Contemporary Comments on the Adult Sabbath School Lessons

[Title] Conformity, Compromise and Crisis in Worship
[Use] August 20, 2011

Ever since the birth of America, counterfeiting money has existed. Records from New England courthouses dating back to the eighteenth century prove that many colonial Americans were arrested for both making and spending counterfeit money.¹

And it's still going on today. Do you think that you could identify a counterfeit bill? The U.S. Treasury and Secret Service offer these identifying tips:²

Light it up. Hold a large bill up to the light. If it's real, you'll see a hologram on the face-up side of the bill. You should also be able to see a thin, vertical strip with text that spells out the bill's denomination.

Look for changers in color. Take a $10, $20 or $50 bill. Notice the number in the lower right-hand corner. While tilting the bill, move it back and forth. If it's genuine, you should be able to see a shift in the colors of the numbers.

Go ultraviolet. Hold any bill under an ultraviolet light. Each denomination will glow in it's own color: $5-blue, $10-orange, $20-green, $50-yellow and $100-red.

Play the numbers. The serial numbers of an authentic bill will have the same color ink as the Treasury Seal. The serial numbers will also be evenly spaced.

So what do you do if you think you've been given a counterfeit bill? Here’s what the U.S. Treasury advises:³

1. Keep the bill and try to remember who gave it to you, and where.

2. Write down any information of the passer of the bill (license or any identification number).

3. Contact your local police department or the Secret Service.

4. Place the money in a safe envelope so you don’t accidentally spend or misplace it.

5. Do not accuse or even speak to the bill passer—let the authorities handle it.
Money isn’t the only thing that can be counterfeit. As we learned from this week’s lesson, worship can be counterfeit, too. In 1 Kings 11, we read the sad story of how Solomon’s love for foreign women caused him to later turn from his God to theirs. God had even warned him: “You must not intermarry with them, because they will surely turn your hearts after their gods.” Yet he didn’t listen and later turned his heart from the living God to perishable idols.

Later, Jeroboam didn’t listen to God either. The prophet Ahijah promised him, “I will take you, and you will rule over all that your heart desires; you will be king over Israel.” But then there was an IF. “If you do whatever I command you and walk in obedience to me and do what is right in my eyes by obeying my decrees and commands, as David my servant did, I will be with you.”

Out of selfishness and distrust, Jeroboam made two golden calves and told Israel to worship them—that these were the gods who brought them out of Egypt. Unbelievably, they actually did worship them.

We can learn a very important lesson about worship from these two men. Just because we give something the name of “worship” doesn’t mean that it’s genuine worship. Solomon and Jeroboam called bowing to their idols worship—but it was counterfeit worship. Both of these men “worshiped” for selfish motives: one for the love of women and the other for the love of power. But true worship isn’t “getting.” Rather, it’s “giving.” Giving praise to the one and only God, not expecting anything in return, yet receiving so much!

~nc

Additional resource: Youtube
1. Associated Content
2. Money/MSN
3. ibid.

Dear Contemporary Comments Recipient:

Thanks to so many of you who responded to our note several weeks ago and started joining us on Facebook. It’s our new way to deliver Contemporary Comments to you and other FREE resources to enhance your ministries at church and your own spiritual journey.

There are many more of you that saw the note and then got busy doing something else and failed to sign up for Ministry Edge our new Facebook application.

So in just a second, please click on this link and follow the process Facebook guides you through to access our application. By the way, despite Facebook’s warning, we DO NOT access any of your personal information!

If you have any challenges accessing and bookmarking our application, here is a short video to walk you through it.

In addition, you can “Join” our Creative Ministry Facebook group at this link. We promise, we won’t overload you with useless content!

BTW, when you sign up with MinistryEdge, you’ll stop getting this weekly e-mail.

Thanks so much,

Paul Richardson, Director
Center for Creative Ministry
www.creativeministry.org
O: 800.272.4664
Spam
Not spam
Forget previous vote