

Easy Installation

by David Padfield

A few years ago, after putting up with a leaking kitchen faucet for several months, I decided it was time to do some repair work. I found a new set of faucets at the local hardware store. The package promised "Easy installation -- no tools needed to install." While that statement was true, they failed to mention you need a basin wrench, vise grips and an air hammer to remove the old faucets. It took three hours to remove the old set, and only ten minutes to install the new one.

The manufacturer who promised "easy installation" assumed you had a kitchen sink, but lacked faucets. The instructions did not even mention that you had to remove the old set first (I figured that out all by myself).

The whole mess under the kitchen sink reminded me of some of the "positive preachers" among us. Their message is just fine if the audience is composed of people who were raised on a desert island.

Every audience I ever addressed had some folks who were brought up in denominationalism. While I would rather preach about heaven, I always felt compelled to "put all the cards on the table" first. It would be much easier to put on a Dale Carnegie "smiley face" and pretend everything is okay. Such would be a neglect of duty.

When Peter preached the first gospel sermon he undoubtedly offended many religious individuals. He accused them of killing the Son of God ([Acts 2:23](#)). He could have tried to gain their confidence by "fair words" and later preached what they needed to hear. But, what would have happened if some of these people had died before Peter got around to proclaiming the "whole counsel of God" ([Acts 20:27](#))? When I know people in the audience have never heard the gospel plan of salvation, I make sure they hear it before I'm done. I have never apologized for this. Those who want the truth will not be offended by plain preaching. In Acts seven, Stephen preached nearly the same sermon Peter did in Acts two. The men in Stephen's audience were "cut to the heart" ([Acts 7:54](#)). But, because their hearts were not hardened by sin, they decided to kill this faithful preacher of the word of God.

If I were to preach to a group of Catholics, they might enjoy a good lesson about the errors of Islam. But, a sermon on the one true church would be more in order. If someone could give me a guarantee that death would not come to any of us for several years, I might "build up" to a lesson on the church. In lieu of such guarantees, I will continue to preach what I believe the audience needs.

Several years ago I put a small sign on the pulpit to remind me of the apostle Paul. I do not recall where I borrowed the quote, but it simply said, "The apostle Paul -- He preached as though he'd never preach again, a dying man to dying men."

Paul reminded the church at Corinth that his speech and preaching was not with "persuasive words of human wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, that your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the power of God" ([1 Cor. 2:4, 5](#)).

Timothy was warned the time would come when men would not endure sound doctrine, but would "turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables" ([2 Tim. 4:4](#)). Such men are alive today. Despite the desires of some, we need preachers who will "be watchful in all things, endure afflictions, (and) do the work of an evangelist" ([2 Tim. 4:5](#)).

Edifier

Evant church of Christ

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Attending church services regularly is like making a path through the forest: the more often you use it, the less obstruction you find in the way."

Sunday Worship:

Will Vann, Preacher

9:30 am Bible Study

863-899-0987

10:20 am Worship

Email: wvann@yahoo.com

12:30 pm Afternoon

www.evantchurchofchrist.org

Wednesday Night

7:pm

The \$2400 Telephone

by Gene Taylor

What kind of telephone would you expect to get if you paid \$2400.00 for it? You would anticipate getting the latest in technology, possibly a video phone. The last thing you would expect would be just a plain old rotary phone that was not cordless; had no call-waiting, caller-ID or speed dialing; and would not even accept touch-tone service. But that is exactly what my parents got. As a matter of fact they had two of them for the same price.

You see, when they moved into their house in June 1958, no one could own their own phone. You had to rent it from the phone company. So they rented two of them -- a desk model for the den and a wall model for the recreation room. Each phone cost them \$5.00 per month on their bill. They paid that amount for each phone for 40 years, 480 months. When you multiply it out it comes to \$2,400.00 per phone.

Several years ago when the government regulations changed and people could now own their own phone equipment, they just never bothered doing it. Their phones worked and they were happy with them. Anyway, five dollars is such a small amount. So they kept paying that rental fee every month never realizing how expensive those old rotary phones were to them.

The High Price Of Sin

As my parents never realized how costly those phones were, many people are in the same boat when it comes to the wages of sin. Sin seems pleasurable to them (Heb. 11:24-25) and they don't seem to suffer much because of it. What they do not realize is that if they continue in sin they will find it to be very costly in the day of judgment. Romans 6:23 states, "For the wages of sin is death..." The "death" in this passage is not the physical death which comes at the end of our lives here upon the earth. Rather, it is the "second death" of eternal separation from God in a place of torment. Revelation 21:8 says, "But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."

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Those to Serve

(B) Jeffrey Burks (FV) Judd Wall
(O) Doug Pruet (A) Kyle Stifflemire
1st prayer Keith Stifflemire
2nd prayer Calvin Burks
Announcements: Jack Wall
Singing: Mike Mallett

Prayer List:

Naomi Wall
Leta Sheldon
Mildred Lovell
Janese Lancaster
Ruby Jones
Lloyd Crownover
Pray for our Nation
Our Troops
Law Enforcement

Dates to Remember

December 21st
First Day of Winter
December 25th
Christmas Day
January 1st
Mission Fund

Happy Birthday

To

Virginia Lovell December 19th
Leta Sheldon December 25th
Will Vann December 26th

The \$2400 Telephone (continued)

Jesus tells of the high cost of sin in Matthew 16:26 where He says, "For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?" The sinner forfeits his eternal soul when he sins. Because of ignorance, many never realize what a price they are paying for their sins.

There is hope for the sinner, though. Jesus died on the cross to pay the high cost of sin (1 Pet. 1:18-19). Sadly, some, knowing of that sacrifice and the saving power of the gospel (Rom. 1:16), refuse to obey Christ because they are happy with their lives and possibly even rationalize that "if God is really a loving God, hell won't be so bad." While God is described as love (1 John 4:8), He is also referred to as a "consuming fire" (Heb. 12:29).

Never underestimate the high price of sin. Wake up to what it really costs you. Give obedience to the gospel of Christ to have your sins remitted (Acts 2:38) so that you will not have to pay with your soul.