

Flypaper Religion

"And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God" (Rom. 12:2).

There is an old legend about a fly that buzzed past a spider's web. The spider called out to the fly, "Come in and sit for a spell." The fly said, "No, sir. I don't see other flies on your web, and I am not going in alone." But, presently, he saw on the floor below, a large crowd of flies dancing around on a piece of brown paper. He was delighted! He was not afraid because lots of other flies were doing it. So he came in for a landing. Just before he landed, a bee zoomed by, saying, "Don't land there! That's flypaper!" But the fly shouted back, "Don't be silly. Those flies are dancing. There's a big crowd there. Everybody's doing it. That many flies can't be wrong!" The fly landed, stuck, and died on the spot! Exodus 23:2 says, "You shall not follow a crowd to do evil."

Long Trip

A minister waited in line to have his car filled with gas just before a long holiday weekend. The attendant worked quickly, but there were many cars ahead of the preacher at the service station. Finally, the attendant motioned him toward a vacant pump.

"Preacher," said the young man, "sorry about the delay. It seems as if everyone waits until the last minute to get ready for a long trip." The minister chuckled, "I know what you mean. It's the same in my business."

Second Fiddle

"Then, in the hearing of all the people, He said to His disciples, 'Beware of the scribes, who desire to go around in long robes, love greetings in the marketplaces, the best seats in the synagogues, and the best places at feasts'" (Luke 20:45-46).

An admirer once asked Leonard Bernstein, celebrated orchestra conductor, what was the hardest instrument to play. He replied without hesitation: "Second fiddle. I can always get plenty of first violinists, but to find one who plays second violin with as much enthusiasm, or second French horn or second flute, now that's a problem. And yet if no one plays second, we have no harmony."

Instead of exalting ourselves as did the Scribes and Pharisees, let us learn to play "second fiddle." 1Peter 5:5-6 says, "Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with humility, for 'God resists the proud, but gives grace to the humble.' Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you in due time."

Quotations about Quotations

Proverbs 4:10, 20 - "Hear, my son, and receive my sayings, And the years of your life will be many... My son, give attention to my words; Incline your ear to my sayings."

"It is a good thing for an uneducated man to read books of quotations. Bartlett's Familiar Quotations is an admirable work, and I studied it intently. The quotations when engraved upon the memory give you good thoughts. They also make you anxious to read the authors and look for more." (Sir Winston Churchill)

1Samuel 24:13 - "As the proverb of the ancients says..."

Quotations help us remember the simple yet profound truths that give life perspective and meaning. When it comes to life's most important lessons, we can all use gentle reminders.

Psalms 49:4 - "I will incline my ear to a proverb"

I pick my favorite quotations and store them in my mind as ready armor, offensive or defensive, amid the struggle of this turbulent existence.

One must be a wise reader to quote wisely and well.

Proverbs 26:7 - "Like the legs of the lame that hang limp is a proverb in the mouth of fools."

A fine quotation is a diamond on the finger of a man of wit, and a pebble in the hand of a fool.

The wisdom of the wise and the experience of the ages is preserved in perpetuity by a nation's proverbs, fables, folk sayings and quotations.

2Peter 2:22 - "But it has happened to them according to the true proverb..."

I love quotations because it is a joy to find thoughts one might have, beautifully expressed with much authority by someone recognized as wiser than oneself.

A quote can change the way you think about challenges you face.