

City Rage Is Road Rage

By Kent Heaton

“Scoffers set a city aflame, but wise men turn away wrath” (Prov. 29:8). The first automobile appeared in 1885 when German inventor Karl Benz developed a three-wheel vehicle that was petrol based. Estimates now have about one billion automobiles in the world with the United States registering 260 million vehicles. Highways are clogged with thousands of passenger cars, motorcycles, trucks, buses, and other vehicles. Automobile life is a norm and getting from one place to another has created a way of life never seen before. Passengers eat, drink, entertain and generally ride in temperature-controlled environments with incredible ease and speed unheard of before modern times. And to our credit, society enjoys a healthy reality of a new kind of car sickness: road rage. It used to be that people became ill because of sitting in the back of a car or reading while the car speeds down the road. The motion did not sit well with many people. Now it is the emotion of what other people do that causes a terrible sickness becoming a major cause of anger, hatred and death. Yes – death.

There was a time not long ago that road rage was never heard of. Yes, there were times when people would get aggravated because the person in front was too slow or they failed to give the proper hand signal when turning (most young people have no idea what hand signals are). The horseless machines were noisy, troublesome and quite the bother but seldom did anyone pull out a gun and shoot someone. As crazy as the 60's and 70's were when I was learning to drive, road rage was never heard of. What has happened? Have the cars become toxic with carbon monoxide poisoning the minds of drivers causing them to lose control with other drivers? The answer is found in a text thousands of years before the first automobile became a reality.

A scoffer is someone who disregards law or seeks to inflame others. The attitude of the mind is the motive behind their actions. They are incited to rage. As a result of their actions, cities are burned down. They are out of control. The wise man did not know what it was like to drive a Benz but he understood what the passions of man would do. Wise men know when to turn away from wrath so the city will not be burned down. Controlling the passions of anger avoids the terrible consequence of creating a situation that may not be controlled. Automobiles are not the problem in road rage: people are. Cars do not kill people, enraged people harm others. It is an attitude of the mind.

The sad commentary of our modern dilemma is the impact of how road rage comes from a culture that has taken God out of everything. Why is it so different now? Without God, there is no respect for authority, little sanctity of life, and no respect for others. Driving our two-ton tanks of power embolden us to exercise a privileged right to scream, holler, blow the horn and sometimes get out of the car intent on harming the other person. We live in a world gone crazy with deliria.

Wise men turn away from wrath. One solution to road rage is to put a bumper sticker on the back of the car that reads, “I Am A Christian.” At least when we act out our rage the person will know if we are a Christian or not. More important, we should remind ourselves that our Father travels with us and He brought His Son on the journey. The back seat is occupied by the Holy Spirit and the last thing you want to do is to insult Him. People of God are wise in their actions, their attitudes and the way they drive a car. In our crazy, mixed up world, letting our light shine is not allowing road rage to make fools out of ourselves. Leave the horn alone. Do not step on the brake or accelerate to burn down the other fellow with your wrath. Wise men and wise women turn away from wrath and sometimes this may be that we turn down another road. A final word: May God be praised by our driving.

A Moments Wisdom

--The wise thing to do is to divide all people into two groups: friends that we love too much to gossip about them, and strangers that we know too little to gossip about them.

--Temptations are like stray animals; feed and indulge it and it will return often, and sometimes will bring others with him.

--Excessive pride is the only disease known to man that makes everyone sick except the one who has it.

--If you are not honest in prayer to God, you will not be honest in conversation with others.

--Be dissatisfied enough to improve yourself, but be satisfied enough to be content with what God has given you.

--He who tries to give the meaning of scripture and does not take the meaning from the scripture is the enemy of scripture.

--Sadly, sometimes the only good that comes admitting I was wrong is the joy that others seem to get from hearing me say it.

--Fear can keep us up all night, but faith makes a fine pillow.

--It is always good to be careful when you give advice, because someone actually might take it.

--When anger blinds the eyes, truth vanishes.

--We have adopted the convenient but mistaken view that the Bible is a book that must be explained, whereas first and foremost it is a book to be believed. There is a world of difference between knowing the word of God and knowing the God in the word.

--A truly happy person is one who can enjoy the scenery on a detour.

--If your success looks good to the world but does not feel good in your heart, it is not success.

--Love cures people, both the ones who give it as well as those who receive it.

--Defend the Bible? I would as soon defend a lion! Just turn the Bible loose, and it will defend itself and devour its adversaries. (C. Spurgeon)

--One wide-awake, persistent enemy may be worth twenty friends. Friends point out all the good things you do. You know all about that. Your enemies point out your mistakes. --Get yourself a first-class enemy, cultivate him; and, when you achieve success, thank him. (H. Hobbs)

--Opportunities always look bigger going away from us than they do when coming toward us.

--People who live to do good seldom complain about their place in this world.

--A problem is something I can do something about. If I cannot do something about a matter, it is a fact of life, not a problem.

--Some people have gear trouble; they think in low gear and talk in high gear.

--We all want to be liked. That's why flattery always hits its target; you, me, everyone rises up to meet it. We don't seem to have a natural defense system against it.

--People do not reject the Bible because it contradicts itself; they reject it because it contradicts them.

--It isn't life that is weighing us down; it is the way we are carrying it.

--One of the tests of good leadership is the ability recognize a problem before it becomes an emergency.

--Be grateful for what you have, not regretful for what you don't have.

--How is it that we can remember the tiniest details to our every experience, and yet not remember how many times we have told them to the same persons?

--A rumor without a leg to stand on will get around some other way.

--I am not put on earth to see through others but to help see others through.

--It's too bad we cannot exchange our problems with others; we always seem to have their answer to theirs.

--Every human being is a manufacturer; we are making good, or making trouble, or making excuses.

--Birth makes us mortal; death makes us immortal.