

THE HARVESTERS



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Experts Without Experience

By
B.C. Carr

Some have defined an expert by saying: an "Ex" is a "has been" and a "spert" is a little drip under pressure. Men make their own definitions sometimes to fit the occasion. I am speaking of an "expert" who seems to have all the answers or solutions to every problem: at least in his own mind. It may be that he has no experience whatsoever in dealing with a particular problem, but to hear him speak you would think he has superior solutions to the problem because his tongue is ready to speak. Let me further explain by giving a few examples of what I mean.

Monday Morning Quarterback

All of us have listened to the Monday Morning Quarterback as he criticizes the coach. If he had only passed the ball instead of trying to run the ball up the middle our team

would have won the game. The clamor is raised—"fire the coach." We pause to ask the

"He that answereth a matter before he hear-eth it, it is folly and shame unto him" (Prov. 18:13).

"expert" how many winning teams he has coached in the NFL? None! We ask again how long he played in Professional Football? You guessed it! He never played a game, but he is an expert when its time for criticism.

Managing Public Affairs

Then there is the "expert" who criticizes the President on decisions he must

make. Without blinking an eye he is ready to call our National Leader a fool. He launches out to tell us what actions should be taken in every field of endeavor, whether it be related to war, racial problems or the appointing of a Chief Justice. We ask how many years he has served in congress or in national leadership. Again you may guess—not one day. In fact he rarely, if ever votes, but he has all the answers.

Eldering

What about the fellow who is always critical of the elders. He knows exactly what decisions should be made, how the money should be spent and when the preacher should be fired. How many years has he served the Lord as an elder? Not one day. In fact he could not tell you where to find the qualifications of elders, yet he is an expert—in his own mind.

Parenthood

Do you want to know how to rear your children? Ask an expert. Find an old maid who never had an offer to get married. If this fails, ask those who never had children or those who have very young children. They can tell you exactly how children should be brought up. They are very vocal in their criticism of parents who have tried and failed in some point. They know because they are experts.

School Administrators

One more time. We have learned over the past twenty plus years there are experts in administrative roles who can tell us how to run the school. They know who should and should not be used on our Lectureships. They know what classes should be taught and which ones are not important. They especially know better than anyone else when teachers should be hired or dismissed. No matter how decisions were made—they were wrong. Who says so? The experts of course. How many schools have they successfully operated—none! Have they ever tried teaching or making necessary decisions? Of course not—but they are experts in criticizing those who do.



Admonition

The Indians had a saying: "Don't criticize another until you have walked a mile in

his shoes." I like the statement found in First Kings 20:11: *Let not him that girdeth on his harness boast himself as he that putteth it off.* This is the wisdom of Ahab as he replies to the boastful Benhadad.

Sometimes things look simple and easy to those who have never had certain responsibilities. Experience is a dear teacher. Often it brings great humility. Let us be more discreet in the criticism of others.

Supporting The Lord's Cause

By

Jackie M. Stearsman

Any establishment knows the burden of meeting budgets and providing for the funds to survive. This is true of our work in the *Florida School of Preaching*. We and those who help to attend the school are ever grateful for faithful and loyal supporters. In reflecting on these matters I am reminded of the training and teaching of the Lord.

The Lord's Strategy

The strategy of the Lord was for faithful and truth loving people to support His cause. He has never sought support from those who do not love and obey the truth and neither should we. In sending forth the twelve as recorded in Matthew 10 he cautioned them relative to their finances and directed them to seek out honorable and trustworthy people to assist them. *Provide neither gold, nor silver, nor brass in your purses, Nor*

scrip for your journey, neither two coats, neither shoes, nor yet staves: for the workman is worthy of his meat. And into whatsoever city or town ye shall enter, enquire who in it is worthy; and there abide till ye go thence. And when ye come into an house, salute it. And if the house be worthy, let your peace come upon it: but if it be not worthy, let your peace return to you. And whosoever shall not receive you, nor hear your words, when ye depart out of that house or city, shake off the dust of your feet (Matt. 10:9-14).

To those who supported them Jesus made it clear that their sacrificial generosity would not go unnoticed. Even the smallest of services would be recognized by the Lord. *He that receiveth a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward; and he that receiveth a righteous man in the name of a righteous man shall receive a righteous man's reward. And whosoever shall give to drink unto one of these little ones a cup of cold water only in the name of a disciple, verily I say unto you, he shall in no wise lose his reward* (Matt. 10:41-42).

The Harvesters

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TRAINING PREACHERS SINCE 1969

The Early Church Followed His Strategy

Lydia persuaded Paul, with his fellow-workers, Timothy, Silas and Luke to abide in her house while they worked in Philippi (Acts 16:15). It seems that the home of Lydia was the gathering place for the early church as well. It was where they met following the release of Paul and Silas from jail (Acts 16:40).

The elect lady of Second John appears to have used her home for teaching the gospel. She was directed by the Apostle John to permit no false teachers to use her home to promote his error. To do so was to partake in his evil works (II John 1, 9-11). The opposite would be true if she, like Lydia, provided support of faithful teachers. She would be a partaker in their good works.

Gaius of III John provides us another picture into the practice of the Lord's strategy. He was known throughout the brotherhood for his support of faithful brethren who journeyed for the Name of the Lord. It is significant that in this commendation John notes that these brethren who were **traveling in behalf of the Name and the truth were taking nothing of the Gentiles**. John wants Gaius to know that he is a fellow-helper in promoting truth. Prayerfully consider his admonition. *Beloved, thou doest faithfully whatsoever thou doest to the brethren, and to strangers; Which have borne witness of thy charity before the church: whom if thou bring forward on their journey after a godly sort,*

thou shalt do well: Because that for his name's sake they went forth, taking nothing of the Gentiles. We therefore ought to receive such, that we might be fellowhelpers to the truth (III John 5-8).

Counter Strategy Of Diotrephes

It would be wonderful if all members of the church would support the truth and only the truth. This has never been true and it is no cause for alarm today. Judas opposed the charity given the Lord in the closing days of his life because he was more interested in his own selfish ambition (John 12:1-6). Gaius had to support the faithful brethren even though Diotrephes opposed it. He refused to support the truth and he sought to remove from the church any who did. *I wrote unto the church: but Diotrephes, who loveth to have the preeminence among them, receiveth us not. Wherefore, if I come, I will remember his deeds which he doeth, prating against us with malicious words: and not content therewith, neither doth he himself receive the brethren, and forbiddeth them that would, and casteth them out of the church (III John 9-10).*



Exhortation

Maintaining support for the Lord's cause has never been

easy. Support for the cause of the Lord will only come from those who have the interest of the Lord at heart. Opposition from brethren is hard for some to accept but it is a reality. It will not deter the faithful for they know the Lord who designed the strategy stated that we are to *follow not that which is evil, but that which is good. He that doeth good is of God: but he that doeth evil hath not seen God (III John 11).*

We thank in a special way all our faithful and loyal supporters. It is a joy to be fellow-workers with you for the Name of the Christ and the cause of Truth.

In Tribute To Franklin Camp

Because *The Harvesters* is prepared early for publication this is the first opportunity we have to pay respect to brother Camp who died in May of this year.

Brother Camp was a great student of the Bible. Many have profited from his classes, tapes, and printed materials and will in years to come.

Brother Camp was a developer of men. For years in his editing of materials he encouraged younger men to write and in this manner many did their first writing of religious materials.

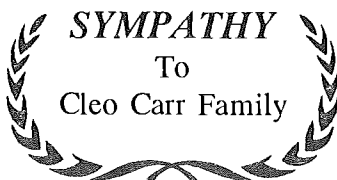
Brother Camp was a friend of preachers. I have profited from his sage wisdom in times of great crisis. His encouragement lifted me when I was down.

Brother Camp was an advisor to men in positions of

responsibility. Elders often found his counsel extremely helpful. This was true of College Presidents and Heads of Bible Departments in colleges.

Brother Camp was a faithful Christian. Because of his faithfulness and knowledge of the Bible he was able to assist others.

Those of us who knew and profited from his life are saddened at his passing. Our sojourn has been made lighter because he walked a while with us. To his family we express our deepest sympathy. [Editor]



Brother B.C. Carr's mother passed away Sunday, June 30, 1991. She had been ill for some time and was in much pain at the close of her life. The family cared for her until the end. They were fortunate to have her love and affection for many years.

Brother Wayne Mitchell, preacher for the Belmont, Mississippi Church of Christ, where sister Carr was a member con-

ducted the services. He was assisted by brother Winfred Clark.

Butch Carr stated that his grandmother had been a Christian for over 70 years. Her Christian character is further emphasized in that her husband served as an elder of the church for a number of years.

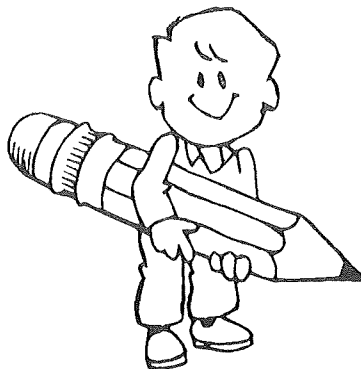
We express our sincere sympathy to the family and friends.

"The family acknowledges with grateful appreciation the expressions of sympathy.

/s/ B.C. Carr and Family"

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