

Sermon Notes

1/30/11

REFLECTIONS

THAT'S
HAYWIRE!



REFLECTIONS

When I was a kid growing up on the farm it was, among other lessons, a time of learning how to make do when something broke down. We couldn't afford to go out and buy some of the parts needed to fix things so we "hay-wired" it until it could be properly repaired. Baling wire was used to secure bales of hay but we called it hay wire and we used it for much more than baling hay. Yes, before there were zip-ties there was hay wire. Just about every car or pickup had a coil of hay wire residing behind the seat or in the trunk. It often held up tail pipes and mufflers, held disks on the plow, and a myriad of other uses for which it was not designed but which it performed well enough for the short term until needed repairs with the correct parts could be performed. Eventually it became common when something wasn't working well or that was broken, to be declared to be hay wire. It had become an adjective describing a malfunction. Sometimes the hay wire worked so well that the real repair never happened. Lots of old pickups had license plates and tail pipes still attached with hay wire. Today we often use zip-ties or duct tape to accomplish these types of temporary repairs for which we used our trusty roll of hay wire but we still employ that old term that says "that's hay wire"!

When men cannot accept the reality of God as their creator, they employ their own type of intellectual hay wire to remove Him from their thinking. For them such hay wire ideas as evolution, atheism, and philosophy have become their solution to remove the obvious signs of the Creator. However it's still hay wire. When our old tail pipes that had been hay wired lost the wire holding them up, they crashed to the roadway in a shower of sparks. In the same way, faulty ideas also give way in the face of the truth and those that hold to such hay wire ideas will also crash in judgment before God. *For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, (Romans 1:20 NKJ)*

When Satan tempted Jesus he offered Him the world if He would just worship him. Jesus replied each time: *"It is written..." (Matthew 4:4 NKJ)* Satan's temptations fell on deaf ears. His thinking was "haywire"! It

was made clear in the Garden of Eden that redemption would destroy the power of the enemy, him. God's solution to sin was not just some hay wired plan, it was the only way sin could be destroyed along with its wages of death. It was the sacrifice of His only begotten Son.

Today we see men using many tactics to defeat the reality that they are sinners who are in need of a savior. Evolution attempts to explain creation without God, and atheistic philosophies try to remove the penalty of sin by declaring that man is the determiner of what is righteous. The results are disastrous. Babies are slaughtered by the millions in the womb, we see morality disappearing in the lives of the young and many of them seek release by destroying themselves with various addictions and some even commit suicide in an attempt to remove the burden of their sin. Such thinking is "hay wire"!

Even within the Church we can see hay wire thinking. Many of the popular movements of today in evangelical circles present a much watered-down "gospel" of love without cost, of pleasure being wholly embraced and called righteousness, and of ambiguity in what the Bible presents with clarity regarding sin. When what we call church is no longer concerned with the souls of men, but rather with gathering a large crowd for each program being offered, I am confident that we will be held accountable. Many go from place to place seeking something for them to consume and call it "being fed". Even when we consume junk food we could say we're being fed. The reality is that in this age of instant gratification, pleasure seeking, and hunger for something that seems to be spiritual but without ever really addressing sin, people are being deceived. The Scripture addresses our modern times. *For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers; and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables. (2Timothy 4:3-4 NKJ)*

When we examine our own lives, which we are told to do, will we find that we have hay wired together a form of godliness without saving power? Will we settle for a sin question that is dealt with using a false strategy that is nothing better than the old pickup with the tailpipe hay wired to the body? Or, will we accept the only true and effective repair to our relationship with the Father which is to accept the only One who can save and offer eternal life, Jesus? Let's put the hay wire away and pick up the Word and accept Jesus who is the only way. **Pastor Doug**