

Elder Bobby Willis



Crackling Thorns Just Make Noise

The Fall of the year is fast approaching. I can tell! The leaves are falling in the yard too numerous to count and that is a dead giveaway. That means the burning of leaves is not far behind. I could put a worm bed over in the back corner of the yard but I don't think my wife would want the flowers to disappear; or me either.

Like a lot of people who burn leaves, sticks are used to help keep the fire burning, along with dead leaves from the sega palms. They make a lot of noise when they burn, but they do burn hot so as to keep the leaf fire going.

The wise man, Solomon, once said, **"For as the crackling of thorns under a pot, so is the laughter of the fool: this also is vanity"** (Ecclesiastes 7:6). Solomon may not have burned very many leaves, but he did know the sound of thorns when they burn and make a lot of noise as they snap, crackle, and pop (that reminds me of cereal). In addition, they will soon burn away and leave nothing but ashes.

What Solomon was relating too was that thorns may hurt and cause problems to those who come in contact with them (much like being around a foolish person), but they will soon go the way of the earth and be consumed like everything else.

Fake laughter, or laughter which is done at the expense of others, is pure vanity. God is not pleased with such, so we should endeavor to avoid **"...foolish questions, and genealogies, and contentions, and strivings about the law; for they are unprofitable and vain"** (Titus 3:9). God and godliness is serious and not to be taken lightly (laughed at).

The Lord seeks worship which gives Him all the Praise, Honor, and Glory; not man. **"...They that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth"** (John 4:24). So, be not as one who goes about making noise foolishly, but rather worship Him in **"...all goodness and righteousness and truth"** which is the fruit of the Spirit, not of foolishness. **"Think About It!"**