

GLAD TIDINGS

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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Looking For A Loophole...

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Years ago I read a book by Carlotta Monti about W.C. Fields, the old time vaudeville comic and early movie actor. One of the antidotes she related was regarding a visitor who found Bill Fields on his deathbed reading the Bible. Knowing Bill, the surprised visitor asked him what he was doing, and he answered, “*I’m looking for a loophole.*” Having read the book and recalled his lifestyle I don’t think he ever found any loopholes. So, Bill Fields fades in to comic and movie history. The loophole aspect of this story needs to be examined.

The definition of a loophole is, a means of escape; *especially*: an ambiguity or omission in the text through which the intent of a statute, contract, or obligation may be evaded.

We have our denominational friends, and even some of our own brethren, re-inventing, re-interpreting, or re-assessing biblical scriptures. Perhaps, they are “just looking for a loophole”.

There are or have been issues in the recent past such as Homer

Hailey’s posthumous read, *God’s Judgments & Punishments*, concerning the eternal punishment of hell, and more recently Marty Pickup’s thoughts on the serpent in Genesis 3 not being actually a literal beast of the field, stating that maybe these things just need to be considered. Currently there is Mike Willis’s theory that there are additional legitimate reasons to divorce, other than just adultery. Perhaps, they also are “just looking for a loophole” to accommodate modern thought or avoid difficult circumstances.

Paul in his first letter to Timothy related, *thou might charge certain men not to teach a different doctrine, neither to give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which minister questionings, rather than a dispensation of God which is in faith.* And in his second letter to Timothy he declared, *For the time will come when they will not endure the sound doctrine; but, having itching ears, will heap to themselves teachers after their own lusts; and will turn away their ears from the truth, and turn aside unto fables.*

The attempts at religious changes generally happen when individuals

find themselves involved in the modernization or adaptation of Biblical truths, to either accommodate situations that they find themselves or their families in, or to enhance the role that they feel the church should play in their everyday lives. Perhaps they too are “just looking for a loophole”.

It is stated in the book of Revelation the twenty second chapter, the eighteenth and nineteenth verses: “*I testify unto every man that hear the words of the prophecy of this book, if any man shall add unto them, God shall add unto him the plagues which are written in this book: and if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the tree of life, and out of the holy city, which are written in this book.*” We should be very careful about “just looking for a loophole”.

Let us be diligent as unashamed workmen of God “*handling aright the word of truth*” and “*cut it straight*” without carving loopholes (2 Timothy 2:15).