

Extremism

Ponder: Throwing out the baby with the bath water.

Scripture: "Whatever things were written before were written for our learning" (Rom. 15:4, NKJV).

Human beings tend to be extremists. Folks might not admit it, but human behavior shows it on multiple fronts.

"My preferred political party never does anything wrong; yours never does anything right." No, we wouldn't say that out loud, but five minutes on social media points strongly in that direction.

It shows up in Biblical matters too. "The Law of Moses isn't binding on Christians; therefore, we should virtually ignore the Old Testament." I've never met a member of Christ's body who made such a statement, but I have known brethren who strongly objected to studying the Old Testament in Bible class, and who anxiously asked when my sermon series on the Ten Commandments would be completed. Only when I pointed out that no less of an authority than Paul said the Old Testament was written for our learning did I receive the OK to teach from it.

Here's another one: "If miracles have ceased, then it's pointless to pray to God to do anything." That erroneous idea is more common than you might think. It betrays the false premise that anything God does is automatically miraculous. It overlooks the fact that God is eminently capable of acting within the framework of natural laws that He Himself has put in place.

A final example: "Since God doesn't hear sinners (John 9:31) He will answer only the prayers of faithful members of the Lord's church." Question: Did Cornelius' prayers come up as a memorial before God? Was his prayer heard? (Acts 10:4, 31). Same question for Saul of Tarsus (Acts 9:11). Neither man received remission of sins through prayer, but who will deny their prayers were heard and answered?

Be careful about extremism. Don't throw out the baby with the bath water!

Hymn: "Give Me The Bible"

Prayer: Father, help us to handle aright the word of truth. In Jesus' name, Amen.