

Perception vs Reality

Pastor Lou Hileman (8/23/09 AM)

BIKER SUNDAY:

“Only a biker knows why a dog sticks his head out the car window”
Author, Unknown

1. Saul’s perception of _____ . Acts 8:1-3

- A. Perception - He was _____ God.
- B. Reality – He was _____ the Almighty.

(Acts 9: 3 - 6) ³And as he journeyed, he came near Damascus: and suddenly there shined round about him a light from heaven: ⁴And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecutest thou me? ⁵And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks. ⁶And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do”.

Quote: “I can't wait to meet God, and ask why **He** didn't make me go faster on some of those jumps, why **He** put me through all this pain. **He** knows I'm not evil”. EVEL KNIEVEL, SI.com, May 19, 2006

2. World’s perception of _____ and the church. Acts: 8:4-8

- A. Perception – _____ running from Saul.
- B. Reality – _____ running to ministry.

(Matt 10:28)“ And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell”.

Former Minnesota Governor Jesse Ventura : "Organized religion is a sham and a crutch for weak-minded people who need strength in numbers.

Sigmund Freud : “Religion is comparable to a childhood neurosis”

Jesus Christ: Romans 1:22 “Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools.”

3. People’s perception of _____ Acts 8:9-11

- A. Perception – Some _____
- B. Reality – _____,

Bernard (Bernie) Madoff – Successful Wall Street investor who lavished his wealth on his wife, three boys and other family members. No! A lying thief who stole over 20 billion dollars from his clients from the 1970s until today.

I Sam 16:7 But the LORD said unto Samuel, Look not on his countenance, or on the height of his stature; because I have refused him: for the LORD seeth not as man seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the LORD looketh on the heart.

Psalm 139:13 “ For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb”

(He knows my name, He knows my every thought)

4. God's perception of _____. Acts 8:12-13 & 18-21

A. Perception – _____ to say and do the right thing.

B. Reality – Was _____ not right with God.

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life".

God's response to Simon's reality check: Acts 8: 20-24

Paraphrase: You messed up, but you have a chance to get it right.

I Love You more than you than you could ever imagine.

Evel Knievel in early 2007: "I wrote a book called Evel Ways. In it I said I had a life better than any King, President or Prince. Hogwash, I didn't have Jesus Christ." Later he was quoted as saying, "If you don't believe Jesus is what He says He is, you will die in your sins. Jesus is the son of God, Jesus is God." Evel died later that year at age 69.