Contemporary Comments on the Adult Sabbath School Lesson

[Title] Living in the Spirit
[Text] Galatians 5:16-25; Deuteronomy 13:4, 5; Romans 7:14-24; Jeremiah 7:9; Hosea 4:2; Matthew 22:35-40
[Use] December 17, 2011

Do you ever wonder how people spend recreation time on their computer? According to the Bing search engine, 2011 was a year of “musical superstars, continued celebrity fascination, concern for human tragedy and new royalty. From rising stars and weddings to intense trials and natural disasters, Bing has captured history through the searches that mark the year’s most important people, places and moments in time.”¹ Do you think the most popular searches tell the state our world is in? You be the judge.

Teen pop sensation Justin Bieber was the most searched person of the year. He had such a following that the term “Bieber Fever” became a household expression among teenagers. Reality star Kim Kardashian came in second, after airing her $10 million dollar wedding on TV.

The most searched news story was the Casey Anthony Trial. Her two-year-old daughter, Caylee, went missing in 2008 and was later found dead in a wooded area near her home. After a trial that lasted six weeks, to the shock of many, Casey was acquitted. The death of Osama bin Laden came in second.

American Idol, a pop singing competition, was the most searched TV show. In its 11th season, it also ranked number one for the most searched reality show. The dance-off competition, Dancing with the Stars, came in second.

The most-searched movie was Mission Impossible: Ghost Protocol. The fourth film in the franchise, it’s an action movie about a “bad guy” who obtains a key to a weapon that would destroy the world—which is his plan. Coming in second is Twilight: Breaking Dawn, a movie about a human named Belle who marries a vampire named Edward. He’s considered a “vegetarian vampire” because he only drinks animal blood—not human.

So this is how we, as a world, spent a fair bit of our “down time” in 2011. And for what? Did searching and reading these stories help us be better people? Did we learn to be more like Jesus? Did we become closer to God? Wouldn’t it be great if the most searched person of the year were Jesus? And the most searched story was the nearness of Jesus’ second coming?

There’s nothing wrong with wholesome entertainment. But statistics show that what we’re watching and reading isn’t all that wholesome. Paul says that if we are going to “live in the Spirit” we need to obtain the fruits of the Spirit. Here’s what he said in Galatians 5:22, 23: “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.” In other words, we can do no wrong if we focus on these principles. They’re actually an indication that we’re walking with Jesus. Paul continues in verse 24: “Those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.”

If we belong to Christ it will be evident. We won’t be searching for the latest celebrity. We will be searching for Jesus.
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