

PRACTICING OUR PROFESSION

I have Christian friends, a man and wife, who play instruments in an orchestra. They are accomplished musicians as you can imagine, else they would not be in a city orchestra. In talking with them one day after they played their instruments in a church service, I said, “You sure do make beautiful music together!” They replied, “We practice every day. If we miss one day, we know it. If we miss several days everybody knows it.”

We are familiar with the terms “Practicing Attorney” and “Practicing Physician” aren’t we? The implication of such designations is that the individual to whom those terms are applied has studied law and/or medicine, passed their Bar or Medical Board exams and are actually practicing their profession. After they retire, they no longer advertise that they are “practicing.” They are still attorneys and physicians but they are not now practicing their professions.

A practicing Christian is analogous to a practicing attorney or a practicing physician in that he/she is actively and publicly, practicing their profession – else why become a lawyer, doctor or Christian if one does not intend to practice what they profess to be? Unfortunately, many professing Christians have evidently also retired from practicing their profession!

I was listening to a “Call-In-Talk Show” host on the radio in my automobile. He was defending the aberrant behavior of prostitutes, public drunks, nudists, etc. A caller reminded the Radio Host what the Bible teaches about such sins and the Host’s comments were both startling and telling. He replied, “Do you mean to tell me that people are actually supposed to live what is taught in the Bible? I thought it was sort of a moral guideline and that you could either take it or leave it.”

I believe the host’s reply is pretty much what our culture has adopted as their view of the Bible’s teachings. And, not a few who claim the name “Christian” apparently feel the same way about it. Wouldn’t it be great if God would save us and then within a matter of seconds, take us to glory? We would not have to face temptations, trials or tears in this life. We would never have to battle with the world, the flesh or the devil.

Such a view is a selfish view. It does not take into account why God leaves us here in this sinful environment. He has a purpose for our lives and that purpose is for us to be “salt” and “light” on this sin-infested planet, thereby bringing Him glory. Therefore, let us unashamedly advertise our relationship to Christ by practicing our profession. If we miss one day we *and* God will know it – several days and everyone will know it!

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