

"God is sometimes pleased to work with the most unworthy instruments--I suppose to take away every shadow of doubt that it is His own doing. It always gives me the idea of a great author writing with a very bad pen."

Yet we need not be discouraged. God, the great Author, is able to use even scratchy pens like you and me to communicate His message to people around us. Regardless of how we appraise our penmanship, let's prayerfully keep on writing. --VCG

*We're not called to work for God,
but to let God work through us.*



DECEMBER 17, 2017

Keep On Writing

Let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ. . --Philippians 1:27

The following poem written by Paul Gilbert is intended to encourage us as Christians to be persuasive, flesh-and-blood testimonies for our Saviour.

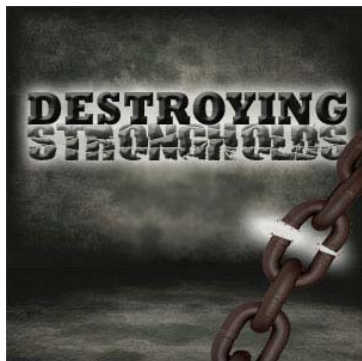
*You're writing a "gospel,"
A chapter each day,
By the deeds that you do,
By the words that you say;
Men read what you write,
Whether faithless or true;
So, what is the "gospel"
According to you?*

Sometimes, however, our writing is done with scratchy pens. Maybe it's badly blurred and so illegible that God's message can't be deciphered; that's not good of course!!



Hannah More, an outstanding witness for the gospel in 19th-century England, sometimes felt discouraged about the quality of her spiritual penmanship. Although she organised schools for the unevangelised poor and wrote many tracts and hymns, she had a low opinion of her effectiveness. This was her self-appraisal:

Insights for Living Battle Plan



(2 Corinthians 10:4-5) "For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, {5} casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ,"

(2 Corinthians 10:4-5) We fight with weapons that are different from those the world uses. Our weapons have power from God that can destroy the enemy's strong places. We destroy people's arguments {5} and every proud thing that raises itself against the knowledge of God. We capture every thought and make it give up and obey Christ. [paraphrase]

(Ephesians 6:12) "For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of

wickedness in the heavenly places."

In Philippians 1:27-30 Paul gives a battle plan for evangelism in a hostile world:

1. A _____, verse 27a, 4:8

(Ephesians 4:1) "I, ... beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called,"

(Colossians 1:10) "that you may walk worthy of the Lord, ..;"

(Ephesians 4:31-32) "Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice. {32} And be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, just as God in Christ forgave you."



2. _____, verse 27



(Ephesians 6:11) "Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil."

(Ephesians 6:13) "Therefore take up the whole armor of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand."

(Jude 1:3) "... I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith ..."

3. _____, verse 28, 21

(Luke 2:34-35) "... Behold, this Child is destined for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign which will be spoken against {35} ... that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed."

(Ezekiel 2:6-7) "... And you, son of man, do not be afraid of them nor be afraid of their words, though

briers and thorns are with you and you dwell among scorpions; do not be afraid of their words or dismayed by their looks, though they are a rebellious house. {7} "You shall speak My words to them, whether they hear or whether they refuse, for they are rebellious."



4. _____, verses 29-30, 3:10

(Ephesians 2:8-9) "For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, {9} not of works, lest anyone should boast."

(1 Peter 4:12-13) "Beloved, do not think it strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened to you; {13} but rejoice to the extent that you partake of Christ's sufferings, that when His glory is revealed, you may also be glad with exceeding joy."

(Matthew 5:10-12) "Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake, For theirs is the kingdom of heaven. {11} "Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. {12} "Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

(James 1:2-4) "My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, {3} knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. {4} But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing."

