

Messenger Of Truth

“Holding forth the word of life” (Phil. 2:16).

February 5, 2013 Issue No. 80 Mark Aites, Editor

Ridicule

“Ridicule is the language of the devil.” – Thomas Carlyle

“Ridicule is generally made use of to laugh men out of virtue and good sense, by attacking everything praiseworthy in human life.” – Joseph Addison

“Ridicule has historically proven itself a rickety fence for great ideas.” – Vanna Bonta

“Ridicule is like a wolf: it only destroys those who fear it.” – Charles Simmons

Perhaps a more general definition of *ridicule* would be, “to make fun of.” We are talking about holding someone or something in derision. Those on the receiving end find it frustrating and distasteful. And it often invokes anger.

Those who are Christians understand ridicule all too well. Worldly minded folks don’t hesitate to make fun of Christians. They talk and act as if Christians are deranged.

Jesus did warn those who would follow Him. “Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great *is* your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you” (Matt. 5:10-12).

Notice carefully that the Lord says that when people do ridicule us for our faith, that we should “rejoice and be exceedingly glad.” When the apostles were chastised for their faith, Luke records, “So they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for His name” (Acts 5:41).

The general reaction to such ridicule is to strike back. But in our self-control, instead of seeking to “get even,” we should hold our tongues and be honored to be reproached for the cause of Christ. When the world speaks against us, it is an indication that we are holding to the truth, for evil hates the truth. Jesus said, “For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed” (John 3:20). But, if we are not being ridiculed for our faith, it may be an indication that something is not right. Did not Jesus say, “Woe to you when all men speak well of you, for so did their fathers to the false prophets” (Luke 6:26).

Obviously if we dislike it when others ridicule us, then we should equally realize that they don’t like or appreciate it when you do the same. James 3 is a good reminder of the damage that can be done with the tongue.

Stand up for Jesus, and if you are ridiculed, rejoice!