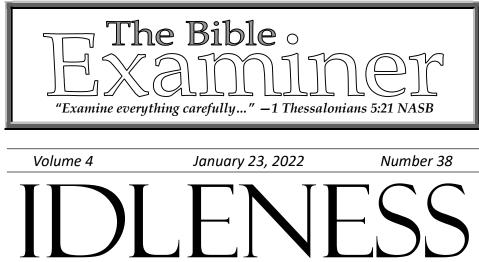


Hays Mill church of Christ

21705 Hays Mill Road Elkmont, AL 35620



By W.R. Jones

We are all acquainted with an old adage which says, "An idle mind is the devil's workshop." It is possible for one to misuse his mind and it is possible for one to allow his mind to become disused. God condemns both. We frown exceedingly upon the person who misuses his mind by allowing it to be filled with lust, avarice, and hate, but we have failed to understand that disuse or idleness of the mind concerning the things of the Lord will bring "spiritual decay." I am told the following story which very graphically shows "disuse will result in decay."

Victorious Roman Legions, left behind to rule a defeated Spain, built an aqueduct in Segovia in AD 109. And for 1800 years—sixty generations—that aqueduct carried sparkling water to hot and dusty Segovians. About the turn of the twentieth century, thoughtful Spaniards decided the aqueduct should be preserved for posterity, and so should be relieved of its age-old labor. They laid modern pipelines and stopped the flow that for years had gushed and gurgled in the aqueduct. Shortly after, the aqueduct began to fall apart. The blazing sun dried the mortar and made it crumble. Its stones sagged and fell and soon it lay in ruins. What ages of service could not destroy, idleness rapidly disintegrated.

There are many people today who use their minds to dwell upon the very "rot" of the earth. Concerning such people, God expressed the following attitude in the long ago. "Then the LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great on the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. The LORD was sorry that He had made man on the earth, and He was grieved in His heart," Gen 6:5,6. It grieves God to see His creation engaged in the distortion of their minds.

I believe it can be said with equal force that God is also grieved to see our minds lying idle in spiritual disuse. For this very reason Paul admonished. "Take pains with these things; be absorbed in them, so that your progress will be evident to all," 1 Tim 4:15. And again, "Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, dwell on these things," Phil 4:8.

May God help us all to study and meditate upon his Holy Word. And by all means remember: **"disuse will result in decay."**

Like Lot in Sodom

By Ken Green

First it was "homosexual." It covered both genders. That was back when there were just two genders. Then it was "gays," hijacking a good adjective and messing up a lot of old, nostalgic songs.

Then it was decided by someone, I guess, that homosexual or gay women needed their own label, so the old word, "lesbian" was trotted out and it became "lesbians and gays."

Then it was realized that likely

the majority of these actually have sex with males and females and perhaps others so they are given the label, "bi-sexual."

Then, it was apparently determined that men who think they are women and vice versa are not crazy after all, and by that time we needed an acronym; so it became LGBT, which seems to mean "Lesbian / Gay / Bi-sexual / Transgender."

Recently I've been noticing that it's now become LGBTQ.

Scholars disagree on what the Q stands for. Some say it means "queer" which was considered pejorative and not politically correct not too long ago. But some have been accepting the term as a badge of honor. Others say it means "questioning" which means they don't know what they are. The other day I saw the acronym in the newspaper with a couple of other initials tacked on. I meant to look it up but lost it.

But before we're through we'll have to add several more. There's "bestiality": those who have sex with animals. If you don't think there are organizations promoting this you can do a Google search. (It probably wouldn't be a good idea to open any of the sites.)

There's "pedophilia." It's going to be more difficult to make that one okay because children are involved. But the age of consent is being chipped away in some states. Pedophiles like Michael Jackson are winked at by fans. And, after all, they're born that way you know, and can't help it.

There's "masochism" and sexual "sadism." Remember how wildly popular the "Fifty Shades of Gray" novels were?

There's "voyeurism" for peeping toms and porn addicts.

There are all kinds of "fetishism." These are just a few of the sexual deviances... and the psychologists are not calling them that anymore.

Let's see now. That would make it LGBTQBPMSVF. You know something? The Democratic Party will be joyfully promoting every one of these. And most of the Republicans will be afraid to say anything lest they're called a hater, a bigot, and a LGBTQBPMSVFphobic.

This, or something close to it, will happen more quickly than we think. Christians will be like Lot in Sodom.

» Remember in Prayer «

Please continue to remember **Dot** and **Norman Hice** and their family, as they mourn the loss of **Tim. Norman** is still recovering from Covid. **Stanley** and **Larry** appear to have fully recovered. Betty has bronchitis; Robert, the flu—and it just won't seem to go away! Please continue to pray for Madelene Britnell, Carolyn Dennis, and Joyce Smith.