



# The Tri-Cities Edifier

Volume 9

April 2, 2023

No. 14

## Show Me Your Friends...

by Andrew Roberts

The Spanish novelist Miguel de Cervantes wrote, "Tell me what company thou keepest, and I'll tell thee what thou art." Cervantes was not a prophet, he simply understood the strong influence friends exert over our lives. You can tell a lot about a person by the company they keep. Scripture brings this truth to light.

### Show me your friends...

**And I'll show you your religious convictions.** David wrote, "I am a companion of all who fear You/ And of those who keep Your precepts" (Ps. 119:63). Our companions will help or hinder us in letting our light shine, doing good works, devotion to God and in getting to heaven. We ought to be concerned if we realize all our close friends are either godless or involved in false religion.

**And I'll show you your favorite activities.** Proverbs 23:19-21, "Hear thou, my son, and be wise, and guide thine heart in the way. Be not among winebibbers; among riotous eaters of flesh: for the drunkard and the glutton shall come to poverty: and drowsiness shall clothe a man in rags." We do things with our friends. Obviously, we do not choose friends so we can AVOID them. We want to spend time with them and generally pursue common interests. Are you involved with the party-hard, drunken, drug-using crowd? Well, guess what that makes you.

**And I'll show you how you value wisdom.** "He who walks with wise men will be wise, but the companion of fools will be destroyed" (Prov. 13:20). Your friends encourage you in the direction they are heading. The company you keep is commentary on your current values and a variable in future decisions. Thus you want to be with those who show wisdom and set goals for their future. Don't be with those who can't see past the weekend.

**And I'll show you your feelings about proper speech.** "In the multitude of words sin is not lacking, But he who restrains his lips is wise" (Prov. 10:19). Some people's mouths are a hotbed for sin: gossip, profanity, anger, criticism. Let us remember, "Evil company corrupts good habits" (1 Cor. 15:33).

What do your friends say about you?

## Is Jesus your King?

Lowell Sallee

Jesus is KING! "Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him" (Matthew 2:1-2). Jesus Christ IS TODAY "Lord of lords, and King of kings" (Revelation 17:14). Jesus Christ is the fulfillment of what the prophets of old said, "For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; and the government will rest on His shoulders...There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace, On the throne of David and over his kingdom" (Isaiah 9:6, [7](#)). "Behold, the days are coming, when I shall raise up for David a righteous Branch; And He will reign as king" (Jeremiah 23:5).

Pilate asked Jesus, "Art thou the King of the Jews?" and "Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence. Pilate therefore said unto him, Art thou a king then? Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Every one that is of the truth heareth my voice" (John 18:33, 36-37)". Jesus Christ is KING!

Jesus said His name is I AM. The Jews asked Jesus, "whom makest thou thyself" (John 8:53)? Jesus answered, "Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day: and he saw it, and was glad. Then said the Jews unto him, Thou art not yet fifty years old, and hast thou seen Abraham? Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Before Abraham was, I am" (John 8:56-58).

Jesus as the I AM shows that He indeed has authority, for only God has been named the I AM (Exodus 3:14). Therefore, Jesus said, "I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am, ye shall die in your sins" (John 8:24).

We see the authority of Jesus thru the names given Him: Master, Teacher, Lord, King and the I AM. Jesus asks even today, "Why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say" (Luke 6:46)? Do you follow Jesus Christ as your only authority? Is Jesus Christ really your ONLY Master, Teacher, Lord, King and I AM? Remember, "And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him" (Colossians 3:17).

## Consider the Timeless Lessons

It is so nice to see the trees, flowers and farmer's fields coming back to life. It is a beautiful time of year to see green the color of the day. Including the lawn. The Bible provides a lot of teaching that revolves around the work of a farmer and the truths of planting and the future harvest.

### **Sowing & Reaping**

You reap what you sow – Proverbs 22:8a "He who sows iniquity will reap sorrow," (see also Hosea 8:7)

2 Corinthians 9:6-7 "But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver."

Galatians 6:7-9 "Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, that he will also reap. For he who sows to his flesh will of the flesh reap corruption, but he who sows to the Spirit will of the Spirit reap everlasting life. And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart."

### **Patience**

James 5:7 "Therefore be patient, brethren, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, waiting patiently for it until it receives the early and latter rain."

### **Harvest**

1 Corinthians 3:6-7 "I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase. So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase."

Luke 10:2 "Then He said to them, "The harvest truly is great, but the laborers are few; therefore pray the Lord of the harvest to send out laborers into His harvest."

There is a lot to be learned when we consider these Biblical analogies.

STACY