.

The Indian men would gather for a P. O. party. At the party they would sit around and chew on these buttons. After a while they would fall out and dream of colors. Many of them worshipped the buttons.

Henry Cloud went off to a college up north. Some Indians from the Navajo tribe wanted him to become the leader of a new religion. This new religion was to center around the peyote beans, or buttons.

Cloud decided to talk it over with one of the college professors. He pointed out how the buttons were used as a narcotic. The professor began to laugh and said, "You mean after all of your training and intelligence, you are going to lead in a religion worshipping a button?" The professor laughed him down. This changed Cloud's mind and he later became an evangelical missionary among his people.

Worshipping buttons does sound ridiculous, but what about some of the other things people worship? The little brown god of tobacco has become the idol of millions.

Recently, a young mother that I know said, "I've smoked my last cigarette." I do not need to go into the details as to how she was a slave to the god of tobacco. Why don't you stop worshipping this god? He knows that your breath is rotten and your clothes smell like a camel! I dare you to stop worshipping this little god!



From the Pastor's Study

There is another interesting story which my father-in-law liked to tell concerning the Indians of Oklahoma.

This one involved around a Comanche chief by the name of Quanch Parker. The chief represented his tribe in matters relative to their tribal laws and also in legal ties with other nations. When the west was being settled and Oklahoma was coming into statehood, many of the tribal laws were affected. Parker made a trip to Washington to talk with the law-makers and discuss the position of his tribe. In one of these conferences the commissioner of Indian Affairs told the Chief that they were under new laws now and that many of the tribal laws were null and void. He especially pointed out the one on the number of wives a man could have. Parker had five wives at that time. He was informed that he must go back home and get rid of all except one. He was urged to do this because of his example. Chief Quanch Parker walked over to the window and thought a long time. He then turned to the Commissioner and said, "Mr. Commissioner, you go tell 'um." The task of telling four wives to leave was too big a risk for a chief.

The first home in the Bible was based on monogamy, one man and one woman for life. In this plan God provided the ideal plan for the propagation of the race.

The plan of God has certainly been by-passed, over and over again by multitudes. Two, three, and four marriages are common in our society. Somebody needs "to go tell 'um!"

Think how clean you will feel, figure out how much money you will save, consider your influence over others. And by the way, friend, this god not only ruins your teeth and breath, but many times plants a cancer in your lungs.

You may think that Henry Cloud had lost his buttons, but what about you?



From the Pastor's Study

The story of Whitehorse as told me by my father-in-law was a real gem. An Indian by the name of Whitehorse came to his father, who was also a preacher, and asked about getting married. His father reminded Whitehorse that he already had one wife, and that he would not perform the ceremony for him. This caused the Indian to become angry. He told some fellows, "I'll get that preacher."

About six months later his father went seven miles through the timber land to work on a church building. On his way home he felt uneasy as he rode horseback through the wooded area. He began to sing aloud "Jesus Lover of My Soul." When he had finished, he felt better.

Some time later Whitehorse was saved in a meeting and gave a testimony. He testified how that one night he knew the preacher was coming through the woods and he hid behind a tree with a rifle planning to kill him. But when he heard the singing he said, "I couldn't shoot." Later on after his conversion, he surrendered to preach.

This entire story centered around the fact that the preacher would not sanction Whitehorse's Sin. How different today — we have forgotten God's original plan of one woman and one man. The general public has just recently been bombarded with a name from Hollywood in a sensational manner. The man had had several wives plus many other women. In fact the woman he was living with at the time of his death was not his wife. Yet, he was rated as a great hero.

This tells us that our moral standards today have departed widely from God's commandments. A clear call must be sounded to personal chastity, purity in thought and word, loyalty to marriage vows, and a higher level of morality.

FROM THE PASTOR'S STUDY

Time seems to be one of our biggest problems when it comes to getting the things done that need our attentions.

I am reminded of the story my father-in-law told me about an Indian by the name of Raleigh. He related how his father went to visit Raleigh, who was very ill with tuberculosis. At the close of their visit, the Indian asked to see his father's watch. His father pulled out his cheap pocket watch for him to examine. Then Raleigh reached under his pillow and brought forth a fine gold snap case time piece. His father estimated it to be worth \$150.00. Raleigh said, "I want you to have this, I will not need time much longer." A few days later the Indian died.

There comes a day when time runs out for all of us and we, too, will have no need for it any longer. Time can mean a lot of things to us if used properly. It can mean money for some, pleasure for others, blessings, joy, heartache, sin, or just wasted. You determine how much of the time you possess will be used. We are aware that much of your time has already been predetermined. Such as time for eating, sleeping, getting an education, etc.

Yet, you are the master of much time. It is your privilege to decide how many hours of your day will be wasted or used wisely. Some day, time will be no more for you. Therefore God's admonition is, "Redeeming the time, because the days are evil," Ephesians 5:16.



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I was amused with the story of Frank Hall Wright, an Indian Evangelist, as related by my father-in-law. It seems that Wright traveled among the tribes conducting camp meetings (similar to our revival meetings, except many times the camp meeting was accompanied by much eating).

The unique thing I remember he said about Wright was his custom of dressing up for the evening meal. My father-in-law stated that Wright had lived for some time in the east where he developed his habit. This was quite a contrast to the Indians' customs, some of whom seldom changed garments even once each week. He explained that Wright dressed up to honor God and demonstrate that Christians should be clean.

The Bible has something to say about our garments and our manner of dress. However, in this modern age people see how near undressed they can appear in public. The way Frank Hall Wright dressed impressed the Indians. The way you dress, or do not dress, impresses people today. Half dressed men and women on the streets and in the stores will never win this world to Christ. Such dress inspires the worship of Baal—just the flesh and the like.

One of the first things God gave attention to in the Garden of Eden was providing proper clothes for Adam and Eve. However, today many have reverted back to fig leaf dress. Think of the impression this makes upon the public! It causes one to seriously question the intentions of some women who parade in fig leaf attire. Why not join the worthy woman, "who maketh herself coverings of tapestry; her clothing is silk and purple". So Proverbs describes a well-dressed woman.

Brethren and Sisters, take heed to your habits of dress. One step further, dress up in clothes from the wardrobe suggested in Ephesians six and you will be considered a well-dressed person.

Jesus said, "Go out into the highways and hedges and compel them to come in." (Luke 14:23)