

MISERABLE COMFORTERS

TEXT: Job 13:4 But ye are forgers of lies, ye are all physicians of no value.
Job 16:2 I have heard many such things: miserable comforters are ye all.

THESIS: To show that Christ alone is a sufficient Comforter in sickness, trouble, trial & death.

INTRO.: A. Job was extremely wealthy and blessed with a fine family and all the luxuries that wealth could afford. But Satan had other plans for him and after getting things cleared by the Lord he began his campaign against this godly man.

1. **Rustlers** stole his oxen & donkeys and killed his servants.
2. A **raging firestorm** wiped out his sheep herds and shepherds.
3. Next his camels were **stolen** and the camel drivers were **killed**.
4. Then a **tornado** collapsed the house where his ten sons and daughters were gathered and they were **all killed**.

B. Satan was not satisfied because Job continued to praise the Lord! So he went back to the Lord with his angels ("**sons of God**") and received God's permission to break Job's health. (**Job 2:4-5 "Skin for skin, yea, all that a man hath will he give for his life. But put forth thine hand now, and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse thee to thy face."**) God said "**Sic em Satan!**"

C. Job is next found sitting in ashes with boils from head to foot. After a while his friends show up to try to comfort him. After 7 days of sitting in silence they begin and Job labels them "**miserable comforters**".

NOTE: Satan can get you through and into a life of sin, sorrow and sadness...but offers no comfort in sickness, trouble, debt, divorce, disease and death when they strike! The **ATHEIST** may offer friendship, have a nice personality...but **no comfort!** The **AGNOSTIC** can offer interesting theories and arguments...but **no comfort!** The **SEXOLOGIST** offers titillating advice regarding the purely physical...but **no comfort!** The **POLITICIAN** may offer promises about taxes, etc....but **no comfort!** **MONEY** offers **no comfort!** (The wealthy still die and leave it all behind.) **PSYCHOLOGISTS** may offer counsel...but **no comfort!** They are all "**miserable comforters**"!

The death rate is still 100%! For every one born, one dies! You had better bone up on the FACTS OF DEATH instead the FACTS OF LIFE, SEX, HEALTH, MONEY, etc.! You are going to need comfort one day...perhaps SOON!

TRANS.: Let's take a look at three major areas which are highly rated and touted as offering help to mankind, but which will utterly fail you in time of sickness, trouble and death...

I. EDUCATION – A "PHYSICIAN OF NO VALUE" Job. 13:4

ILLUS.: Education speaks of the glacial period, the Pleistocene Age, dinosaurs, triceratops, nuclear physics, mathematical equations, molecules, atoms, neurophysiology, climate change, et. al, but what value is all of this to the troubled, cancer patient, quadriplegic, the patient on a ventilator...? Will education prepare him or her for eternity? Will it bring comfort?!

A. Education May Be Helpful in Life, But Little or No Value in Death:

1. Education is not the same as wisdom!
2. Knowledge is what the world seeks...not wisdom (how to use knowledge).

ILLUS.: In Nazi Germany the literacy rate under Hitler was 99%! But the ovens at Buchenwald, Dachau, Auschwitz burned 6 million Jews, millions of Poles, Russians, Gypsies, Homo-sexuals, etc.

3. Education produces smart heathen.
4. Education produces intelligent blasphemers and atheists.

ILLUS.: When dying no-one calls for the Encyclopedia, Darwin's Origin of the Species, Math or Science books. Education teaches how to make a living, not how to live or have eternal life!

Let's see what education can do with **The Three Blind Mice** (recite words). Here we go: "A trio of sightless rodents (2X), Perceive the unusual manner in which they proceed to scamper about (2X). They hastily pursue the agriculturist's spouse, who

proceeded to sever their extremities with a carving utensil. In all your born days of existence have you ever observed such unusual phenomena as a trio of sightless rodents?" THAT'S EDUCATION MAN!

B. Education Imparts Knowledge, Only the Lord Can Impart Wisdom:

1 Cor 1:18-25 *18 For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God. 19 For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent. 20 Where is the wise? where is the scribe? where is the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? 21 For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe. 22 For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom: 23 But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness; 24 But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God. 25 Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men.*

1. Education often trains people to reject God and the Bible.
2. Education trains revolutionaries and radicals.
3. Education is a **"Physician of no value"**.

ILLUS.: 3 dogs: 1 Police dog & 2 French Poodles. Police dog asks the poodles their names. The first one says "Mimi M-I-M-I!" The second says "Fifi F-I-F-I". They ask him "What's your name? In a deep voice he said "Fido – P-H-Y-D-E-A-U-X !" That's education!

Education can't cut it in time of trouble, sickness or death! But Christ is the Great Physician!

II. SCIENCE IS A "FORGER OF LIES": Job 13:4

NOTE: Only two passages in Scripture use the word "science". One is in the O.T. in Daniel. The "scientists" in his day foretold the future by opening the liver of a goat or by examining the position of the planets! In the N.T. **1 Timothy 6:20** tells us ***to AVOID...science falsely so-called, which some professing have erred concerning the truth.***

A. Science is Limited:

1. Science must agree with God's Word or it is a **"Forger of Lies"!**
2. Science may help you live longer and lengthen your pain and present your loved ones with fantastic hospital and Dr. bills, but it can't give you a better life in times of sickness, trouble, debt or death.

ILLUS.: Take the scientist who got on an old one-car raft to cross a country river. He asked the farm boy paddling the raft, *"Have you ever studied science - geology - geometry (3 times)?"* The boy said *"No suh, I aint."* The scientist said *"Son you have missed half of your life."* The boy asked *"Suh, has you ever learned to swim?"* *"Well, son, I guess I haven't."* The boy said: *"Well then Suh, you done missed all your life, cause this here boat done got a hole in it and it's a goin' to the bottom!"*

B. Science is Limited:

QUOTE: Roy L. Laurin, p.90, John, Life Eternal: "Science tries to make man comfortable in a world of suffering. But in spite of science and because of science our Age is the most brutal in history. Science has killed more people than ever... Science is NOT the answer!" (75 million died in WWII - Over 200,000 ultimately died in just two days of bombing in Hiroshima and Nagasaki!)

B. While Science is a Forger of Lies, Jesus is the Embodiment of Truth!

NOTE: Ask Google how to get to Heaven and see how many different answers "science" comes up with. The Bible tells us ***"No man cometh to the Father but by Me (Jesus)"!***

III. RELIGION IS A "MISERABLE COMFORTER"! Job 16:2

A. Definition of Religion:

1. Religion is a system of works and words and rituals to help a man save himself!
2. Religion will damn a person's soul faster than booze, sex, drugs, etc. because it gives a false sense of security.
2. Religion is Satan's plan of salvation, not God's!!

B. Damnation:

1. Sacraments, rituals, prayers, carrying a Bible, good works, Gospel music, church services

Are all "**Miserable Comforters**" at time of death!

ILLUS.: Religious people have a "stick horse religion". As a boy I used to ride a stick and call it a horse. People today ride an old stick called religion and call it salvation. Religion is just a dead as my old stick horse!

When Jesus went back to heaven He sent us the real Comforter! One to go alongside in time of sickness, sadness, sorrow trials, tears and even death!

CONCL.: Are you trusting in your **EDUCATION, SCIENCE OR RELIGION**? They are all "**PHYSICIANS OF NO VALUE**" in times of sickness. They are "**FORGERS OF LIES**" in times of trouble and tears. They are also "**MISERABLE COMFORTERS**" in time of death!

Jesus is the Great Physician, the Truth Personified and the only Real Comforter!

Why not trust Him today...NOW!?